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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 10 – Interactive dialogue with the fact-finding mission on Libya

30 March 2022

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mr. President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya for its report. Moreover, we thank both the local Libyan authorities and the representatives here in Geneva for their support and cooperation.

However, we regret to hear that obstacles were encountered when trying to interact with civil society organizations and are concerned about a diminishing civil society, the political instability and rising tensions and a polarization of the political landscape in Libya. With the postponement of the presidential elections in December 2021, hopes for a return to a stable democratic system have further subsided giving rise to insecurities about democracy and the rule of law.

This situation of insecurity creates an enabling environment for human rights violations. We are concerned by the reports of systematic torture, rape or threats of rape, killings and enforced disappearances in detention facilities as well as reports about the excessive use of force against migrants. These offenses, amounting to crimes against humanity, should be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators must be held accountable.

It appears that in many instances access to accountability mechanisms was blocked. In addition, members of the legal community have been the subject of attacks, therefore hindering the judiciary in the conduct of transparent and effective trials.

The report of the Fact-Finding Mission shows how important a further monitoring of the situation is. It is therefore crucial to extend the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission beyond June. We call on the Libyan authorities to continue to cooperate with the Mission and to grant unhindered access to all stakeholders, including civil society actors.

I thank you, Mister President.