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**PERMANENT MISSION**  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

### **24<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the Human Rights Council on preventing further deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi**

**Geneva, 17 December 2015**

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**Intervention by Minister-Counsellor Pascal Schafhauser,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr. President

We welcome the convening of this special session on the human rights situation in Burundi. It is with deep concern that we have followed the deteriorating human rights situation in a country that used to be on a path to recovery from civil war, with consistent assistance from the international community.

In spite of this support, the situation in Burundi is on a dangerous downward slope. A massive crackdown on all forms of dissent has led to systematic violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings and retributive acts of violence.

The United Nations system has monitored the situation very carefully. After the Prosecutor of the ICC, of which Burundi is a State Party, had issued a statement already in May this year, both the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the SG's Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, have recently warned of a "dangerous tipping point" and called upon the Security Council to take decisive action. We therefore welcomed the recently adopted Security Council resolution 2248. However, recent developments show that action taken is not enough.

Mr. President,

The Council's discussion today should both contribute to an improvement of the situation on the ground and support timely action in the Security Council. The leadership of the Security Council should be in line with the commitment of 107 States under the ACT Code of Conduct on atrocity crimes to take timely and decisive action to prevent or end genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and, specifically, not to vote against timely Security Council resolutions to this end<sup>1</sup>. These two goals are largely met in the draft resolution before us today: the mission

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.regierung.li/files/medienarchiv/unoallgemein/2015-09-01\\_SC\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_Atrocity.pdf?t=635858237357056653](http://www.regierung.li/files/medienarchiv/unoallgemein/2015-09-01_SC_Code_of_Conduct_Atrocity.pdf?t=635858237357056653)

organized by OHCHR should both contribute to at least preventing a further deterioration of the situation on the ground and help intensify the dialogue with the authorities and other stakeholders in Burundi. It will also provide crucial information for further consideration and possible action of the Council. We expect the Government of Burundi to fully cooperate with the Mission and look forward to the crucial complementary efforts by the African Union.

In conclusion, let me express our regret that the resolution before us fails to make reference to the fact that Burundi is a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This would have been a simple factual reminder of the Government's obligation to prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes falling in the jurisdiction of the Court – to our mind clearly an indispensable element to address the climate of impunity in Burundi mentioned in the resolution.

I thank you.