



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

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

ID with SR on Persons with Disabilities

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel would like to congratulate Ms. Devandas-Aguilar for taking the office as the first Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities. We wish her all the best and good luck in this most important endeavor.

Israel supported the establishment of the mandate of the special rapporteur dedicated exclusively to the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities. This issue deserves full attention of the UN Human Rights bodies as the global community still has a way to go, until persons with disabilities will experience de facto equality.

Although the situation has improved significantly in recent years, in many places around the world persons with disabilities still feel isolated and excluded from society. We are confident that the special rapporteur will bring about a real change that is certainly needed.

Israel supports the priorities set in the special rapporteur's first report that are: promoting citizenship; combating poverty; and promoting change in social perceptions about persons with disabilities.

We also agree with the need to promote inclusion of the issue in both national agendas and international processes. We believe that major international processes and platforms such as the post 2015 development goals, Beijing+20, the disaster risk reduction framework and the humanitarian summit – should take the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities into their respective agendas.

Mr. President,

In Israel, around 20% of the population is persons with disabilities. Through the years many achievements in promoting their rights were accomplished. The main domestic legislation concerning the rights of persons with disabilities is the 1998 Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law. 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. Israel ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2012.

Specifically, we think that legislation and enforcement, together with actions for changing public attitudes as tools in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities would be an issue worthwhile exploring by the special rapporteur.

Israel stands ready to share with the special rapporteur its experience in this field.

Thank you.