

19 March 2009

Human Rights Council
Tenth Session

Item 6
“Consideration of UPR reports”

Oral Intervention by Amnesty International on Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes many of the recommendations made by states during the review, especially those to continue efforts aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination, to draft a law establishing registered partnership for same-sex couples, and to ensure the full implementation of the national plan of action against racism.¹ We welcome Liechtenstein's support of these recommendations.

Several states recommended the establishment of an ombudsman or national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.² Amnesty International regrets the rejection by Liechtenstein of these recommendations. We continue to consider that such an institution would be an important step towards improving the coordination on human rights policy between the different institutional levels in Liechtenstein.

Mr. President,

Several states called for measures to strengthen the integration of foreigners.³ Amnesty International takes this opportunity to urge Liechtenstein to amend the new Foreign National Act to avoid the creation of additional groups of non-citizens and to ensure that non-citizens are not discriminated against, especially with regard to their right to family reunification.

Finally, Amnesty International welcomes assurances by Liechtenstein, made during the review, that it has honoured all its reporting obligations under the UN treaty body system. We call on Liechtenstein to ensure that regular follow-up is undertaken to the concluding observations and recommendations of the treaty bodies. This should include regular human rights training for public servants, especially those working with foreign nationals and asylum seekers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ A/HRC/10/77, paragraph 64, sub-paragraphs 5, 10 and 11.

² Ibid, paragraph 65, sub-paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7.

³ Ibid, paragraph 65, sub-paragraphs 17 and 23