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45th Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

16 September 2020

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

Thank you Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and slavery like-practices, Mr Tomoya Obokata, for the presentation of his first report.

We agree with him that COVID-19 does not discriminate, its effects however do. The report reveals how the pandemic exacerbates the already dire situation of people trapped in modern slavery and poses the risks for many more vulnerable people to become victims as well.

It is vital to take action in the protection of the non-derogable prohibition of slavery. We as states have the obligation to do so. On the one hand, we need to act as role models in adhering to labour rights and social protection regulations. On the other hand, perpetrators need to be identified and held accountable so victims and survivors of modern slavery can be provided justice.

Madame President,

The Special Rapporteur referred to financial investigations being an integral part of the combat against contemporary forms of slavery. Together with Australia, the Netherlands and other partners, Liechtenstein launched the FAST initiative that aims at equipping the global financial sectors with tools to fight modern slavery and human trafficking. This way, for instance anti-money laundering tools can be used to actively combat slavery and human trafficking.

This initiative is currently implemented in a few States and we look forward to see a growing number.

Finally, I would like to thank the Special Rapporteur again and wish him all the best in his new position.

Thank you.