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**UN Human Rights Council**  
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**Clustered ID with the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and  
the Special Rapporteur on Leprosy**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel welcomes both mandate-holders, and thanks them for their reports presented to us today.

We would like to express our strong support for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and congratulate her for her work.

We have before us her first report, where she highlights her vision, priorities and working methods for the mandate. There, she explains us more about the disease and disaccredits some of the myths and prejudices around it. This is a first and necessary task in order to tackle the stigmatization and discrimination that persons affected by the disease and their families suffer.

We share her view that leprosy is a “neglected disease”. Thus, her approach to tackle the intersectionality and multilayered discrimination associated with leprosy is commendable. We support the priorities she proposes for the discharge of her mandate, and express our support to her activities.

Mr. President,

Leprosy is rare and non-endemic in Israel. Israel has set laboratories for initial diagnosis and follow-up from the clinic of the National Center for the Hansen disease. Nonetheless, Israel hears the call of the Special Rapporteur “to join her in her efforts to bring the needed change to the lives of persons affected by leprosy and their family members and ensure that leprosy becomes a positive symbol of inclusiveness in the 2030 Agenda.”

I thank you.