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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, 27 September 2021**

**Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**

**The gender digital divide in times of the Covid-19 pandemic**

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Madame President,

Israel welcomes the convening of this Annual discussion. It is undeniable that the Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated gender inequality. In a world where the gender gap, online or offline, still exists in all areas of life, the crisis has disproportionately affected women.

The gender digital divide is significant. COVID-19 has increased countries' reliance on digital services and left some women and girls with less life-saving and resilience-building information. The growing gaps in women's access to digital technology significantly hinder their ability to improve their lives, the stability of their families, and the resilience of their communities.

In this new Covid-19 reality, women face a heavier burden of care for children and other beneficiaries and have lost their jobs in a higher percentage than men. While there is pressure to act quickly, all efforts for recovery should be gender-responsive.

The achievements already made in promoting gender equality are at risk. Every country, in order to build back better, needs to continue to work towards achieving it in all fields. The decisions made now will have long-term effects on the stabilization and resilience of communities, especially of women and girls.

I thank you.