



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 22nd SESSION Bulgaria

Thank you, Mr. President.

We warmly welcome the Bulgarian delegation and thank them for their report presented before us today.

Israel congratulates Bulgaria for the establishment of a National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights in 2013, as well as for the recognition of 2 institutions as National Authorities of Human Rights. Israel also congratulates Bulgaria for the ratification of the CRPD and OP to CAT.

Israel is concerned by the reports of the CAT and the Independent Expert on minority issues regarding the existence of hate speech and that intolerance towards religious minorities had resulted in attacks to places of worship and worshippers. Consequently Israel **recommends** Bulgaria to (1) ensure that all offences based on discrimination are effectively identified, investigated and prosecuted, and **recommends** it to (2) modify its legislation to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the list of offences.

Israel notes that the Human Rights Committee has pointed out the low number of cases of domestic and gender based violence that had been brought to justice, and in order to improve this situation, it **recommends** Bulgaria to (3) modify the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence and to promote the prosecution of these crimes.

Israel also **recommends** Bulgaria to (4) continue its efforts to promote an inclusive education of children with disabilities in the general school system.

Thank you.