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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate Item 2

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**by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt, Permanent Representative of the
Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update and we express our concern about the human rights violations mentioned therein.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on all human rights has exacerbated already existing inequalities. We thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her leading role and her efforts in addressing the negative impact of the pandemic on human rights and her calls on States to tackle the pandemic with a human rights-based approach.

We are concerned about the shrinking civic space and an increasing amount of reprisals against human rights defenders in several countries mentioned by the High Commissioner. In particular, we call on all States to refrain from using measures aimed at tackling the

COVID-19 pandemic to silence human rights defenders and civil society actors. We want to reiterate that a vibrant and active civil society is a critical precondition for the enjoyment of all human rights.

We thank the High Commissioner and her Office for increasing efforts to advocate for justice and accountability for gross human rights violations and abuses and for serious violations of international law, and we would like to reiterate our full support for this endeavor.

I thank you, Madam President.