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40th Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab
Republic**

12 March 2019

Intervention by the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.

These days mark the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the uprising against the Assad Government. It is a reminder of the immense and largely untold human suffering that the people of Syria have endured for nearly a decade. Thousands of people have been killed, many in the most gruesome manner.

The country has suffered large-scale destruction. There is a generation of children who have not known a life without war. And an entire region has been destabilized by an armed conflict characterized by the direct involvement of foreign actors.

Liechtenstein is still worried about the issuance of death certificates by the Syrian authorities advancing natural causes of death for the thousands of persons who have perished in Syrian prisons. This practice reflects an extremely concerning policy geared towards impunity by the Syrian authorities without the fear of legal consequences. In this regard, we welcome the Commissions efforts to have a closer look at this practice.

We reiterate the imperative of accountability with regard to all crimes committed under international law in Syria and to this end call on all States to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria (IIIM). In particular, we put an emphasis on universal jurisdiction. Recent cases of arrests have shown that this is one way to fight the impunity for crimes committed under international law in Syria.

Mr. President,

We would like to know from the Commission how we can further engage in strengthening international cooperation under universal jurisdiction in order to hold perpetrators of the most gruesome crimes accountable.

I thank you.