



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Canada

## **Accountability Series**

Co-hosted by

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law is not only critical to ensure justice for the victims and survivors, but also to contribute to building sustainable peace and preventing recurrence. Credible investigations, monitoring and reporting are the basis to bring the facts of atrocity crimes to light. To ensure justice and to deter the commission of future atrocity crimes, it is essential not only to secure evidence, but to do so in a manner that will ensure admissibility in future judicial proceedings.

The primary responsibility in investigating atrocity crimes is with state authorities. Where state authorities fail to assume this responsibility, the International Community has a responsibility to fill this gap. Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council as well as the establishment of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 by the UN General Assembly resolution 71/248 of 21 December 2016 are examples on how the international community investigates, monitors and reports the commission of atrocity crimes. Another essential building block in documenting these crimes is the important work of civil society actors, many of which have access to locations, communities and information that international mechanisms do not.

This panel is the third installment of the Accountability Series co-hosted by Liechtenstein and Canada. It provides a multi-stakeholder space to discuss the central role of careful investigations, monitoring and reporting, with a view to prosecutorial success as well as their critical role for accountability. This panel discussion will explore:

1. The challenges States and the international community face in ending impunity for atrocity crimes and how the stage can be set for effective accountability mechanisms that meet international human rights standards.
2. The role of civilian led monitoring and how civil society (including women's organizations and NHRIs) and the larger international community (including the Human Rights Council) contribute to these efforts individually and collectively to further accountability.
3. The needs, best practices and lessons learned in monitoring, reporting and investigating gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law in conflict and complex emergencies with a view to accountability.
4. The role of Transitional Justice (TJ) in the accountability spectrum and how TJ can be served by monitoring, reporting and investigation mechanisms.

### **Session 3 – Supporting Accountability through investigations, monitoring and reporting**

Date : 19 September, 2017

Time : 12:00-13:30

Venue : Room XXIII Palais de Nations

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Peter C. Matt, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

Opening statements: H. E. Ambassador McCarney, Permanent Representative of Canada

#### Panellists

1) H.E. Ambassador Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN;

3) Andras Vamos-Goldman, Executive Director, Justice Rapid Response;

4) James Rodehaver, Coordinator on the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.