**PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

Statement on behalf of the State of Israel
UN Human Rights Council
HRC 33rd Session – Item 2– September 2016

ID with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

As the new Permanent Representative of Israel, I would like to thank the High Commissioner for his statement regarding the work of his Office.

As the High Commissioner has recently said, our world today is suffering from so many atrocities, terrible humanitarian crises, increased xenophobia, racism and prejudice, greater than any we have experienced since the end of the Second World War.

The International Community and the UN are facing an un-ending list of desperate calls for urgent assistance, such as the situation in Syria, that continues to be devastating as people in other parts of the world suffer from crimes as murder, enslavement, torture, starvation, sexual violence and persecution, that have become a daily routine.

Resources are limited as we all heard, and the challenges are amounting. So instead of trampling in the political swamp like it has done for so long, it is crucial that the Council will focus on its mandate to protect human rights and saving people's lives. A revision of the resources allocated to deal with the biased decisions of this Council concerning Israel, first and foremost the elimination of the abominable Item 7, will for sure save a lot of money that could be used instead to address the real concerns that the International Community should have.

Mr. President,

Israel is a strong democracy and fully committed to the respect of all Human Rights including those of its own citizens.

While we discuss here today, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women is visiting Israel and the territories. Israel is willing to increase its engagement with UN bodies, but this should be done within a mutual atmosphere of cooperation rather than in a context of bias and discrimination.

Thank you.