



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 28th Session – ITEM 3 – March 2015**

Annual ID on the Rights of People with Disabilities

I would like to thank the OHCHR for arranging this Annual Interactive Debate. Many thanks to the esteemed panelists for their most interesting and useful insights on this important issue.

The Convention on "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities" emphasizes what should have always been clear: persons with disabilities are equal.

They have the right to enjoy the same human rights as all of us; they have the right to live independently and to be included in the community.

But recognizing these rights is not enough. It is for member States to make sure these rights are guaranteed by means of domestic legislation accompanied by compatible policy.

Mr. Chair,

In Israel, around 20% of the population is people with disabilities. The main domestic legislation concerning the rights of persons with disabilities is the 1998 Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law, which prohibits the discrimination against a person with disability. Regulations were drafted to encourage access of people with disabilities to the public sphere, education system, labor market, housing and more.

Israel ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2012. The main body oversees this issue, is the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was established at the Ministry of Justice in August 2000. The Commission is charged with implementing this Law and other laws concerning persons with disabilities. It is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CRPD by the Government.

The Commission includes three main units: Accessibility, General Counsel and Community Inclusion.

The Commission acts to prevent discrimination and promote the integration of persons with disabilities into Israeli society. It has enforcement powers and capabilities, using professional inspection system. It cooperates with relevant

interlocutors – the government, local authorities, civil society, NGO's and the private sector.

Mr. Chair,

The State of Israel allocates significant resources to allow persons with disabilities to live in the community. Israel strives to improve and enhance the rights of persons with disabilities far beyond the minimum required, and we believe that in these measures we fulfill our moral obligation to treat these persons equally and to meet their desire to be a real part of our community.

Thank you.