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## **41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with  
the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity & the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges & lawyers**

**24 June 2019**

Intervention by Mr. Daniel Batliner, Second Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. (Vice-)President,

We thank the Independent Expert on protection against violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers for their respective reports.

Building on his 2018 report, the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity on data collection and management as a means to create heightened awareness on the topic reminds us that stigmatization, criminalisation and negation in many countries already start with the issue of comprehensive data collection on the LGBTI community.

However, there is sufficient evidence indicating the alarming extent to which lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans- and gender-diverse persons are subjected to violence and discrimination because of stigmatization. Liechtenstein continues to be very concerned about discriminating legal frameworks in many countries as well as violence and discrimination in many other fields of private and public life.

Among others, the first term of the Independent Expert shows us two important conclusions:

First, even though recent cases in several countries point into a good direction, there is still a good number of States that deny the existence of LGBTI or deprive them of their rights. Liechtenstein supports the finding of the Independent Expert stating that criminalising sexual orientation and/or gender identity is per se a contradiction to international human rights law. Liechtenstein calls upon all States to repeal such laws, including laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relations, or gender identity or expression.

Second, the work of the Independent Expert is far from being completed. Liechtenstein strongly urges all States to support a mandate renewal in order to strengthen the rights of persons subject to violence and discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I thank you.