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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda item 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

20 March 2023

Ms. Malina Gepp

Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and appreciate the focus being put on women and girls.

While there is some legal protection of women and girls under domestic legislation, the gap between the laws and their implementation is concerning. Sexual assault and rape against women are often perpetrated by men in positions of power, with total impunity. We therefore urge the government to live up to its duty to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, including through enacting policies and advocacy to prevent it and prosecuting perpetrators.

We are also concerned about the appalling conditions in detention and forced labor camps. The government must refrain from arbitrary arrest and detention and respect the rights of prisoners, which include access to legal assistance and the right to a fair trial, as well as the right to food and water.

We stress that the human rights violations in the DPRK happen in a broader context of oppression and structural impunity. We reiterate our call to the UN Security Council that the situation in the DPRK should be referred to the International Criminal Court.

I thank you.