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Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on Torture

28 February 2019

Intervention by the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on Torture for their respective reports and assure them of our support.

We highly welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders emphasizing the crucial role of women in promoting and protecting human rights in various times and contexts. We are concerned about the threats and risks human rights defenders face and that they are frequently targeted because of their work.

We are very alarmed about reports that women human rights defenders are often facing additional and different risks and obstacles that are gendered, intersectional and shaped by entrenched gender stereotypes and deeply held ideas and norms about who women are and how women should be. This despite the key role women human rights defenders often have played in furthering and protecting human rights.

It is particularly concerning that those, who are primarily obliged to promote and protect human rights, namely States and state institutions, in some cases, have engaged in direct

attacks against women defenders and their families, including through defamation campaigns, judicial harassment and criminalization.

Furthermore, we welcome the initiative of Norway to table a resolution looking at the particular threats that environmental human rights defenders are facing since they find themselves in a more complex situation where numerous additional interests are at stake.

We would like to know how the multilateral community can contribute to the fight against root causes of threats against women human rights defenders and strengthen the position of human rights defenders in general as well as women human rights defenders in particular.

I thank you.