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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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39th session of the Human Rights Council

High-level panel discussion to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

13 September 2018

Intervention by H.E. Peter Matt

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

While commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Genocide Convention, we must never lose sight of our common goal to achieve universal membership of the Convention. Even more important, we must do our utmost to implement the Convention. This is an essential part of our responsibility to protect civilian populations from atrocity crimes.

No genocide takes place in a vacuum or in isolation; genocide is preceded by clear signs. Time and again the problem is not that the international community lacks information, but that it lacks the political will to act. The establishment of the International Criminal Court was a change for the better. We are convinced that the Court has already had a preventive effect in a number of situations. Criminal accountability is also a fundamental building block of lasting peace and an important part of reconciliation. We call upon all States that have not done so yet to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC, including the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression.

Preventing further violence and ensuring accountability is not only a responsibility of the Human Rights Council but a key obligation of the Security Council. The 119 States that are signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct expect the Security Council to act swiftly to prevent and end atrocity crimes. For Liechtenstein signing on to the Code of Conduct is an essential commitment for candidates to the Human Rights Council and the Security Council. Supporting this initiative that aims to end and prevent atrocity crimes is an expression of will to work for the realization of the purposes and principles of the UN and the Human Rights Council.

I thank you!