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## **Statement at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda item 4: Interactive Dialogue on HC report on Belarus**

**20 March 2024**

**Ms. Sandra Frommelt**

**Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the High Commissioner and the group of experts for their report on the situation in Belarus. Liechtenstein remains deeply troubled by the human rights situation in Belarus.

The sentencing of numerous human rights defenders and lawyers, along with the designation of *Viasna* as an "extremist formation," are alarming examples of the continued crackdown on human rights defenders and civil society. We echo concerns regarding the lack of transparency and fairness in arrests, trials, as well as the broader pattern of restricting fundamental freedoms.

Moreover, reports of arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment in detention facilities underscore the urgent need for accountability and justice. The persistence of impunity for perpetrators exacerbates fear and intimidation among victims and the general public, and fuels instability in the country.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of protecting vulnerable groups in Belarus. Discrimination and persecution based on identity must be unequivocally condemned, and the rights of all individuals, regardless of their background, must be upheld.

Liechtenstein urges the Belarusian authorities to fully cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, conduct independent and impartial investigations into alleged human rights violations, and release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally.

I thank you, Mister President.