



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 23rd SESSION

Lebanon

Mr. President,

At the outset allow me to express Israel's strong objection to the inappropriate reference to the state of Israel, both in its oral presentation today and in paragraph 14 to Lebanon's National Report, trying to put fault on Israel for the human rights situation in the country and for the delays in timely submissions of periodic reports. It is absurd and we wish that Lebanon will avoid such references in the future.

Mr. President,

Israel is greatly concerned that Hezbollah, a terror organization, is recruiting and sending child-fighters, as young as 16, to Syria. This practice is in direct violation of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

While noting a number of positive steps in the area of gender equality such as the adoption of a law on domestic violence, unfortunately gender-based violence including marital rape, femicide, so called "honor-crimes" and child marriages - continues.

- In that context, Israel recommends the Government of Lebanon to take concrete steps to guaranty gender equality and abolish all means of gender based violence.
- Israel also recommends the Government of Lebanon to take concrete steps to assure freedom of expression and to guaranty the protection of peaceful protesters.

Thank you