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40th session of the Human Rights Council
General debate on the High Commissioner for Human Rights' oral update
7 March 2019

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

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Michelle Bachelet, for her the report she presented to this council. The report highlights many issues that are of great concern for us.

Liechtenstein is also shocked by the high number of killings of and attacks on human rights defenders and journalists. We call for the full and independent investigation of all killings and attacks and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. At the same time, we urge all states to protect human rights defenders, civil society actors and journalists and to refrain from intimidations of and reprisals against them in whatever circumstances.

Mr President,

We remain appalled by the findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar about the atrocities committed in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States. We concur with the High Commissioner and welcome and share her emphasis on the imperative of jus-

tice for Myanmar. As a matter of principle, we continue to be of the view that an ICC referral discussion must be held. Furthermore, we are looking forward to the timely and full implementation of the Independent Investigative Mechanism and thank the European Union for its continuous efforts in this regard.

We welcome the High Commissioner's position that emphasizes the essential role of accountability in ensuring a sustainable peace in a post-conflict Syria. The IIIM, established with GA resolution 71/248, will be and is a key actor to bring the perpetrators ultimately to justice. The recent arrests of Syrian nationals in particular in Germany and France show the importance of the work of the IIIM and the link between the UN system and national prosecutors. This said, we reiterate our call on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the High Commissioner of Liechtenstein's continued support for her work. We also reiterate our strong call that the High Commissioner and her office must fulfil their mandate independently and unhinderedly.

I thank you.