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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council

5 December 2017

General Debate

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

We welcome the convening of this special session given the on-going human rights and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, in particular in Rakhine State. Liechtenstein supports the resolution put forward at this special session. The resolution puts a spotlight on the grave crimes that led to the forcible displacement of the Rohingya for which perpetrators and those responsible must be held to account. It also highlights crucial human rights deficiencies that need to be resolved to allow for a dignified voluntary return of the displaced and to bring sustainable peace to the region, in particular the issue of statelessness.

The protracted human rights crisis in Myanmar remains of grave concern to us. In order to ensure a peaceful and lasting solution, we must address the root causes of this crisis, in particular discriminatory restrictions in law, policy and practice. The current crisis with more than 625,000 people fleeing Myanmar's northern Rakhine State is underpinned by decades of systematic discrimination against minorities. While today we pay particular attention to the situation in Rakhine State, we should not ignore other regions in Myanmar with similar, systematic human rights concerns. To end this systematic discrimination it is of utmost importance that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State are implemented without delay. Liechtenstein welcomes Myanmar's commitment in this regard and considers the Human Rights Council the appropriate forum to closely monitor implementation. Liechtenstein also welcomes the recent bilateral refugee agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh which should be implemented with full respect of international refugee and human rights standards and with the assistance of the UN, other humanitarian actors and the international community.

The forcibly displaced have fled unimaginable suffering. Despite serious and systematic access restrictions many of the atrocities committed are well documented. Those responsible must be held to account and we are concerned at the reluctance displayed by the Myanmar authorities in this regard. Liechtenstein supports the Fact-Finding Mission of the Council and the important contribution it can make to establish the facts on the ground. We call on Myanmar to grant unconditional access not only for the Fact-Finding Mission, but also for other human rights mechanisms as well as all relevant UN bodies to independently monitor the human rights situation. In accordance with the ACT Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, the Security Council also bears responsibility to timely and decisive action to prevent future atrocity crimes in Myanmar, including by ensuring justice for the grave crimes committed.

The adoption of today's resolution is a clear sign of our shared commitment to promote and protect human rights in Myanmar, to ensure accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims.