
UN Human Rights Council
51st Regular Session, 29 September 2022

Item 5 – General Debate

Ms. Adi Farjon Israel
Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Madame Vice-President,

Israel believes that Special Procedures and other Human Rights Council mechanisms are essential tools at the Human Rights Council. They play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights across the globe, and Israel will continue to support mandates created by this Council.

Israel firmly believes that independence, impartiality, personal integrity and objectivity are of paramount importance when nominating mandate holders. When these key criteria are ignored, it undermines the Council's credibility.

In October 2021, Israel questioned the appointment of the three Commissioners of the COI established by Resolution S-30/1. The appointment of these members with such obvious bias was not only flawed, it was unprecedented. A cursory look at their public records showed that the requirements of impartiality and objectivity were not even a consideration in the selection process.

On the 25th July this year, a member of this COI made antisemitic remarks, such as references to “the Jewish lobby”, a millennia old antisemitic trope. These comments were a disgrace. They were not befitting of someone in a position of responsibility anywhere, let alone anyone within the UN system. Israel continues to condemn these comments. Israel thanks Member States who also have condemned this blatant antisemitism and calls on other Member States and the whole UN system to do the same.

I thank you.