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48th Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences

17 September 2021

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger,
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences for the presentation of his report and for his important work.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concern over the vulnerability of displaced persons to exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery. For this reason, Liechtenstein takes a twofold approach to actively address the issue.

In its national context, Liechtenstein grants asylum seekers and refugees full access to its labour market in a formal way and integrates children into its education system. The Government further offers assistance and counselling services in a number of areas if required, and provides housing and health care to all asylum seekers and refugees. These

measures particularly aim at empowering these persons and strengthening their position in society and thus reducing their risk of exposure to contemporary forms of slavery.

With regards to the international context, Liechtenstein is actively engaged in global efforts to combat contemporary forms of slavery. Together with Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, and other partners, Liechtenstein launched the so-called FAST initiative on *Finance against Slavery and Trafficking*. FAST equips the global financial sectors with tools to fight modern slavery and human trafficking. This way, for instance anti-money laundering tools can be used to actively combat slavery and human trafficking.

The Liechtenstein Government is dedicated to a swift and comprehensive implementation of the FAST initiative and looks forward to many more States joining the global effort.

I thank you.