



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 63: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We thank the President of the Human Rights Council for presenting a comprehensive and informative account of the Council's work. The Council is the United Nations' central human rights body, and as such, it plays a crucial role in ensuring that States respect their obligations under international human rights law and in preventing and responding to violations thereof. We wish to take this opportunity to flag some of the key aspects of the work of the Council during both the reporting period and its most recent session.

We strongly welcome the unanimous adoption of the resolution on the importance of casualty recording for the promotion and protection of human rights during the 50th session, which Liechtenstein has introduced together with Costa Rica, Croatia and Sierra Leone. We are looking forward to consulting the report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on how casualty recording can contribute to the upholding and fulfilling of the rights of victims, including the right to truth, the right to obtain effective remedy and reparation, and access to justice.

The holding of special sessions on Sudan and Ethiopia late last year proved that the Human Rights Council continues to be in a position to address human rights situations of concern in a timely manner. It also lived up to our expectations when it condemned the human rights violations resulting from the unjustified and illegal war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry established in resolution 49/1 has recently published its first report in which it concludes that an array of war crimes and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law have been committed in Ukraine. In line with the mandate set forward by the Council, the investigations of the Commission will continue to extend in scope and, by so doing, contribute to ensuring accountability for these heinous crimes.

The human rights situation in Russia itself has also been subject of mounting concern in light of mass arbitrary arrests, curtailing of media freedom and the suppression of peaceful protests. The political developments since February this year, and the more recent partial mobilization of the military, point towards protracted authoritarianism, with potentially severe consequences for human rights defenders, representatives of the political opposition, journalists, lawyers, civil society and persons belonging to minorities. Liechtenstein therefore welcomes the decision to appoint a special rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation last month. By adopting resolution 51/25, the Human Rights Council proved once again that it responds timely to an escalating human rights crisis.

The same, unfortunately, does not hold true for the follow-up to the report on the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in a lengthy process. The draft decision put forward earlier this month only requested a debate in response to the troublesome findings of the report. Still, a slight majority of the members of the Human Rights Council could not agree to merely discuss the findings of this report. We deplore that the Human Rights Council missed a crucial opportunity to uphold its mandate, its credibility and its support for the High Commissioner in carrying out their mandate.

The rejection of this draft decision is also a symptom of a larger problem of the Human Rights Council. Its founding resolution 60/251 provides that its members shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights – a standard we all must keep in mind when electing the Council’s membership. Aspiring members of the Council should also commit to cooperate fully with the UN human rights system, including standing invitations extended to special procedures and the High Commissioner himself.

Mr. President,

In line with its mandate, the Human Rights Council must address the rapidly deteriorating situation in Iran in response to the violent suppression of peaceful protests. Liechtenstein strongly condemns the killing of Mahsa Amini, a symbol of many thousands who have peacefully protested for their rights and freedoms. It is crucial for the Council to send a strong signal of solidarity to the people of Iran, and particularly its brave women, who risk their lives by standing up for human rights every day.

I thank you.