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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 6 – March 19, 2018**

**General Debate**

Delivered by Mr. Brian E. Frenkel,  
Human Rights and humanitarian Affairs Advisor

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Early this year, as part of the third cycle of the UPR, Israel had its review, but the preparation and commitment begun much earlier.

In this sense, Israel embarked on an inclusive national consultation process, crystalized in the "Round Tables" project. It entailed six discussion sessions, which offered a unique platform for open discourse between civil society, academics and government representatives on core human rights issues including LGBTI Rights; issues effecting Israelis of Ethiopian descent; the local Bedouin population; women's rights; rights of persons with disabilities; and social and economic rights in the periphery.

When we appeared before this Council, we came with a delegation including the Director-General of the Ministry of Justice and the heads of five leading bodies responsible for advancing human rights issues in Israel. Each one of them presented the extensive activities of the institutions they represent and answered to questions from States.

We received many questions, comments and recommendations, some of them reflecting an awareness of the complexity of the issues involved. Once again, we thank those delegations who embarked in an honest dialogue with us.

We believe that fair and non-discriminatory exchanges, such as the UPR, can honestly assist in the promotion of human rights. For Israel, it is an important instrument to further improve our mechanisms for a better implementation of human rights.

We call upon the States present in this room to follow this ideal of universal, non-discriminatory and not politicized dialogue, focusing in the advancement of human rights around the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.