
UN Human Rights Council
46th Session, February 2021
High Level Segment

Madam President,

This year, the world has faced an unprecedented challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all, including the work of this Council. Yet it has had a disproportionate impact on groups in vulnerable situations, including frontline workers, persons with disabilities, women and girls, older persons and minorities. It has highlighted the profound inequalities in our societies, and Israel will continue to work with others to address these challenges head-on.

Madam President,

While I reflect on the previous year, it is also essential to celebrate our achievements. In 2020, the Middle East witnessed winds of peace between Israel and its neighbors, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco through the signing of the Abraham Accords and the new Israeli-Sudanese normalization agreement. These agreements present new opportunities for dialogue and prosperity, and will enhance cooperation in the fields of security, sustainability, technology, innovation, health and more. They reflect the changing dynamics in our region and Israel's ongoing quest for peace.

Unfortunately, cooperation and mutual understanding are not yet something we have achieved here at the Human Rights Council. The institutional bias reflected in Item 7 is

an ongoing testimony of this Council's partiality and politicization against Israel. It has reached an unacceptable level, and the double standards must end. I call on all States to refrain from participating in Item 7 discussions and mechanisms. I also call on all Member States to vote against all anti-Israel resolutions presented in this session.

Madam President,

Despite this bias and discrimination, Israel will continue to work with the Council on issues that urgently need the world's attention. We will continue to promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities, women and girls, the LGBTQI community and older persons and will continue to promote gender equality, work to prevent trafficking of persons and fight violence against women.

We hope that one day this Council's discussions will acknowledge reality instead of promoting a politicized agenda and will turn its attention to address bona fide human rights violations.

I thank you.