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Statement at the 53rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 2 – Enhanced interactive dialogue on Afghanistan

19 June 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the speakers for their updates on the situation in Afghanistan. We welcome that the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls conducted a joint visit to Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, the situation in Afghanistan remains very concerning. The recent order banning Afghan women from working with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations is yet another sad example of structural discrimination against women and girls. Women and girls in Afghanistan suffer from systemic discrimination and an increase in gender-based violence, often with impunity for the perpetrators.

Moreover, we share the concerns of numerous Special Procedures mandate holders about the use of punishments like stoning, flogging and burying under a wall which constitutes a form of torture and violates Afghanistan's obligations under international law.

Mister President,

We stress the importance of credibly and independently investigating all serious crimes under international law that have been and continue to be committed in Afghanistan in view of holding perpetrators accountable.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, how could the establishment of an investigative mechanism by the Human Rights Council help to collect and preserve evidence for serious crimes committed in Afghanistan?

I thank you, Mister President.