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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 62nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and Association

23 June 2026

Mr. Daniel Batliner

Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister Vice-President.

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

We share the concerns about the normalization of intrusive digital surveillance practices which are often justified by security narratives, and which may undermine the principles of necessity and proportionality applicable to limitations on the freedom of peaceful assembly and association as well as the right to privacy.

Moreover, people subjected to surveillance, or to the threat of surveillance, often face serious consequences, including stigmatization, intimidation, criminalization, arbitrary detention or threats to life.

Mister Vice-President,

Surveillance-induced chilling effects include the influence of surveillance practices on people's behavior, for instance whether they participate in public or private events or whether they engage in democratic processes. This is unacceptable. Democracy depends on an open civic space, in accordance with international human rights law.

We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that States must refrain from stigmatizing and criminalizing civil society actors, and from using surveillance and digital technologies to suppress political dissent and civil society action, including abroad. The use of digital technology for these objectives must be prohibited, and human rights law must be upheld.

I thank you, Mister Vice-President.