UN Human Rights Council 47th Session – Item 3 – July 2021

ID with Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression

Ms. Ruth Moatti Israel's Youth Delegate to the United Nations

Madam President,

My name is Ruth Moatti and I am Israel's Youth Delegate to the United Nations. As a young person, living in a world where technological and digital platforms are the primary source for information and social engagement, I see great importance in finding ways to combat disinformation while upholding the right to freedom of expression.

The Israeli Supreme Court held that: "[t]he way to deal with falsehood is not by suppressing it but by explaining the truth. [...] Lies are not fought by suppressing the freedom of the one who lies, but by strengthening the freedom of the one who speaks the truth. [...] "

Madam President,

In Israel, the right to freedom of expression is a supreme and constitutional norm, and any limitation on its exercise must meet strict standards of scrutiny.

Therefore, as part of Israel's efforts to address the harmful effects of disinformation online, a committee was established. The Committee recommended, among other things, to establish a national educational programs on human dignity and on digital literacy in the online realm.

It is our belief that education is a key factor in the prevention of the spread of disinformation.

I thank you.