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## **Statement at the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Agenda item: 2 Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR report on Afghanistan**

**12 September 2023**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the Office of the High Commissioner for the report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Liechtenstein remains deeply concerned about the continuously deteriorating human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly for women and girls. They are still excluded from secondary and higher education and are restricted from participating in almost all forms of public life, including working for the UN or at non-governmental organizations.

Effectively restricted to a life at home, they also face increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence and abuse. We urge the Taliban to honor their commitments to respect and protect the human rights of women and girls.

We are also concerned about the reports of over 200 extrajudicial killings, over 140 instances of torture and ill treatment, several hundred arbitrary arrests and detentions including enforced disappearances, mainly of former government officials since August 2021, and we urge the *de facto* authorities to prevent further violations and hold perpetrators accountable.

Finally, we call on the Taliban to immediately reverse all legislation and policies curtailing women's and girls' human rights and we stress the importance of a credible investigations into all human rights violations in Afghanistan.

I thank you, Mister President.