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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Session, 24 June 2021**

**Item 3 – ID with the IE on SOGI**

Delivered by Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

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Thank you, Madam President.

Israel wishes to thank the Independent Expert for his very relevant report on the issue of “The law of inclusion”, and looks forward to read the report to the General Assembly. Israel has always been a strong supporter of this mandate, and is honored to be part of the recently launched Group of Friends.

This report comes at a time where it is needed to clarify the recognition of gender as a social construct. It is also an important tool under International Human Rights Law to effectively combat discrimination and violence.

Madam President,

We share the view of the Independent Expert on the importance of including a focus on the intersectionality, when assessing discrimination and violence against women, and based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

In Israel, several laws were amended to recognize gender and sexual orientation as a key concept. We can refer to the Penal Code, the Equal Employment Opportunities Law, the Pupils' Rights Law, among others. These laws forbid discrimination and punish offenses if based on discriminatory grounds, including gender and sexual orientation.

Moreover, Israel supports the Independent Expert’s call to respect bodily integrity and autonomy, and the importance of promoting comprehensive sexuality education. In Israel, several Ministries organize programs that focus on those issues. Such programs are also extended to institutions with students with disabilities.

Madam President,

It is through understanding and education that we will manage to have a better and more inclusive society.

I thank you.