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Statement at the 57th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the OHCHR on Sri Lanka

9 September 2024

H.E. Ambassador Frank Büchel

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the High Commissioner for the presentation of the report.

We note the efforts made by the government of Sri Lanka, including by engaging with the OHCHR as well as establishing an *Interministerial Standing Committee on Human Rights*. We are mindful that the economic crisis has an exacerbating impact on the enjoyment of human rights for the people in Sri Lanka.

Nonetheless, we regret that long overdue reforms to advance human rights and reconciliation, especially in the institutional and security sectors, have not been carried out. We are concerned that recent new or proposed laws aim to further restrict fundamental freedoms and especially civic space.

True reconciliation cannot be achieved with impunity. The lack of accountability for past and present human rights violations at all levels needs to be urgently and credibly addressed, and the suffering of victims needs to be recognized.

Mister President,

In view of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, what can the Human Rights Council do to ensure that fundamental freedoms are guaranteed and that the path of reconciliation is expedited?

I thank you, Mister President.