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**UN Human Rights Council**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Session, 26 June 2023**

**Item 3: ID with SR on judges and lawyers**

Ms. Merav Marks, Adv.  
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Thank you, Mr President.

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for her work and to wish her success in the discharge of her mandate.

The independence of the judiciary is a key element of a democratic state that values human rights and the rule of law. The ability of judges and lawyers to exercise their professions freely and without fear of intimidation or reprisals is crucial. Israel therefore finds the topics raised by the Special Rapporteur for the upcoming years to be relevant, timely and important.

Mr. President,

Israel is currently in the midst of a legislative process consisting of several legislative amendments promoted by the Government. The process is stirring a broad and vibrant public debate under the auspices of the president in order to reach a consensus in this matter.

The current situation brings up to the open and public debate many of the issues highlighted by the Special Rapporteur, and Israel will follow the work on these issues and continue its engagement with this mandate.

Mr. President,

Despite the current dialogue in Israel, we wish to emphasize that Israel has a strong and stable legal system that has been able to navigate through various crises throughout its history while maintaining Israel's democratic values and commitment to protecting human rights. Israel will strive to continue to do so in the future.

I thank you.