
UN Human Rights Council 46th Session, March 2021

Item 8 - General Debate

Thank you, Madam President.

At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a promise to ‘leave no one behind’ and to reach the furthest behind first.

In particular, SDG number 3 refers to “Enable healthy ageing, wellbeing and access to health and care services”. This goal clearly includes older person, who should be at the center of health responses. The Covid-19 pandemic has challenge all states in this regard.

Since the eruption of the pandemic, the Government of Israel has been especially attentive to the congregated living institutions, where older persons are particularly vulnerable.

112 such institutions are the home of almost 5000 persons, and a coordinated effort between the Ministry of Labor and Social Services, Ministry of Health, and the IDF Home Front Command, assured they receive Equipment of Personal Protection (EPPs), disinfection supplies, and established quarantine zones.

Moreover, a coordinated system of testing, sampling and isolation was managed by the "Protector of Fathers and Mothers" project, in the framework of the COVID-19 task force, in order to assure the proper tracking and response to possible outbreaks in these institutions.

Of course, there are many challenges ahead, including improving the coordination of different governmental offices. However, we are convinced of the importance of including the needs of older persons, and their voices, through the design, development and implementation of any policy or measure.

Thank you, Madam President.