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## **42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

17 September 2019

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

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt,

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the ongoing work and efforts of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and we reiterate our strong support for its important work. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to grant the Commission full and unhindered access to its territory and to fully cooperate with it.

What the Commission shows us in its report continues to leave us speechless appalled, in view of the horrific humanitarian situation and the ongoing grave and wide-spread human rights violations that have been committed against millions of innocent Syrian people. The report shows that hostilities, arbitrary detention and killings, deliberate targeting of

medical facilities, sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of violations continue to face impunity in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. President,

The situation in the country continues to be worrisome. In order to restore sustainable peace in a post-conflict Syria, the imperative of accountability with regard to all crimes committed under international law in Syria needs to be reiterated. While we continue to be of the opinion that the situation in Syria needs to be referred to the ICC by the Security Council we welcome the ongoing and encouraging work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM).

We call on all parties to the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with IIIM. We also reiterate our call on all States to cooperate with the IIIM and to share information and evidence in their possession about the atrocities committed in the Syrian war with the Mechanism. We welcome the decision by a number of States to hold individual perpetrators accountable under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Furthermore, we reiterate the importance of the IIIM being funded by the regular budget of the UN in order to remain independent and fully operational.

I thank you.