



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council HRC 31st Session – March 2016

Annual Debate on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Thank you Mr. President,

Israel is strongly committed to the protection and promotion of rights of persons with disabilities. The Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities established in 2000 is also responsible for implementation and monitoring of the CRPD. In order to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in light of Article 11, the Commission cooperates with relevant bodies in all sectors . Since Israel has faced many situations of emergencies resulting mostly from armed conflict, the Government designated a particular body, charged with the task of preparing the public for situations of emergency: 'the Home Front Command', which has a special branch dealing with service to persons with disabilities in times of emergency .

One of the Home Front Command's stated goals is to assist persons with disabilities and their families, as well as professionals in preparing and acting in accordance with the required procedures in cases of rocket attacks and other emergencies. In this context, specific instructions for persons with disabilities were published on the command's accessible website and through widely distributed pamphlets.

The instructions were published in easy-read language, and in videos demonstrating persons with disabilities performing the instructions. The website offers certain recommendations and available governmental services including specific instructions for persons with medical problems, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired persons with limited mobility and with mental disability or autistic persons.

Additional accessibility measures to emergency information is provided to the deaf and hard of hearing population in Israel through a pager, distributed free of charge. The device receives written warnings during emergencies. Moreover, a smartphone application was launched providing real time text messages and the Home Front hotline is also accessible via text messages.

Israel operates a pilot project, aiming to be better prepared in assisting persons with special needs in cases of emergency by collecting door to door information about them and their needs.

The Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities (Accessibility of Shelters) new Regulations, stipulate that programs for building new shelters shall only be approved if they include accessibility adjustments for persons with disabilities.

Mr. President,

Israel allocates significant resources to insure emergency preparedness and resilience to people with disabilities.

We strongly believe that innovation and technology are key elements in ensuring the equal rights of persons with disabilities, especially in times of emergency.

Thank you.