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DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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34th session of the Human Rights Council

Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty
Theme: The death penalty and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

The imposition of the death penalty is a flagrant violation of the right to life and human dignity. There is no empirical evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other forms of punishment. Wrongful convictions occur even in the most advanced justice systems, a sad and urgent reminder of the irrevocable and all too final character of capital punishment. The continued lack of transparency surrounding the death penalty is seriously undermining the protection of the human rights of convicts and their relatives.

We commend the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for his firm stance against the death penalty as well as the important work undertaken by the treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders as well as civil society to advocate for the abolition of this cruel, inhumane and degrading practice. We call for the universal ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as its Second Optional Protocol.

The death penalty has no place in the twenty-first century and we will continue to advocate for its worldwide abolition in law and in practice. In order to abolish the death penalty we need to foster a fact based debate. What are the panelist's views on how to improve the collection of disaggregated data on the use of the death penalty?

I thank you!