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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 3 – March 5, 2019**

**Individual ID with the SR on Freedom of Religious and the  
Special Rapporteur on the Sale and exploitation of Children**

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Legal Advisor

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel would like to thank the SR on the freedom of religion for a very important report on a timely issue that must be seriously addressed by the international community.

Israel would also like to thank the SR on sale and sexual exploitation of children, for her valuable and comprehensive report on child exploitation in sport, a very important concern that must be addressed.

According to Israel's legislation any form of sexual suggestions towards children are strictly prohibited in cases of abuse of relationship of authority and are punishable by two years' imprisonment, even when there is no explicit rejection of such a suggestion by the child.

In 2011, the Israeli Ministry of Sports together with the Israeli Olympic Committee and other sports organizations, adopted a new Ethical Code which states, among many other important issues, that athletes, coaches and any other figure with a position in the sports organizations, must prevent the physical, mental, sexual or other exploitation of children and to seek the best interest of them.

Furthermore, in 2018, the Israeli Olympic Committee has adopted rules for prevention of sexual harassment and the promotion of protection in sports. The rules prohibits conducts that violate the human rights of persons involved in sports, in particular their dignity, health, safety and gender equality. Those who deviate from these rules are subjected to disciplinary action which could result, among others, in temporary or permanent suspension, deprivation of authority, dismissal and referral to law enforcement agents. It should be mentioned, that in order to prevent any exploitation and due to the sensitivity of the issue, Israeli Olympic Committee has taken another step further and prohibits any form of relationship of authority in sports even in cases of two consensual adults.

I thank you Mr. President.