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Item 3 – ID on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

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Mr. President,

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for a very important and comprehensive report and in particular for choosing to highlight best practices by States on practical solutions.

Israel fully agrees with the Special Rapporteur that adequate implementation methods and solutions must be in place to ensure that children do not fall through the safety nets that exist in laws and policies. Israel has therefore, put in place practical tools to combat this disturbing phenomenon, as is mentioned throughout the report.

Mr. President,

The State of Israel considers combatting the sale and sexual exploitation of children to be a high priority. Accordingly, Israel exerts many efforts in this area together with multiple governmental ministries, law enforcement agencies, civil society and other stakeholders on a regular basis. I wish to name a few examples.

In the prevention realm Israel established in 2018, A Child Online Protection Bureau with a specialized hotline dealing with all offense and abuse behaviors against children committed in the online realm, including sexual abuse and prostitution. The calls are received by trained Police officers and is supported by an inter-ministerial desk with experts from the Ministries of Education, Welfare and Social Affairs, Health, Public Security and Justice.

In the protection realm, inter-ministerial round-table discussions are conducted regularly in order to improve governmental cooperation on the issue of prostitution of minors.

Finally, in the rehabilitation realm the “Heart 24/7” program provides rehabilitation centers for minors in prostitution, including medical assistance, assistance with education and employment and mentors for personal support.

Thank you, Mr. President.