
UN Human Rights Council
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Item 3 –ID with SR in the field of cultural rights

Thank you, Madam President,

Israel thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

The pandemic, and the social limitations imposed to counter it, drew a heavy blow on the cultural field, which has not spared Israel.

We share the view that states are responsible to ensure the enjoyment of cultural rights without discrimination, and that these rights should be front and center of any rescue and support plans.

During 2020, the state has funded the production of broadcasted cultural spectacles, film productions, the conservation of heritage sites, as well as free public cultural events when sanitary conditions so allowed. In addition, the state offered direct aid to artists and cultural institutions that were harmed by the limitation of their activities, with the total budget for these measures surpassing 272 million shekels, around 82 million US dollars – most of which are already predicted for this year.

Fortunately, Israel's high immunization rate will soon allow the reopening of cultural events for those immunized or previously infected by Covid, and open the door for the economic rehabilitation of the sector.

Madam President,

We would like to emphasize our concern with the disproportionate impact referred in the report on groups in a vulnerable situation, among artists and consumers of culture alike, such as women and persons with disabilities. What differential measures would the Special Rapporteur recommend states adopt in order to ensure a gender-responsive and disability-sensitive approach to the post-pandemic recovery of the cultural field?

I thank you, Madam President.