



STÄNDIGE MISSION  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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## **35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**7 June 2017**

### **General debate**

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for presenting his oral update to the Human Rights Council. We strongly support the indispensable work of the High Commissioner and his Office. It is of critical importance that the High Commissioner can fully discharge his mandate. The growing refusal by States to cooperate with the OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms or to grant them access to their territories is a matter of great concern to us. We are also worried that members of the Council have openly expressed their intentions to not cooperate with mandate holders! Discrediting the international human rights system in such a manner contributes to an enabling environment for intimidations, threats and reprisals against human rights defenders.

Mr. President

We must strengthen human rights compliance by ensuring that atrocity crimes are prosecuted accordingly in a court of law. Individual criminal accountability is key in this regard. We are a steadfast supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC) [and we

continue to strive for the universality of the Rome Statute, including the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression]. We also need to ensure that perpetrators of the worst crimes are being held accountable, where the ICC has no jurisdiction. Liechtenstein is proud for having spearheaded the efforts that led to the creation of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for crimes committed in Syria since March 2011 [IIIM]. This unprecedented decision by the General Assembly was a key step forward to ensure that the worst crimes committed in Syria will not go unpunished. We look forward to the early appointment of the Head of the IIIM. We continue to encourage States to contribute to the budget of the Mechanism.

I thank you!