



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
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**Panel Discussion on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation through ICTs
Role of ICTs, multi-stakeholders approach and good practices**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Israel accords great importance to the protection of children. The Government and all the authorities have a firm commitment to protecting children from sexual exploitation through ICTs.

Israel has taken steps to implement this commitment in a multi-layered process, which includes aspects of legislation, prosecution, institutional changes, education, staff training, and public activity aimed at tackling both the result and the root causes of crime against children, also in their broader context.

Regarding legislation, Israel amended its laws in order to properly confront the changing patterns of the crimes that are listed under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Moreover, in recent years Israel made a number of institutional changes, such as, the establishment of a Police Cyber Crime Division (CCD) and the establishment of the Special Inter-Ministerial Team to Develop a Collaborative Action-Plan to Improve Ways to Tackle Child Prostitution.

The Cyber Crimes Division includes sixty (60) investigators specializing in investigating online offences. They are specially trained in digital forensic expertise and in practices and patterns of distribution of material by offenders. Within this Division, a special team for investigating cyber sex crimes among children was appointed. This team includes experts in identifying cyber sex crimes and pedophilia and it is well acquainted with the sensitivity of such cases.

Additionally, courts have taken a firm stance against child-related crimes in recent years, as evidenced by a number of decisions that show an evolving perception of the courts towards a broader conception of the crimes and a stronger protection of children.

The Ministry of Education is addressing this issue country-wide, through both general educational programs of "Life Skills", which include issues regarding sexuality and ways to address situations of distress, and a designated program for the prevention of sexual violence. About 70% of the schools in Israel dedicate a full week to the issue of preventing sexual violence. The program, inter alia, includes a guideline for safe use of the internet, which is designed in a language accessible for children.

Mr. President,

Israel is fully committed to the struggle against the sexual abuse of children through ICTs. We intend to continue in our efforts in the future and to eradicate such phenomenon to the greatest extent possible, in order to foster the safe usage of ICTs and by that, a safer environment to grow and learn.

Thank you.