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**UN Human Rights Council  
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**Item 3  
ID with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with  
Disabilities**

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Mr. Vice President,

Israel thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

As a startup nation, Israel promotes and considers innovation as a transformative force, and acknowledges the importance of harnessing the potential of assistive technologies to facilitate access by persons with disabilities to their rights.

In Israel, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology regularly funds research on developing technologies relevant in this matter. Some of them include:

- i. A brain-to-machine interface for the restoration of speech abilities;
- ii. The development of evidence-based intervention to mitigate cognitive decline in old age through computerized training;
- iii. The development of an autonomous service robot for the elderly population with mobility and visual impairments.

However, considering the obligations arising from the CRPD, as signaled in the report, we acknowledge the challenges that the development of artificial intelligence may entail.

Accordingly, Israel adopted Governmental Resolution No. 212 on a program to promote innovation and growth in the hi-tech branch, including artificial intelligence. Following this, the Ministry is tasked with developing policy, including regarding data, information and ethics, engaging in international cooperation and formulating a national plan, on the basis of international standards, such as the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence.

In addition, the Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law requires that authorities consult with organizations of persons with disabilities when drafting Regulations and has established an Advisory Committee to assist in these activities. With this, Israel is committed to ensure the idea of “nothing about us, without us”.

To conclude, Israel would like to ask: what is your advice regarding the understanding of these challenges at the development level, so that those who work in designing new technologies can include safeguards from the beginning, instead of evaluating it ex post facto or limiting the creativity or innovative spirit?

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.