
UN Human Rights Council
51st Regular Session, 3 October 2022

Item 9 – General Debate

Mr. Nathan Chicheportiche
Head of Public Diplomacy, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr President,

Antisemitism and Holocaust denial continue to spread at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, this year, Jew-hatred and bigotry have also reached the United Nations, both here in Geneva and in New York.

Mr President,

To bring an end to antisemitism, we must look at ourselves and ask what can we do, together, to combat this millennia-old hatred?

Mr. Ahmed Shaheed, Former Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief published earlier this year an 8-point action plan on combatting antisemitism, with clear and concise recommendations for both national and International Institutions. Let me mention some of them:

1. Adopt and communicate a zero-tolerance approach to antisemitic statements and incidents ;
2. Ensure all of society can recognize antisemitism and know the facts of the Holocaust,
3. Ensure international organizations devote appropriate attention to combating antisemitism as a human rights concern

We call on UN Member States, the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures to follow those recommendations. We would also like to highlight the importance of adopting the IHRA definition: the only definition of antisemitism that was truly crafted together with Jewish community representatives.

Before concluding, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mr. Shaheed for his work, and share the hope that his successor will continue his important work on this topic.

I thank you.