



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 63: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY Ms. MYRIAM OEHRI

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We thank the President of the Human Rights Council for presenting a comprehensive and informative account of the Council's work. The Council is the United Nations' central human rights body, and as such, it plays a crucial role in ensuring that States respect their obligations under international human rights law and in preventing and responding to violations thereof. We wish to take this opportunity to flag some of the key aspects of the work of the Council during both the reporting period and its most recent session.

We welcome the unanimous adoption of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar at the 52nd Session of the Council, condemning both the military coup and the continued extension of the state of emergency in the strongest terms. As the current political developments in Myanmar point towards protracted authoritarianism, with severe consequences for the life and livelihoods of the civilian population, it is important for the international community to remain seized of this matter. In this regard, we echo the call of the Human Rights Council for the continued attention of the Security Council to the situation to resolve the humanitarian crisis and ensure accountability for mass atrocities and human rights

violations.

The holding of special sessions on Iran and Sudan late last year proved once again that the Human Rights Council is capable to address human rights situations of concern in a timely manner. We commend the resolution calling upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensure their access to truth, justice and redress. The brutal assault leading to the death of 16-year old student Armita Garavand is yet another tragic incident that must not go unpunished. The establishment of an independent international fact-finding mission constitutes an important and timely step in view of future legal proceedings. As we strongly condemn any form of persecution based on gender, we also deplore the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation for women and girls in neighboring Afghanistan and the ever-increasing list of restrictions they face in their daily lives.

The human rights situation in Ethiopia also remains an issue of grave concern. The latest report by the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia outlines the staggering levels of violence and human rights violations affecting several regions of the country over the last years, including mass killings, widespread and systematic sexual violence, forced displacement and large-scale arbitrary detentions. In light of the continuity of this violence, we regret that Council members did not heed to the calls to prolong the mandate of the Commission and its important work to promote accountability and deter further atrocity crimes.

The Human Rights Council has in turn lived up to our expectations when it prolonged the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. In its latest report, the Commission includes new evidence on the gravity of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by Russian authorities, including war crimes of willful killing, torture, rape and other sexual violence. The aggression against Ukraine is not only the most brazen violation of the UN Charter since the founding of this organization, but in concrete terms it has caused a human rights catastrophe. Accountability for aggression contributes to the prevention of such violations by prosecuting the very behavior that stands at the beginning of

the causal chain – the decision to resort to the illegal use of force. In order to ensure justice and help deter future aggression, the perpetrators of the crime of aggression must be held accountable.

Mr. President,

Early this month, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution which requests the General Assembly to consider a draft international covenant on the right to development. In light of the monumental task to accelerate the implementations of the SDGs, it is critical for this issue to unite rather than to further divide the UN membership. Liechtenstein is committed to the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in line with the 2030 Agenda. With the 2030 Agenda we all have devised the most ambitious and comprehensive implementation program for the vision enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development of 1986. We continue to believe that the Declaration provides appropriate and sufficient guidance to the right to development which must not only be rooted in our common resolve to foster a more peaceful, just and prosperous world for all, but also in the universality of human rights.

Mr. President,

In May, the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review examined Liechtenstein's human rights record for the fourth time. We were particularly pleased to report on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the on-going ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the launch of the Financing against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) Initiative. At the same time, we also strongly valued the exchange with Member States that allows for critical observations and recommendations for further improvements. After consulting with all relevant government bodies, Liechtenstein was pleased to announce that it accepted 132 out of 184, a total of 72% of all recommendations of this review cycle. In so doing, we continue to uphold and promote the highest international human rights standards.

Upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights is also an explicit requirement for Council members as reflected in its founding resolution 60/251. For the Council to be effective and to fulfill its mandate, we all must keep this requirement in mind when electing the Council's membership.

I thank you.