



OFFICE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

## **Statement on the occasion of the 31<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

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Distinguished Chair,

At the outset, let me express Liechtenstein's solidarity with the people and Government of Ukraine. Liechtenstein strongly condemns the Russian aggression against Ukraine which constitutes a blatant violation of the foundational principles of the UN Charter and the international order founded upon it. As a result of the aggression against Ukraine, we are receiving reports of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We are witnessing a cruel indifference towards civilian lives, systematic breaches and serious violation of international humanitarian law.

Mister Chair,

As is well known, Liechtenstein has been a consistent advocate for international justice and accountability for many years. Against this, accountability is a key priority for us in the context of the war in Ukraine. For situations like these, we have created the International Criminal Court.

Mister Chair,

The war against Ukraine has unfortunately a large spill-over effect on other organised crimes, such as Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We are extremely concerned about the high risk of displaced people becoming victims of exploitation and trafficking. Part of our collective fight against human trafficking should include leveraging the crucial role played by the financial sector in ending these crimes. This is why we have

created the Liechtenstein Initiative on Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking – or “FAST”. FAST aims to engage the financial sector to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery. And it makes sure that we make financial inclusion and economic empowerment a major means to prevent vulnerability in the first place. FAST is therefore promoting financial access to help prevent human trafficking. In this regard, I would like to highlight that the three largest banks in Liechtenstein are providing refugees from Ukraine with fee-free accounts.

Mister Chair,

Finally, Liechtenstein regards this year’s thematic discussion on Cybercrime particularly timely. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are confronted with a rapid growth of Cybercrime, unfortunately including also the online sexual exploitation of Children. Rapid responses and well-functioning international cooperation are key to fight these horrendous crimes. In this sense, we welcome the current negotiations on a UN Convention on Cybercrime. But we also want to stress the importance to build this Convention on already existing international law – this is not a question of simplicity or a political issue, but a necessity to prevent looming fragmentation of the international framework in Cyberspace, which as a consequence would hamper international cooperation.

Thank you.