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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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40th session of the Human Rights Council

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children

5 March 2019

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

Mr. (Vice-) President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children for their respective reports and assure them of our support.

We are concerned about the numerous cases of sales and sexual exploitation of children, in particular, in the context of sports. Liechtenstein strongly condemns all forms of trafficking of children and sexual violations of children. All these actions leave a lasting damage on the child's dignity and future.

According to the Global Slavery Index and the UNODC report on trafficking in persons from 2018, the use of children in armed conflicts is clearly and directly linked to the trafficking and sale of children and is therefore globally recognised as a form of modern slavery.

Furthermore, UNODC reports that in West Africa, the majority of trafficked persons are girls and boys. Armed groups and other criminals traffic victims – including children – for sexual

exploitation, sexual slavery, forced marriage, armed combat and various forms of forced labour.

Ending all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking belongs to Liechtenstein's key priorities. For this reason, Liechtenstein has, together with Australia and the United Nations University, launched a Financial Sector Commission (FSC) on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, also known as the Liechtenstein Initiative.

It brings together actors from retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, survivors as well as the UN and the anti-slavery movement. The Financial Sector Commission develops actionable measures, which the global financial sector can build on to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.

In this regard, we would like to know how we can use this knowledge and this initiative to deepen the focus on ending the sale and trafficking of children.

I thank you.