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## **33th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**15 September 2016**

### **Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, including its Causes and Consequences**

**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt,**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr. President

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Ms. Urmila Bhoola, for her reports and for her presentation.

Even though one of the strongest legal norms exists against slavery - namely an absolute prohibition under customary international law – the reality is very different, with enormous levels of impunity in national systems. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda created a momentum to galvanize efforts: The SDG agenda makes 3 references to modern slavery and human trafficking (target 8.7, target 5.2, target 16.2). We have to use these as tools in order to fight all contemporary forms of slavery and ensure access to justice and remedies for victims of these crimes and violations.

Contemporary forms of slavery are closely related to a number of forms of exploitation, including human trafficking. In fighting trafficking we also can make progress in eliminating slavery at the same time. In this regard efforts are needed to universalize the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. A special focus has to be on women and children.

Liechtenstein, the UK and the United Nations University (UNU) organized a retreat on fighting human trafficking in conflict in July and presented the respective report last week in NY. It distils 10 ideas for action by the SC. We recommend the report also for the discussions in the HRC, as many of its recommendations are relevant outside the area of armed conflict. (You will find the relevant link to the document on the written form of our statement: <http://unu.edu/fighting-human-trafficking-in-conflict>).

Regarding the prevention of contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking we would be grateful to hear from the Special Rapporteur on how to better involve the private sector in these efforts. Furthermore could the Special Rapporteur elaborate on existing or future cooperation between her mandate and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, this in view of the close interlinkage between modern slavery and human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr President.