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40th Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka

20 March 2019

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

Mr. Vice-President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the High Commissioner's report on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka and her continued attention to this situation.

Furthermore, we commend the continued cooperation of the Government of Sri Lanka with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the efforts undertaken to strengthen human rights and to ensure transitional justice as well as Sri Lanka's support for the Item 2 resolution on the promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights. We also acknowledge that the High Commissioner's report recognizes some important advances since 2015 in terms of institutional changes, legislation on a reparations body, and the return of some land.

However, despite all these efforts, we share the High Commissioner's concern about the slow rate of the progress in establishing meaningful transitional justice measures. This has engendered mistrust among victims and other stakeholders. Liechtenstein calls upon Sri Lanka to take necessary measures to fully implement the transitional process outlined in the Council's resolution 30/1, especially in the field of criminal accountability where no substantial progress had been achieved. We would like to underline the importance of ensuring accountability in order to achieve a sustainable peace.

Mr. Vice-President,

We would like to ask the High Commissioner how the international community could support Sri Lanka's Government in its efforts to further engage in its transitional process and whether an expansion of the presence of the OHCHR in the country would be a possible option?

I thank you.