
UN Human Rights Council
41st Session, Item 2 – June 25, 2019

General Debate on High Commissioner's Oral Update

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to thank the High Commissioner for the presentation of her oral update. We are encouraged by the fact that the High Commissioner looks at human rights in the world through a wide lens. There are numerous human rights situations that need to be examined closely at any given moment, which is something that the Council often needs to be reminded of.

Usually I am obliged to dedicate the 90 seconds at my disposal to defend my country against the bias and mistreatment it is subject to in the Council, and don't have the luxury to relate to other important issues. But now I will attempt to relate to some of the issues raised by the High Commissioner in her speech.

We share her "concerns about violence, and the incitement of violence, on the basis of religion – both in what is now known as the real world, and online." The spike in anti-Semitic attacks around the world should especially worry all of us, since Jews have unfortunately always been "the canary in the coal mine", namely the first group to be attacked, only to be followed by others. Of course, we condemn all other religiously and ethnically motivated attacks that occur in different parts of the world.

We reiterate our commitment for a constructive dialogue with our neighbors, the Palestinians, and believe that economic improvement can also pave the way to it.

When it comes to the challenges presented by digital technology, we are aware of both the risks and the potential benefit. International cooperation is a key factor in preparing humanity for both the negative and positive effects of technology on our environment.

I thank you Mr. President.