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41th Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

2nd July 2019

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt,
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and we reiterate our strong support for its work.

We are deeply concerned about the recent developments on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular, the high number of civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, mainly caused by air strikes by the Government of Syria.

Furthermore, Liechtenstein is concerned about ten thousands of people being held in the Al Hol Camp in North-Eastern Syria, among which almost 30'000 children, most of them under the age of 12.

Mr. President,

The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to be worrisome. In order to restore sustainable peace in a post-conflict Syria, the imperative of accountability with regard to all crimes committed under international law in Syria needs to reiterated. While we continue to be of the opinion that the situation in Syria needs to be referred to the ICC by the Security Council we welcome the ongoing and encouraging work of the the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM).

We call on all parties to the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with IIIM. We also reiterate our call on all States to cooperate with the IIIM and to share information and evidence in their possession about the atrocities committed in the Syrian war with the Mechanism. We welcome the decision by a number of States to hold individual perpetrators accountable under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Furthermore, we reiterate the importance of the IIIM being funded by the regular budget of the UN in order to remain independent and fully operational.

I thank you.