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Statement at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 4: ID with the Special Rapporteur on Burundi

22 September 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Burundi. The civic space is shrinking further and independent media are driven out of the country or forced into self-censorship. The judiciary lacks both independence and proper training. This further exacerbates impunity, including with regard to the crimes against humanity committed in 2015.

Many children are severely malnourished and have no access to education. Moreover, with the introduction of new banknotes and not enough time to deposit the old ones, people have lost their savings and those already vulnerable are driven further into despair. Food and fuel prices are so high that affording the basic needs becomes a difficulty.

Large parts of the population, understandably, have lost confidence in the government. To turn around on this path, inclusive dialogue and political participation is required, and accountability for current and past human rights violations needs to be guaranteed, now. A return to the Rome Statute would be an important step in that direction.

I thank you, Mister President.