

---

**UN Human Rights Council**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Session, Item 10 – July, 2019**

**Right of Reply**

---

Mr. President,

We deplore the misuse, by the Palestinians through Tunisia, of the GD on item 10, that is supposed to discuss capacity building and technical cooperation, to politicize the discussion.

HRC resolution 31/36 of March 2016 was born in sin and was aiming at further using this Council as a political tool for discrimination and bias against Israel.

Instead of taking a new direction and exploring ways to find a solution and a compromise to the conflict, the Palestinians continue moving backwards. By calling for the publication of a naming and shaming list, a blacklist of companies which will turn this Council into a tool of boycott against Israel, they are driving Israelis and Palestinians further apart. And instead of embracing an economic vision that could serve the Middle East political process, they choose the path of economic boycotts which can only exacerbate things further.

Less than couple of weeks after the summit in Bahrain, which should be seen as an opportunity for the Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership, turns its back again to giving a better future to their people, their children and future generations and continues to never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

Moreover, the publication of a blacklist of companies will jeopardize OHCHR's ability to help states meet their human rights obligations in a neutral manner, and will endanger the integrity of the OHCHR and its impartiality, creating the appearance that it is a partisan actor in a regional dispute. It is rather contradictory to preach for the independence of the High Commissioner, while at the same time putting public pressure on her to act in a certain way so as to serve a political agenda.

Mr. President

I hope that the significant number of countries that did not join this statement, is the strongest message that they want a strong and independent OHCHR that is not bound to political pressures. This message means that so many countries are against a database list and against such politicized precedents. I believe that this clear message is much stronger than the one brought up in the joint statement.

Mr. President,

It is equally disappointing, that the Secretariat did not call on Tunisia to stop their statement on an unrelated issue.

We therefore call to remove the JS that was initiated by the Palestinians and presented by Tunisia from the Protocol of this discussion!

Thank you.