
UN Human Rights Council
49th Session, 1 April 2022

Adoption of Resolutions tabled under Item 7

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

Mr. President,

Just a few days ago, the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco and the UAE, alongside the Secretary of State of the United States met in Israel for an unprecedented Summit in the Negev desert. There, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, the Foreign Minister of the UAE said, and I quote: *“Although Israel has been part of our region for a very long time, we have not known each-other. So it’s time to catch up, to build on stronger relationships. By us standing together, by our people-to-people relationship, by creating a better environment for our businesses to work with each other. That is the way we can go after the narrative of hate, of incitement, of terror. We will prevail, no doubt.”*

Mr. President,

I call on this council to go after the narrative of hate that Item 7 represents. Item 7 represents a time when singling out Israel and holding it to double standards was common practice. Item 7 is a relic of the past.

A relic left over from the now-dismantled UN Commission on Human Rights; a relic from the old Middle East. It represents what our region used to be, it represents years of Israel standing alone. Well, the Middle East is coming together. Israel is fostering ties based on coexistence with new friends and old foes. Israel stands alone no longer.

Mr. President,

Some members of this council will continue to vote for Item 7 resolutions blindly, they will continue to ignore the reality of the outside world. They will continue to ignore statements by their own governments; they will continue to ignore the strong bilateral ties that exist between our countries. They themselves will show the absurdity of Item 7, they themselves will show how detached it is from reality.

Yesterday, the Palestinian Ambassador stated that he would be willing to negotiate on the resolutions with my delegation. I would like to suggest to him that we start by negotiating the abolishment of Item 7.

Mr. President,

Eleven innocent people, nine Israelis and two Ukrainians were murdered in the streets of Israel just this week. Their murders were products of senseless hate. These terrorist attacks took place parallel to the Negev Summit, a summit that brought hope to everyone. A hope of a better future, a hope for a more peaceful tomorrow.

Today, by voting for any Item 7 resolution, by supporting the bias against my country, member states choose to continue to live in a parallel universe, detached from the real world. They choose to vote for a relic of a darker past. They choose hatred over hope.

Mr. President,

I call on all member states to vote NO to the following three resolutions. Bias, ignorance and hatred have caused too much suffering in this world. As we strive to push forward, as we strive to overcome problems together, as we strive to build back better, let this council not rely on relics of the past. Let it not continue to live a lie. Let us abolish Item 7 together. *"We will prevail, no doubt."*