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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**35<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 2 – June 7, 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.

Listening to you yesterday commemorating your memories 50 years ago as a child in Amman, I can also share my own memories as a child. Hearing the bombardments, close to home, and the grief of those who lost their dear ones in a war launched against a young country, less than 20 years old, while striving for peace with its neighbors. And immediately after the war it was also ready to discuss territories for peace, for real peace. The outcome was the “three NO” adopted by the Arab League: NO to recognition of Israel, NO to negotiation with Israel and NO to peace with Israel.

منذ نشأتها، وحتى يومنا هذا، يَدُ إسرائيل ممدودة للسلام

*{From its creation on to this day, Israel's hand was stretched out for peace}*

When there was a real opportunity, Israel was always there giving up until the last inch of territory to promote a peace treaty, as it happened with Egypt and Jordan.

This conflict must end and there is good will from our side. However, that is not the case in this room.

As Ambassador Haley said here yesterday “It is essential that this Council address its chronic anti-Israel bias, if it is to have any credibility.” Later, she added that “Item 7 is the central flaw that turns the HRC from an organization that can be a force for universal good, into an organization that is overwhelmed by political agenda.”

Mr. President, if we reject the country mandate that targets Israel, it is for reasons that are well known to everyone in this room. That mandate and the whole Item 7 are biased, discriminatory, partial, and unfair.

Israel is committed to the work of this Council. We have engaged with Special Procedures, the UPR process, and appear before treaty bodies. Next week we will hear the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women after her visit to Israel. We are open to criticism, but if it is done in a fair way.

We call all of you to consider reforms that ensure an equal treatment of all member states.

Thank you.