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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Session, 23 June 2021**

**High-level panel discussion on the multisectoral prevention of and response to  
female genital mutilation**

Delivered by Mrs. Adi Farjon Israel  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

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Thank you, Madam President,

We thank the panellist for their insightful presentation. In 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the International Community, reaffirmed the negative impact of female genital mutilation on the rights of women and girls, and committed to eliminate this harmful practice by the year 2030. Notwithstanding this commitment, this practice remains rampant as the recent report of the Secretary-General highlights that FGM is being practiced in at least 90 countries across the globe.

This indicates that more needs to be done to protect women and girls especially those in vulnerable situations from this harmful practice. The legislative measures taken by States to eliminate FGM are indeed commendable, but legislation alone is not enough to achieve the objective we have set for ourselves in target 5.3 of the SDGs.

We concur with the Secretary-General that States need to take concrete enforcement actions if we are to reach the desired results. Therefore, States should cooperate and develop new strategies, taking into consideration the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic by raising awareness, adopting national action plans and measures to criminalize such practices and ensure full remedy for victims of FGM. Furthermore, States where FGM is criminalized should take deliberate measures discouraging their citizens from undertaking FGM procedures in countries that allow this harmful practice.

Finally, we would like to ask the panel, how the UN system can overcome the challenges of collecting more accurate data on the countries around the globe where the practice of FGM is widespread?

I thank you.