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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda Item 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

22 March 2022

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mr. President,

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Human rights violations against minority groups are a root cause of many conflicts around the world. The better protection of the human rights of minorities, including by combatting intolerance, marginalization and violence against them, can help to ensure peace and political stability. In particular, Liechtenstein wishes to highlight how securing the human rights of minorities can contribute to upholding the right to self-determination of peoples, and preventing recourse to the expression of that right through internal conflict, violence and secession.

In order to prevent conflicts from arising, minority groups should be included into policy and decision-making processes to allow them to voice their specific needs and challenges. This would constitute an effective prevention mechanism, as their contributions could be effectively integrated within legal and institutional frameworks. In particular, minority women and youth should be included in these processes in order to address the multiple dimensions of marginalization that they face.

We call upon all states to successfully protect the rights of minority groups through the strengthening of the rule of law. Moreover, perpetrators of conflicts involving minorities as well as perpetrators of human rights violations against minorities should be held accountable in order to counter impunity, and victims should receive assistance. We believe that ensuring accountability will create a safer environment by preventing exclusion, discrimination and inequalities.

We also call upon all states to ensure the full implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities*.

I thank you, Mr. President.