



STÄNDIGE MISSION  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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## **36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**12 September 2017**

### **General debate**

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

Let me commend the High Commissioner for his wholehearted yet sobering oral update and reiterate our strong support for his mandate. The chronic underfunding of the Office of the High Commissioner is of great concern to us. This not only affects the High Commissioner's and the Council's work, but the UN as a whole. With one of the three pillars of the UN severely underfunded, the United Nations' mission as a whole is at stake.

Mr. President,

We are disturbed that a growing number of human rights defenders around the world are confronted with calls of intimidation, threats and reprisals. These and other forms of incitement to violence can lead to the commission of atrocity crimes. It is an essential part of the Council's work to address such situations. Preventing further violence and ensuring accountability is not only a responsibility of the Human Rights Council but a key obligation of the Security Council. The 113 States that are signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct expect the Security Council to act swiftly to prevent and end atrocity crimes. For Liechtenstein signing on to the Code of Conduct is an essential commitment for candidates to the Human Rights Council and the Security Council. Supporting this initiative that aims to end and prevent atrocity crimes is an expression of will to work for the realization of the purposes and principles of the UN and the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council has been seized with the situation in Syria for several years now. It is of critical importance that perpetrators of the worst crimes are held accountable, also where the ICC has no jurisdiction. Liechtenstein is proud for having spearheaded the effort that led to the creation of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for crimes committed in Syria since March 2011 [IIIM]. We wish the recently appointed Head of the IIIM Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel a successful start for her decisive task to ensure justice for Syrians.

Let us recall that the Human Rights Council was established to address gross and systematic human rights violations. We call on all United Nations member states, to continue working towards the highest standards of human rights protection.

I thank you!