
UN Human Rights Council
53rd Session, 23 June 2023

Item 3: ID with SR on freedom of expression

Ms. Merav Marks, Adv.
Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel thanks the special rapporteur for her report.

Israel recognizes and strongly supports the crucial linkages between SDGs and the right to freedom of expression, since the free flow of information, ideas and opinions is a catalyst for social progress, innovation and positive change.

In Israel, the right to freedom of opinion and expression is recognized as a supreme norm. Therefore, any limitation on its exercise must meet strict standards of scrutiny regarding its justification and scope.

Mr. President

Israel agrees with the special rapporteur and the Human Rights Committee that States should make every effort to ensure easy, prompt, effective and practical access to government information of public interest.

In Israel in order to promote transparency and accountability, access to information is legislated in the freedom of information law. Additionally, administrative and local annual working plans are regularly published online by local and state authorities enabling greater transparency

Israel will continue to actively work to protect and promote the fundamental right of freedom of opinion and expression, while striving to achieve the SDGs domestically and through international cooperation.

I thank you.