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Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child
Protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations

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Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to welcome the panelist and thank them for their interesting presentations. The topic of this annual full-day meeting is of clear relevance, but also, of fundamental importance.

With the need to protect children in its heart, Israel has put its capacities at the disposal of those most in need in these emergency situations, including new born children and children with disabilities.

For example, far away from the spotlight, since the beginning of the civil war in Syria, Israel has reached out and provided medical treatment to some 4,000 wounded Syrians, among them 900 children. Throughout operation "Good Neighbor", the IDF has been providing humanitarian aid to Syrian residents in areas adjacent to Israel, and recently, it helped setting up a maternity hospital, offering desperately needed medical services to Syrian women and their babies.

Moreover, the Ziv Medical Center in Safed has started providing hearing aids to Syrian children who are deaf or hard of hearing. For some of them, their hearing worsened because of the loud bombings near their homes. A total of about 100 Syrian children are expected to receive these hearing aids. In the same vein, children with vision impairments will receive eye glasses.

Mr. President,

We celebrate the focus given to the inclusion of gender perspective within the current debate. In this regard, we would like to ask the panelists: what can we do in order to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services and information for girls in these exceptional contexts, especially considering that many times the elements included in the humanitarian assistance kits may be limited by the receiving state?

I thank you, Mr. President.