
UN Human Rights Council
36th Session, Item 2 – September 12, 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

Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for his Oral Update.

I would like to highlight that lately some voices have been raised calling for a review of the work of this Council. Some of them loud, with clear suggestions on what needs to be changed. Some in a more subtle way. However, there are still those who prefer to keep the status quo and continue tainting this organ with politicization, biased attitudes and double standards.

The High Commissioner himself has referred yesterday to the hypocrisy that exists in the work of this organ. He even went further, when he said that *“selectivity becomes a poison that eats away at the credibility of this body”* (end of quote).

Israel has reiterated this fact session after session. However, Item 7 remains, and with it, the ritual of naming and shaming, singling out one state, the State of Israel. And while this happens, the worst Human Rights violators pass by without scrutiny, and some of them are even members of this body, entrusted with the protection of Human Rights worldwide. Israel has called, still calls, and will continue to call for a reform in the Human Rights Council that finally erases the discriminatory practices inherited from its predecessor.

Mr. President,

Yesterday, the High Commissioner referred to antisemitism and racism. We join him on condemning these abominable acts. In this regard, we reiterate that education plays a key role and is urgently needed to eradicate them. Denial, misinformation and stereotypes only create a fertile environment for spreading hate. We need a strong commitment from all the Governments represented in this Chamber. It is only through effective action, strong condemnation and education that we will be able to put an end to these practices.

Thank you.