



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
HRC 33rd Session – September 2016**

Annual Discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and of its mechanisms

Statement not delivered due to lack of time

Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to thank the Council for organizing this Discussion. We see the topic as remarkably important, and we would like to thank the distinguished panelists for their valuable contribution.

The advancement and promotion of gender equality and the promotion of women's rights have been on the agenda of every Israeli Government since the foundation of the State of Israel. Equality is a fundamental principle already enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, and the "Equal Rights for Women" Law, enacted only three years after the State was founded, is a testimony to the emphasis placed on gender-related issues from the State's inception.

As early as 1969, Israel had a woman Prime Minister – Golda Meir. In the current 34th Government, the rate of women ministers has increased, and in the current 20th Knesset the rate of women MKs has also increased – 32 women MKs – compared to 27 women in the 19th Knesset.

Several amendments were enacted in recent years, aiming to advance women and strengthen gender equality in different fields and aspects.

For example, in June 2014, the Government approved a Resolution in which it resolved that within five years, women shall reach a representation level of 50% in all the top management ranks in the Civil Service. This Resolution followed the report of The Committee for the Advancement of Women in the Civil Service ("The Strauber

Committee") which was appointed in 2013 by the Civil Service Commissioner and the Supervisor on Wage and Labor Agreements in the Ministry of Finance, in order to examine ways to advance women in the Civil Service.

Additionally, Amendment no. 11 to the Crime Victims' Rights Law was passed, which provides that a victim of a sexual offence is entitled to choose the gender of his/her investigator.

Israel maintains an extensive system of laws, regulations and policies designed to empower woman and is very active in numerous international conventions and platforms, including, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Israel is committed to keep working on the inclusion of a gender perspective within our country, and in its participation in the work of this Council and its mechanisms.

Thank you.