



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

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Panel discussion on youth and human rights

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Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to thank the Council for organizing this important Panel Discussion on Youth and human rights and to the distinguished panelists for their participation and valuable contribution.

Israel maintains an extensive system of laws, regulations and policies designed to protect youth rights. It is a signatory to numerous international conventions and provides full health, education and welfare services to children, all in accordance with the spirit of human dignity and the principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The participation of youth in the decision-making processes that affect their lives is achieved by laws and administrative procedures that recommend, sometimes even demand, that the child's opinion be heard prior to making a decision that concerns him/her. For example, in proceedings that involve conversion, adoption or psychiatric hospitalization, the consent of the child is required before a decision is made and actions are taken. Another example is Amendment No. 14 to the Youth Law, that stipulates that courts' rulings should be given subsequent to the child in question having expressed her/his opinion.

The Pupils' Rights Law stipulates that every school must encourage the establishment of a democratically elected representative pupils' council. A pupil council member also serves on the committee to promote the status of children, which was established in each local authority.

A child is considered to be an autonomous being, with rights and responsibilities. Each local municipality in Israel ought to guarantee the well-being, health, security and safety of its youth, including special protections in the areas of youth labor and sexual exploitation. Pursuing this objective requires taking active measures to protect youth, thereby ensuring their right to the best possible education and personal growth.

Thank you Mr. President.