



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

**UN Human Rights Council
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General Debate

Delivered by Yoel Mester,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

In 1993, the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action recognized and affirmed that “all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person.” Last year, with the adoption of the Agenda 2030, States reaffirmed this commitment by agreeing to fight against inequality and towards inclusiveness.

However, LGBTI people are still victims of violence and discrimination in many parts of the world. It is not just terrible attacks by individuals of the kind we witnessed earlier this year in Orlando, USA. It is also the institutionalized approach existent in many countries represented in this Council denying diversity, including many Middle Eastern countries.

Mr. President,

It is clear that there is still a long way to go. Nonetheless, this Council is in the right path. We welcome once again the creation of the mandate on SOGI last June, and we hope that we will see a smooth appointment of the mandate-holder at the end of this session. We need the Independent Expert to start working urgently.

Mr. President,

States must realize that fighting discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons, does not imply creating new rights to a new group, but on the contrary, to guarantee the same rights to all people equally. It is a struggle in which the whole international community should be involved.

Mr. President,

Israel renews its commitment to work against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in and outside this Council, and calls upon the States present in this Chamber to join Israel and work together to achieve this goal.
Thank you.