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37th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

8 March 2018

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

We welcome the annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and reaffirm our full support to his work. Liechtenstein has great respect for the principled and impartial manner in which he carries out his mandate. It is of vital importance that the High Commissioner and his staff can fulfil their mandate unhindered and independently. We call on all states to positively respond to requests of the High Commissioner, his Office and of Special Procedures for access to the country or certain areas without unnecessary delay.

We commend the High Commissioner for his strong stance against any forms of reprisals against those reporting on human rights violations. Not only reprisals are an issue of great concern to us but the continuing efforts by members of the Human Rights Council to undermine its mechanisms. It is of great concern that Burundi threatened members of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and OHCHR staff. We are also concerned about reports of the High Commissioner on continued vilification of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial,

summary or arbitrary executions in the Philippines. We condemn this treatment and the disrespect towards mandate holders by acting members of the Human Rights Council.

Mr President,

The human rights situation in Myanmar is of great concern to us. We would have expected a clear signal by the Myanmar authorities to cooperate with the international community, but the contrary is the case. We call on Myanmar to cooperate with the Fact-Finding Mission and the Special Rapporteur but also with other human rights mechanisms as well as all relevant UN bodies to independently monitor the human rights situation, and to grant them unconditional access without delay. We commend the High Commissioner for his calls for ensuring accountability for atrocity crimes committed in Myanmar. At the same time we are of the view that an ICC referral discussion should be held. We believe pressure should not be taken away from Security Council members to alleviate the suffering and ensure accountability for the crimes committed.

I thank you!