
**UN Human Rights Council
48th Session**

Item 8 - General Debate

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

Madam President,

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action starts by saying “that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community”. Yet, it seems that almost three decades later, we have fallen short.

Recently, the Covid-19 Pandemic has clearly shown how much more work needs to be done in order to be better prepared, and helps us realize the vulnerability of certain groups even before the pandemic began.

However, more than a year later, we should not forget how children and young people have been dramatically affected by the pandemic. Their movement have been restricted, and in many cases, their needs have been ignored.

Fortunately, even before the pandemic, we have witnessed how our youth have taken a strong stand, have raised their voices and have turned to social media to express themselves.

Including youth cannot just be a slogan. It is an international obligation. Even before the Vienna Declaration, which recognized the need to consider the views of children, article 12 of CRC requests States not only to allow children to express their views, but also consider them.

Thus, as we move forward on recovery plans, we call upon States to listen to our younger generation. After all, we are working to leave a better world for them.

Thank you.