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## **Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Afghanistan**

**7 March 2022**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein remains very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan. Since the takeover by the Taliban, the human rights situation in Afghanistan has steadily and steeply deteriorated. According to the UNDP, up to 97% of all Afghans could fall below the poverty line by mid-2022, triggering a humanitarian catastrophe. <sup>1</sup>

In addition, human rights are continuously and systematically suppressed. We condemn all human rights violations in Afghanistan ranging from arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment, and the banning of civil society organizations, the oppression of human rights defenders as well as sexual- and gender-based violence.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/97-percent-afghans-could-plunge-poverty-mid-2022-says-undp>

We remain particularly concerned about Afghan women. Without equal access to many basic services and equal fundamental rights, such as the right to education or the right to freedom of movement, they are forced to live a restricted life in an environment that is increasingly hostile to women.

This sheds light on the dramatic deterioration of the previously already precarious human rights situation. We call upon the Taliban to respect human rights standards and to ensure accountability for human rights violations in Afghanistan.

I thank you, Mister President.