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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 9 – March 20, 2018**

**General Debate**

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter,  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

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Thank you Mr. Vice-President.

While we speak, the 6th Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism is taking place in Jerusalem. It is an international forum, with a mission that can never be ignored.

Unfortunately, antisemitism is still on the rise. We constantly hear of physical and verbal assaults against Jews, desecration of monuments, and other hideous attacks.

Yet, we have another challenge in front of us, growing efforts to rewrite history and change intentionally historical facts.

Once it is done by Governments or Parliaments that are not ready to take responsibility for the past wrong-doings, it is much more dangerous.

Following the passing of the Polish law in Parliament denouncing the role of accomplices of Polish people during WWII, during the Holocaust, Israel strongly responded by saying that

“The law is baseless; [...] One cannot change history and the Holocaust cannot be denied.” (end of quote)

Another worrying example is the constant campaign by the Palestinians to deny the link between Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Denying more than 3000 years of history and the connection between the Jewish people and their capital where its temples were built and where the Western Wall stands today as an unquestionable part of the Temple and of the Jewish history is not only unacceptable, but also cynical and absurd.

Mr. Vice-President,

Let us all respect the true facts of history and learn how to draw the necessary lessons from them in order not to repeat mistakes and their tragic consequences.

Thank you.