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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 6 – March 17, 2017**

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – General Debate**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

In preparation for the upcoming review of Israel, as part of the third cycle of the UPR, Israel has embarked on an inclusive national consultation process.

Two round tables have already taken place, bringing together government officials as well as representatives of the civil society and academia. One of the guiding principles of this process is the active involvement of grassroots elements.

A first roundtable on the topic of the rights of LGBTI people took place in January. It was organized in collaboration with the Minerva Center for Human Rights, and followed three axes :

1. The challenges of parenthood.
2. LGBTI people in society and the education system.
3. The transgender community.

The second roundtable was organized in February with the support of the European Union, and focused on the rights of Israeli citizens of Ethiopian origin. It was hosted in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and covered a wide array of issues including culture, religion, health, welfare, employment and more.

This national consultation process that Israel has voluntarily embarked on, with more activities scheduled to take place in the coming months, demonstrates Israel's commitment to the advancement of human rights. This commitment stands in stark contrast to Israel's mistreatment in the Human Rights Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.