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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 6 – March 16, 2017**

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Outcomes – Syria**

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

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Mr. President,

Israel deplores Syria's rejection of its UPR recommendations.

However, this did not come as a surprise, as it was clear from the outset that for Assad's Syria, this process is nothing but a charade. Instead of committing to immediately stopping the killing it is responsible for, Syria prefers to hide behind unconvincing excuses.

The excuse given by Syria for rejecting the recommendations is that it does not recognize Israel. This again is not surprising, given the refusal of Syria to accept reality. Its country report to the UPR demonstrates this perfectly; it is a storytelling masterpiece: everybody else is responsible for the killing, everyone but the regime.

The Human Rights Council should reject the Syrian government's attempt to divert attention from the atrocities it is perpetrating by referring to the Golan. It is absurd to speak about probably one of the safest regions in the Middle East today, when the citizens of Syria continue to be tortured, bombarded and poisoned by their own government.

The credibility of the UPR process, and indeed that of the Council as a whole, is badly served by Syria's mockery of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.