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**UN Human Rights Council**  
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**Annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities**

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Thank you, Madam President.

Israel would like to thank the panelist for their interesting presentations.

The CRPD marked the move to adopting a comprehensive social model, which is people centered and human rights based. In its article 30, it includes rights relating to sport, which has largely been ignored on the global human rights agenda. Often the sports-participation was considered a second-degree right. However, the adoption of the CRPD reflects a dramatic change and culminated in the recognition of the equal place of persons living with disabilities in the society, and in the global understanding that disability is not a medical problem but an issue of human rights and equality, calling to deal with those obstacles.

Madam President,

Society puts these barriers. In Israel we are working to lift them. Let me give you some examples.

The "Equal in Sports" program is lead by Israel's Ministry for Culture and Sport. It targets adults and teens living with disabilities who can chose a sport activity from a variety of options in their area of living. The projects also created many mixed groups of persons with and without disabilities and aims to increase access to community activities and facilities.

Israel has its renowned Israel Sport Center for persons with disabilities. Today, its athletes participate in 18 different sports activities without any discrimination. Our competitive and Paralympic sports division is one of the most successful in the world, receiving hundreds of Paralympic, European and World Championship titles throughout the years.

We are also very proud of the work of the National Insurance Institute. This Institute has a Fund for the Development of Services for persons with disabilities, providing resources every year in equipping and building for people with disabilities and allowing many dozens of gyms to exist, including in difficult cultural settings such as in the ultra-Orthodox population.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit harder in this kind of activities, however, in Israel, some of those gyms remained open during the outbreak to allow persons with disabilities to exercise.

As we slowly transition towards a new normality, ensuring the access of persons with disabilities to sport activities should remain a priority when planning exit and recovery measures.

I thank you, Madam President.