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Statement at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item: 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

22. September

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia for its first report.

We are concerned by the recent resumption of fighting in the Tigray region and beyond, with the imminent risk of spreading beyond Ethiopia's borders. This summer has been marked by hate speech attacking and dehumanizing ethnic groups as well as the alleged killing of hundreds of civilians in southwest Oromia.

The report clearly outlines the brutality of methods warfare used by all parties to the conflict, including extrajudicial killings, rape, sexual violence and starvation of the civilian population. We note the Commissions findings that, in several instances, these violations amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The accounts of witnesses in the report have rendered us speechless.

Moreover, the dire humanitarian situation leaves 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. In this respect, it is of utmost importance that humanitarian actors have unhindered access to all people in need.

Mister President,

The report proves the need to extend the Commission's mandate, which my delegation fully supports, to further investigate the situation in Ethiopia and to elaborate on how to ensure accountability and prevent impunity for these violations.

I thank you.