
UN Human Rights Council
35th Session, Item 6 – June 19, 2017

Universal Periodic Review - General Debate

Delivered by Mr. Brian E. Frenkel,
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Thank you, Mr. President,

Israel assigns great importance to the UPR process, which is going into its third cycle. If used properly, UPR can be a key vehicle in the promotion of human rights by States. Clearly, the way UPR is approached varies from one country to the next, but there is still value in its universality.

In preparation for its next review in the beginning of 2018, Israel has embarked on an inclusive national consultation process. This voluntary endeavor includes, inter alia, the holding of thematic round tables, which bring together government officials and representatives of relevant CSO's and the Academia.

Round table discussions have already taken place on the following topics:

- The rights of LGBTI people;
- The rights of Israeli citizens of Ethiopian origin;
- The challenges of residents of the periphery, including older persons;
- The rights of women.

In the near future two more round tables are scheduled to take place- one on the topic of the Bedouin minority, the other on Children's rights.

These discussions are set to inform Israel's national report to the UPR, as well as NGO's contributions to the process.

One of the strong points of UPR is its non-selectivity, a principle this Council should uphold.

However, many countries who themselves call for non-selectivity, willingly take part in the discriminatory discussion that will follow shortly (item 7).

Thank you, Mr. President.