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## **Statement at the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda item 4: Interactive dialogue with the independent international Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**20 September 2024**

**H.E. Ambassador Frank Büchel**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the independent international Fact-Finding Mission for its report.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Venezuela as presented in the report, particularly with regard to the recent presidential elections, which have led to intensified government-led repression and violations. In the report, the fact-finding mission even calls it one of the most acute human rights crises in the country's history.

We note that independent observers, including a United Nations panel of experts, have raised questions regarding the transparency and credibility of the Presidential Elections in July this year.

The violent, government-led repression in response to protests in the days after the elections, resulting in the death of at least 25 persons as well as hundreds of injured or detained persons, is deplorable, in particular, when considering that also children and persons with disabilities were among the victims.

The mission finds in its report that some of the crimes investigated may amount to crimes against humanity which only underscores the clear need to credibly investigate the human rights violations raised in the reports and to ensure accountability.

Furthermore, we urge the authorities to cooperate with the Fact-Finding Mission, as well as to continue the cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

Liechtenstein strongly supports the extension of the mandate.

I thank you.