



## **Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

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### **UN Human Rights Council HRC 28<sup>th</sup> Session – March 2015**

#### **Debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel wishes to support the worldwide efforts to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We strongly believe that the worldwide community must denounce racism of all kinds and manifestations.

Racism is one of the most dangerous threats to humanity. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lead to hatred, which in turn leads to political instability and to wars between nations, communities and ethnic groups. Wars produce victims, and bring about damage and destruction. Millions of people lose their lives throughout history due to hostilities between ethnic groups.

Furthermore, at this moment, millions of human beings continue to suffer as victims of racism around the world. We cannot remain silent. We need to fight against this phenomenon. We need to speak loud and clear and declare unequivocally - Racism must disappear from our world as soon as possible.

There is no doubt that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. It should also be clear that everyone should have the opportunity to live his or her life without fear of persecution for reasons of race, religious beliefs, gender, ethnic group or other changeable or unchangeable characteristics.

Mr. President,

We, the Jewish people, have paid a heavy price throughout history as victims of hatred and anti-Semitism. Unfortunately, in recent years, and in particular in 2014, there has been a visible and measurable rise in anti-Semitic violence directed toward Jewish individuals, communities, institutions, schools and synagogues, in Europe and elsewhere. Surveys conducted during 2013 and 2014 by respected international NGO'S and intergovernmental bodies such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, demonstrate that Jewish communities in many

parts of Europe are under threat, including but not limited to the infringement of their basic rights, such as the freedom of assembly, free speech and free expression. Consequently, many can no longer freely identify in public as being Jewish or publicly voice their political opinion without fear of harm.

We wish to emphasize that Anti-Semitism is a particular and unique form of racism and xenophobia, that has manifested itself in various forms throughout history. Regrettably, it keeps metamorphosing into new forms, using modern social media platforms to spread hate speech, which too often is then translated into actual deadly attacks against Jews.

Therefore, as historical witnesses to the effects of racism, we, the Jewish nation, represented by the State of Israel call upon all countries to declare their categorical rejection of all kinds of Racism, including anti-Semitism, and affirm the right for equality and freedom from any threats of their minority groups.

We Encourage Members, Heads of States, public figures and educators to be vocal and public in their condemnation of racial and anti-Semitic incidents and hate speech;

We call upon countries to Promote educational initiatives that provide young people with opportunities for human rights education;

We call to upon countries Monitor hate crimes and crimes motivated by racism and anti-Semitism, and effectively carry out justice in cases of violations;

And last but not least, we call upon countries to Promote dialogue by civil society to inculcate tolerance and understanding between different communities.

The key to a better tomorrow is in the education of the next generation. We must build a society which will be based on equality, tolerance and dignity for all human beings. Only in this way will we succeed in preventing racism, including anti-Semitism. We must be intolerant of any kind of racial behavior or actions and combat these phenomena with a firm and unyielding hand.

Thank you.