



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 31st Session – Item 8 – March 2016**

General Debate

Thank you, Mr. President.

In 1993, the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action recognized and affirmed that “all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person” as well as it affirms that “all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated.”

22 years later, the Agenda 2030, establishing the Sustainable Development Goals was adopted. As the Secretary-General has said, these goals aim to “leave no one behind”. In this sense, Goal 10, “to reduce inequality within and among countries”, with its targets 10.2 and 10.3 ; and Goal 16 “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, with its targets 16.1 and 16.3, are of the utmost importance.

The VDPA reminds us that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. President,

It is clear that states have well-established obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all persons, including LGBTI persons.

The Secretary-General has described the fight against homophobia and transphobia as “one of the great, neglected human rights challenges of our time ”. Israel agrees with that statement. Israel acknowledges that the HRC has held debates in the past to discuss the violence and discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Israel has strongly engaged in those debates, and has raised its voice to condemn acts of violence against LGBTI people. But more is needed from all of us.

We call once again the international community as a whole, to take concrete action to eradicate discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you.