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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 2 – March 8, 2018**

**ID with the High Commissioner on 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,

I would like to thank the High Commissioner for the presentation of his report yesterday. We are encouraged by the fact that the High Commissioner looks at human rights in the world through a wide lens. There are numerous human rights situations that need to be examined closely at any given moment, which is something that the Council often needs to be reminded of. This session the Council will continue with its unrelenting obsession with Israel, through the only country specific agenda item, and with a bloated list of reports and resolutions.

The HRC and the OHCHR are sometimes amalgamated, which is clearly wrong. Most of the flaws are to be found in the deeply politicized nature of the Council. This is where reform is most desperately needed, a fact which is becoming clear to more and more countries. Putting the Council and the Office in the same basket does a disservice to the many victims of human rights violations that rely on the OHCHR for assistance.

Mr. President,

If objectivity and impartiality are really the fundamental principles guiding the work of the High Commissioner and his Office, it is incumbent upon them to take extra care not to turn a blind eye when the Human Rights Council treads on these very principles. The OHCHR cannot pretend to be simply a subcontractor, whose only job is to implement whatever the Council hands down to it, no matter how absurd or biased. There is nothing impartial about taking forward Council resolutions which are blatantly politicized, and which have little if anything to do with human rights.

I thank you Mr. President.