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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 4 – Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR Report on Belarus

17 March 2022

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her team for the report on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

The report clearly shows that the Government's response to the neither fair nor free election in Belarus had the primary aim of governmental policies to suppress criticism and dissent rather than the protection of public order.

The repeated violation of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association as well as the consistent pattern of unwarranted and disproportionate use of force, arbitrary arrests, detention, torture or ill-treatment, including rape and sexual and gender-based violence, and the systemic denial of the rights to due process and to a fair trial are well-documented.

The aggravating factor of all these violations of human rights is the lack of accountability. We share the High Commissioner's concern over the active policy to shield perpetrators and prevent accountability as well as the high degree of reprisals, intimidation of victims and witnesses, and attacks on lawyers and human rights defenders.

Without effective investigations and remedies, justice for the human rights violations cannot be served. We urge Belarus to cooperate with the OHCHR examination and to fully implement the recommendations of the report by the High Commissioner.

I thank you, Mister President.