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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Session, 14 September 2021**

**Item 2: General Debate**

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahrar  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

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Thank you, Madam President,

On Wednesday, the Jewish people will observe Yom Kippur. During this period, we take the opportunity to self-reflect on the previous year and I believe it is vital for the Human Rights Council to do the same.

Madam President,

This year, the Council has battled through COVID-19 and passed important resolutions in the field of women's rights, persons of disabilities, and girls' education, amongst many others.

Yet what overshadows this vital work is the ongoing blatant bias against Israel at this Council.

Madam President,

This year alone, five more resolutions were adopted attacking Israel, Four more reports on Israel were published by OHCHR, and thirty-one more Press Releases on Israel were issued by the High-Commissioner, her office or Special Procedures. We have also witnessed yet more general debates and interactive dialogues under the infamous Item 7.

This is not scrutiny. This is a relentless obsession. It represents a black mark against this council.

Madam President,

This May, a Special Session was also convened. Let us remember this special session was called as Israel was under attack by Hamas, a terrorist organization. It resulted in a one-sided, biased resolution with a never-ending COI, further deepening the double standards against my country.

Madam President,

If the Council is to self-reflect, it should look to weed out this blatant bias, which undermines its work.

For this Council to be truly credible, It needs to start by abolishing Item 7!