
UN Human Rights Council
46th Session, March 2021

Item 3

Annual full day meeting on the rights of the child
The rights of the child and the sustainable development goals

Madam Moderator,

Israel wishes to thank the Panelists for addressing the important principle of "leaving no one behind" regarding children.

The COVID- 19 pandemic has emphasized the vulnerability of children and the need to incorporate their best interest and rights in decision and policy-making.

Education is a key element in the promotion and protection of children's rights. Not only by making sure that every child receives equal access to education, but also by ensuring the involvement of children and youth in establishing and developing laws and regulations, educational programs and future processes.

Madam moderator,

Israel developed a special program that is taught in relation to the annual "International Human Rights Day". Each year a relevant curriculum and teaching materials are developed in both Arabic and Hebrew, on topics such as equality, dignity, privacy, children's rights, social rights and more.

The program is complemented by providing age appropriate information to children about their rights, including the "Pupil's Rights" booklet; an animated movie about the universal declaration on human rights; lessons of the CRC, on democratic values, the right to dignity and respect for others.

Furthermore, according to Israeli law in each local education authority there is a pupils and youth council in order to incorporate children in decision making processes.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for all children to have computers. Israel joint civil society in providing computers to low income families from vulnerable populations, providing hundreds of computer to children so they are able to continue their education during these challenging times.

Finally, the pandemic negatively affects children in many aspects, some of which we are still not even aware of the scope. One of the biggest challenges is lack of human interaction due to social distancing and closure of schools. Children today are deprived from the most natural way of acquiring social skills. the question is how can we close this gap?

Thank you.