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37th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with
the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

13 March 2018

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

Mr. President,

We welcome the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry and appreciate the appointment of Mr. Hanny Megally. You are an excellent addition to the team of commissioners.

Liechtenstein continues to be deeply appalled by the situation in Syria, in particular the continued and blatant disrespect for the most basic principles of international humanitarian law, as outlined by your reports. Accountability for grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and for the continued perpetration of the most serious crimes under international law should - at no time - become a bargaining chip in any future peace talks. Accountability needs to lay the foundation for a sustainable and peaceful future of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. President,

The inability of the Security Council to address the situation or even to agree on the most basic common denominators, such as the continuation of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) for chemical weapons attacks, is striking. Other bodies of the United Nations, such as the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, should lead by example. In this regard, we continue to strongly support the operationalization of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria and call on all States to cooperate with it, make - where necessary - arrangements to this end and support it politically and financially. We look forward to the Commission and the IIIM formalizing their relationship by concluding a memorandum of understanding as soon as possible. We hope that the IIIM can make best use of the information and evidence gathered by the Commission. We would be interested to know more about your cooperation with the IIIM and the current state of affairs.

I thank you!