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41ˢᵗ session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue
on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

09 July 2019

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt,
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. (Vice-) President,

Liechtenstein thanks the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her oral update on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We furthermore thank the team of international experts for its report on the situation in Kasai.

Liechtenstein welcomes the start to the first ever peaceful transition in the history of the country last December and President Tshisekedi's commitment to human rights. In particular, we thank the government for the cooperation and openness towards the work of the team of international experts.

We agree with the team's recommendation that national prosecution and trial capacities need to be strengthened in order to combat impunity in Kasai and ensure accountability. In this regard, we recommend the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue cooperating with the International Criminal Court in its investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country since 2002.

Furthermore, accountability for the various and grave forms of sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, sexual mutilation, forced exposure of private parts and forced witnessing of relatives being subjected to rape and sexual violence, conducted by all parties to the conflicts, needs to be ensured.

However, the use of the death penalty is not an adequate way to execute accountability. In this regard, we reiterate our principled position that we do not support capital punishment and we recommend the Democratic Republic of the Congo to initiate a political and legislative process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

Finally, we are standing ready to lend our support for the on-going transitional process in the DRC and look forward to see the results of this process.

I thank you.