



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
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ICTs and Child sexual exploitation: international framework and challenges

Thank you, Mr. President.

ICTs present both exceptional advantages as well as threats and forms of child abuse that are new and extremely challenging. We join the High Commissioner in noting that ICTs are now an increasingly integral component of everyday life, and we suggest that it is, therefore, extremely important to adopt innovative approaches in order to guarantee the protection of children.

In recent years, Israel has taken steps to confront the changing patterns of child sexual abuse, including recent amendments to legislation to try to confront both the challenge of child sexual abuse via live streaming as well as the phenomena of distribution of sexual photos of minors through social networks.

In 2014, the Penal Law was amended to criminalize not only the possession (by downloading) of an obscene publication that includes children`s image, but also accessing (through streaming) such material. Therefore, it allows authorities to tackle the problem of offenders that possess pornographic materials without saving a copy on their computer. Additionally, the Deputy State Attorney for Criminal Affairs issued guidelines for handling the prosecution of this offence, including instructions on how to handle cyber-pedophilia cases.

Moreover, an amendment to the Sexual Harassment Law came into force, providing that publishing a photograph, film or recording of persons that focuses on their sexuality, and which may humiliate or degrade them, against their consent, constitutes a sexual harassment offence. Thus, it allows to face the phenomenon of minors distributing sexual photos of other minors through social networks, which sometimes involve attempts for extortion.

Mr. President,

Israel makes significant efforts to face these challenges not only through legislation but also through a unique approach of public and educational awareness, and urges other countries to do so as well.

Recognizing that international cooperation is essential, Israel has joined the "Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online" in the aim of uniting efforts to more effectively combat online sexual crimes against children.

Israel is truly committed to the collective mission of making the internet as safe as possible for our children through combatting any form of child abuse.

Thank you.