



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 27th Session – ITEM 3 – September 2014**

Clustered Dialogue

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Rosa Kornfeld, and thank her for her report, and look forward to engaging in constructive and fruitful cooperation in order to allow the fulfillment of her mandate.

We have noticed the Independent Expert refers in her report to the social rights of older persons, and how these can be classified into three groups. Regarding the second group, the right to improve functional health, the Government of Israel is currently developing a strategic plan for dementia, in order to train care workers, develop community services and provide support for families, in particular for family members that are caregivers. These steps will be supported by measures to raise public awareness on dementia and to enhance research in this field. We believe taking action on early detection and diagnosis will as well help address the onset of dementia.

Mr. President,

Israel would like to welcome as well the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Ms. Urmila Bhoola, and thank her for her comprehensive report, and addendums, presented before us today.

This summer, we were appalled by the article, published on The Guardian, which denounced the use of systematic forced labor in Qatar. The investigation found evidence to suggest that thousands of Nepalese, who make up the single largest group of laborers in Qatar, faced constant exploitation and abuses at work. Last week, the International Trade Union Confederation expressed, as well, serious concern for the documented extreme violations of workers' rights in Qatar.

In the Arab Gulf, employment law is elementary and rarely enforced, while trade unions are forbidden. Qatar has ratified the ILO Convention on Forced Labor, but migrant workers are still horribly abused and their salaries kept at the World Bank's poverty-line. In this context, there has been a constant flow of published

research about the exploitation of migrant workers by the ILO, Human Rights Watch and various other groups that have worked to raise awareness on the abuse of workers' basic rights.

In line of these findings, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur if she intends to visit the Arab Gulf region to further investigate and report to Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.