



STÄNDIGE MISSION  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Check against delivery

## **Statement at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**

**5 March 2025**

**H.E. Ambassador Frank Büchel**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, and my own country, Liechtenstein.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of her report. Human rights defenders are a crucial element of the global human rights architecture. They advocate for governments and societies to respect, promote and protect human rights at all times and in all circumstances. [They are the eyes and ears on the ground raising human right concerns and giving those affected a voice. Many achievements in the field of human rights would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of human rights defenders.] Increasingly their work is systematically stifled and carried out under threats to their personal safety. Any acts of reprisal, intimidation or violence, both online and offline, against human rights defenders are unacceptable. We are especially worried by the rise of cross-border reprisals.

The active involvement of civil society actors in the work of this Council is a unique feature and we all benefit from it. [Such involvement needs to be maintained and safeguarded.] The Human Rights Council has not only an important role to play when it comes to the protection of human rights defenders - it should also lead by example. The cooperation with civil society is a fundamental part of this Council's founding document, GA resolution 60/251.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

The United Nations has an important role to play in enabling and encouraging human rights defenders to promote human rights. Administrative obstacles that effectively restrict civil society's access to the Palais the Nations are contrary to this. In this respect, we would like to hear your view on how we can contribute to ensure that the access of civil society actors remains uninhibited?

I thank you, Mister President.