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43rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

09 March 2020

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

Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic for the presentation of its report.

We are deeply concerned about the violence and humanitarian situation in and around Idlib, which led to more than 700'000 people being displaced.

We are appalled by the unwillingness of the warring parties to grant unhindered access to the area for humanitarian actors that are needed in order to address the most basic needs of the civilian population.

Incidents of alleged civil harm, on-going enforced disappearances, the bombings of hospitals and schools, and many more violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law need to be independently, impartially and credibly investigated.

Madam President,

We reiterate the imperative of accountability with regard to all crimes committed under international law in Syrian and to this end call on all State to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria (IIIM). In particular, we put an emphasis on universal jurisdiction. Recent cases have shown that this is one way to fight the impunity for the crimes committed in Syria.

Furthermore, we reiterate our principled position that the situation in Syria should be referred to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council.

Finally, we would like to express our continued strong support for the work and the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry.

I thank you.