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39th session of the Human Rights Council
General debate on the High Commissioner for Human Rights' oral update
11 September 2018

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

Mr. President,

We welcome Ms Michelle Bachelet as the new High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and reassure her our continued full support. It is more important than ever that she will continue the successful work of her predecessor in taking a leading role in advocating for the power of justice and a free and enabling civil society. We also reiterate our strong call that the High Commissioner and her office must fulfil their mandate independently and unhindered. At the same time, we urge all states to refrain from intimidations of and reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society in whatever circumstances.

Mr President,

Let us recall that the Human Rights Council was established to address gross and systematic human rights violations. We commend the High Commissioner for her call for accountability for atrocity crimes committed in Myanmar and Syria. We share her concerns about the ongoing military operations in Idlib province and the impact on almost three million civilians who live there. We should not forget the conclusions drawn by the Syrian Arab Republic and

its allies from similar situations, be it in Aleppo, East-Ghouta and elsewhere in Syria: Systematic violations of international humanitarian law are a winning strategy. The international community must do its utmost that this will not happen again. In this regard, the IIIM will play an important role. We call on all states to cooperate with the IIIM and support the mechanism politically and financially.

We remain appalled by the findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar about the atrocities committed in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States. We concur with the High Commissioner and welcome and share her emphasis on the imperative of justice for Myanmar. As a matter of principle, we continue to be of the view that an ICC referral discussion must be held. We also stand ready to support establishing a follow-up mechanism to the Fact-Finding Mission. We commend the EU for their leadership in this regard.

I thank you!