



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 31st Session – Item 3– March 2016**

**ID with SR on persons with disabilities and IE on the enjoyment of human rights
by persons with albinism**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel warmly welcomes both the Special Rapporteur and the Independent Expert and thanks them for the reports presented today.

Israel commends the Special Rapporteur on PWD for her work during the year of 2015, including her study that focuses on the right of PWD to participate in political and public life and decision making.

Persons with disabilities have been involved in various aspects of public life in Israel relating to the decision-making process. Concerned individuals and organizations have participated in the legislative and policy framework. For example, it was PWD who initiated and played an active role in the drafting and enactment of the Equal Rights for PWD Law.

Persons with disabilities play an important role in nation-wide awareness-raising campaigns. Various public committees reviewing relevant policies of Government Ministries, such as the National Insurance Institute and the Ministry of Social Affairs, include representatives of PWD. Moreover, when the Knesset Committees discuss the rights of PWD, such individuals as well as organizations are invited to the meetings and their perspective is of great value when formulating policy concerning the protection of their rights.

Israel has taken legislative measures to facilitate PWD's participation in relevant decision-making processes. There has been and will be valuable dialogue with representative organizations during the ongoing process of implementing the CPRD, as well as through the national report's preparations.

Mr. President,

Israel also welcomes the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, and congratulates her for her first report to the Human Rights Council. Israel supported the establishment of the mandate of the Independent Expert which definitely helps in improving the dire situation of persons with albinism across the globe.

With the understanding that albinism is a life threatening condition in some countries of the world, where it is sadly associated with stigma and superstitions, Israel has, for many years, granted asylum to people with albinism and their families, in the hope they can build a better life, away from harm's way. Israel shares the concerns raised in the Independent Expert's report, particularly with regard to ongoing attacks, trafficking in body parts and discrimination. We would like to emphasize the need to provide special assistance and attention to vulnerable populations such as women and children.

Israel encourages other states to take measures to recognize the urgency of increasing awareness and understanding of the condition of albinism, as well as to end attacks against persons with albinism, including immediately investigating allegations, providing protection, psychological and medical treatment to the victims, and taking the necessary steps to end trafficking in body parts.

Thank you.