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Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item: 3

11 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 on the situation of Human Rights Defenders for the presentation of her report.

It is important to highlight the role of human rights defenders when it comes to fighting corruption and the challenges they face when encountering powerful figures who intimidate them. As the Special Rapporteur rightfully points out, uncovering corruption involves the investigation of power structures and such work is considered as a dangerous field for human rights defenders.

We particularly appreciate the inclusion of a gender-perspective in the report and the insights offered into the work of human rights defenders standing up against corruption worldwide.

In many parts of the world, their work is crucial for the protection of international law and for holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable. However, by putting themselves in dangerous situations, they often become victims of targeted attacks and reprisals. This is illustrated by the update on the killings of human rights defenders we received. Here again, women face additional gender-specific obstacles, risks and violations.

Liechtenstein strongly condemns any form of reprisals against human rights defenders. We should remember that human rights defenders protect and fight actively for core values of the international community. It is our responsibility to ensure an enabling environment for them. We thank the Special Rapporteur for her recommendations and call on all States to implement them.

I thank you, Mr. President.