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DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Check against delivery

43rd Session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate on Oral update by the High Commissioner

27 February 2020

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

Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the High Commissioner for the oral updates and the reports submitted to the Council. She has highlighted many situations that are of great concern to us.

In particular, we are concerned about the reports on increased discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, for example, the systematic discrimination of Muslim but also other minorities in several Asian countries, as the High Commissioner has mentioned. We call on all governments to fully respect and ensure the freedom of religion and belief and to tackle systematic discrimination against ethnic minorities.

On Sri Lanka Liechtenstein agrees with the High Commissioner that a full implementation of resolution 30/1 is a pre-condition for achieving a peaceful society and sustainable development in Sri Lanka. We regret the recent announcement of the Sri Lankan

government to withdraw from the process of co-sponsorship in relation to resolution 30/1 and call on the Government to revisit its decision.

Furthermore, 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. We want to reiterate that a vivid and active civil society is a critical precondition for the enjoyment of all human rights.

I thank you.