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Clustered ID with the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity and the Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly

Delivered by Mr. Yoel Mester,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel welcomes both mandate-holders, and thanks them for their reports.

We would like to express our strong support for the mandate of the Independent Expert, and congratulate him for his work. This mandate is certainly one of the most necessary among the Special Procedures of this Council. As many others, we reaffirm that it is not about creating new rights, but on the contrary, we aim at ensuring that everyone can enjoy the same existing rights.

Just a few days ago, the city of Tel-Aviv hosted the annual Gay Pride Parade, a world famous event of its kind. Around a quarter of a million people gathered from all over the world under the sweltering Middle Eastern sun, to celebrate freedom, to express their sexual orientation and gender identity, and petition for more gay rights. We are proud that such an event takes place in our country.

Mr. President,

In his first report, the Expert focuses on the root causes for violence and discrimination based on SOGI, including the expansion of hate crimes and hate speech and the role of the media. He also presents the overarching objectives of his mandate. We support his analysis and thank him for his recommendations.

Moreover, we applaud the inclusion of the possible violations of human rights committed by non-state actors, and we invite him to pay special attention to the violence committed against LGBTI persons by radical terrorist groups, such as Hamas in Gaza.

Finally, moving to the other topic of this dialogue, we would like to ask the distinguished Rapporteur on peaceful assembly: in your view, is there any possible way to consider Molotov cocktails, explosive devices and airborne firebombs as legitimate means of peaceful demonstration?

I thank you.