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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session, 3 March 2022**

**General Segment**

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Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

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Before I begin my speech, it would be remiss not to address the current situation in Ukraine. In the interest of time, I would like to refer the council to the public remarks of Israeli Foreign Minister Lapid, who has condemned the attacks in no uncertain terms. I hope and pray for the safety of all civilians and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Mr President,

Over the past few years, many colleagues have said they fear that the Council will return to the days of the Commission, where countries play out politics with no consideration for human rights.

Well, for Israel, the days of the Commission never ended. Item 9 of the Commission simply became Item 7 of the Council. And the bias against Israel continues as before.

Mr. President,

Some countries see Israel as an exception. They even voted for a COI attacking Israel with an unprecedented mandate in size and scope.

This COI has a never-ending mandate. This COI is led by commissioners who were appointed because they were tainted by bias, as to guarantee a politically motivated outcome, tailored in advance.

Mr President,

Eleven of the counties that voted for the COI in May 2021 voted against a Special Rapporteur to investigate Iran, despite its mass human rights abuses and violations, and its export of terrorism.

Sixteen member states that voted for the COI last year chose not to vote for a COI investigating Syria. These member states have abandoned the Syrian people. They have shown the Syrians that there is no accountability for more than 500,000 people killed by the regime and their allies.

Mr President,

This session, Israel will once again be attacked. We will witness statements, perhaps even resolutions, which undermine the very essence of my country. Their aim is to drag us back to the days when Zionism was equated to Racism by the General Assembly. The days when the *raison d'être* of the Jewish State was questioned. Thankfully, resolution 3370 was revoked in 1991. Yet, it is a disgrace that 47 years later, at the Human Rights Council, we will see ambassadors using the same hateful libel against my country.

To those, I say, *my country* is a country that protects the political and social equality of all of its citizens. *My country* is a country where Arab doctors, Arab members of parliament, Arab judges and Arab ministers serve alongside their Jewish counterparts. These hateful speeches and resolutions, ignore the facts, and even delegitimize Israel as the homeland for the Jewish People.

To those losing hope with this Council, I say to you: we know how you feel. We have felt this since the Council was created.

If you do not want the Council to return to the dark days of the Commission, start by getting rid of the relics of the past. You must call out this hatred against Israel in all its manifestations, you must reject Item 7.

Thank you.