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**UN Human Rights Council**

**46<sup>th</sup> Session, Item 3 – March 2021**

**Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**

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Thank you, Madam President.

Israel would like to welcome the new Special Rapporteur and thank him for his initial report.

The Special Rapporteur presents his vision of the mandate. We share his “theory of change” believe that the idea of “nothing about us, without us” is the right way to address the situation of persons with disabilities.

In this line, we support his idea of “co-production of policy”. We have taken steps in this direction. For example, earlier this year we led the negotiations towards the adoption of the first ever resolution on "The highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities" at the Executive Board of the WHO. In that process, we included consultations with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. It represented a step in the right direction for all the stakeholders involved.

Furthermore, as the Special Rapporteur explains, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented new challenges and obstacles for persons with disabilities. However, we are aiming at finding in these exceptional times, opportunities for promoting a cultural shift. During last year, Israel organized webinars and events where this was the center of the discussion.

Madam President,

We celebrate the Special Rapporteur’s focus on intersectionality, and in particular, on the intersectionality of gender and age with disabilities.

Let me conclude by reiterating Israel’s support for this mandate, and the wishes of a fruitful collaboration with the new Special Rapporteur.

Thank you, Madam President.