



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
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Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Thank you, Mr. President.

We thank both Special Rapporteurs for their reports. In my statement I will refer to the report of the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers.

Children are our future; we must ensure that we give them the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, and to emphasize the importance of the restoration and rehabilitation of the child who is charged with a criminal offense in a juvenile criminal system.

The Israeli justice system pays special attention to all the issues related to the treatment of minors. One of the rights that promotes children's welfare, and which has been incorporated into Israeli law in recent years is the right of a child to be heard in matters affecting her/his interests.

Mr. President,

More than any other legal procedures, the criminal procedures related to children are the most sensitive and significant. Due to the importance and sensitivity of these procedures, the legal system should adjust itself to the children's special needs and it should do this throughout the whole criminal process.

In Israel there is a separate juvenile legal system which employs special criminal procedure for minors. The different authorities take important steps to ensure children's rights during the criminal procedures.

Furthermore, the people who deal with cases that involve children – juvenile judges and children's interrogators - receive special training and they become specialized in this field.

We believe that by combining all of these legal measures, we can protect our children, assist them to learn from their previous mistakes, rehabilitate them, and return them to society with valuable lessons that will accompany them for the rest of their lives.

Thank you.