



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN ARRIA FORMULA MEETING

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UN

Excellencies,

We thank the OHCHR for their briefing today. Liechtenstein has followed the developments in Belarus with increasing concern. The situation in the country continues to be characterized by systematic, serious and massive violations of human rights and more recently has turned into a threat to regional stability. There is overwhelming evidence that the presidential elections of August 2020 were neither free nor fair. Liechtenstein expresses its solidarity with all those who have protested peacefully and demanded free and fair elections - and we condemn all violence perpetrated against them. We pay particular tribute to the strong role women have been playing in the protest movement and support their role as agents for political change. The implementation of the recommendations by the Moscow Mechanism of the OSCE offer the authorities in Belarus a good starting point for ending violence and human rights violations and for organizing free and genuine elections. Full cooperation with the relevant mandates established by the Human Rights Council is furthermore of the essence. While the authorities continue to oppress their own people with massive and systematic violence, they also openly flout the most basic rules of international law, as evidenced by the forced landing of a civilian aircraft endangering aviation safety, the safety of passengers and crew and by the resulting kidnapping and arbitrary detention. These actions have been strongly condemned by the

international community and resulted in a number of decisions by the Human Rights Council which we fully support. In response, the authorities have now resorted to manipulating migration movements by taking advantage of desperate and vulnerable citizens from third countries to initiate illegal border crossings from Belarus to neighboring countries. We express our solidarity with those who fall prey to such machinations as well as the States who are targeted and put under pressure in such an unprecedented manner and condemn such attempts to weaponize illegal migration and to exploit the misery of countless individuals. In our view, these inhumane practices pose a clear threat to peace and security and should find an appropriate response from the United Nations Security Council, in order to help chart a way back for Belarus into the framework of the rules regulating international relations, in the interest of their own people and the peaceful relations between States

I thank you