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Statement at the 62nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

18 Juni 2026

Ms. Alina Brunhart

Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report and for her principled service throughout her mandate.

The report shines a light on a crisis that is steadily undermining democratic life. While new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence are transformative, they also bear the risk of contributing to the backsliding of liberal democracies, the manipulation of information, and to the growing disregard for international human rights law, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression as well as the right to privacy.

These rights, and several other human rights, are under attack from two directions: States sliding toward authoritarianism on one side, and the unchecked power of big tech companies on the other.

Mister President,

We are concerned by the instrumentalization of “free speech” to legitimize hatred. The protection of free expression and the prohibition of incitement to hatred are not in tension but mutually reinforcing.

Liechtenstein calls on all States to enforce and strengthen legal frameworks that protect freedom of opinion and expression as well as the right to privacy both online and offline and ensure meaningful regulation and accountability of platforms, grounded in human rights law.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur: in contexts where States and large platforms are actively colluding to restrict freedom of expression, what has proven most effective in empowering civil society and independent media to push back?

I thank you, Mister President.