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38th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women

Panel 1: The impact of violence against women human rights defenders and women's organizations in digital spaces

Joint Statement delivered by Mr. Pascal Schafhauser
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Geneva, 21 June 2018

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland and my own country, Liechtenstein. At the outset, we would like to thank the panelists for their presentations and the Office of the High Commissioner for the preparation of this important event.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a universal commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres. If we are serious about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to eliminate vio-

lence against women offline as well as online and accelerate progress in protecting women human rights defenders, also in the digital space. Women human rights defenders lead many social movements that advocate for human rights, justice and equality all over the world. Unfortunately, they are facing way too often threats, attacks and violence including in the online sphere. We need to redouble our efforts to prevent such violence and fight impunity.

We commend the efforts led by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders as well as the Assistant Secretary General Andrew Gilmour as focal point for reprisals to help tackle these intolerable actions: What are the panellist's views to promote a more united and robust response to prevent online violence against women human rights defenders?

I thank you!