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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 2 – March 9, 2017**

**Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for his Annual Report.

We are all witnessing the very many human rights abuses all over the world, many of them were mentioned throughout the High Commissioner's presentation. However, the question is whether the OHCHR indeed serves the victims of these abuses? In order to truly improve the situation, it is important to examine thoroughly the realities on the ground, and give a precise, accurate and proportionate picture of the roots and causes for the prevailing situations.

Unfortunately, we feel that instead of being the protector of the victims, the Council keeps with the obsession towards Israel and thus hurts both the victims, who are the ones paying the price, and the reputation of this body. Instead of remaining impartial in its monitoring of situations, it continues and reflects the politicization of the Council.

This is deplorable.

Nevertheless, we are standing here because Israel is a strong democracy, a vibrant start-up nation, guided by unshakable moral values. Israel is sharing and will continue to share its contributions with the world.

Thank you.