



Mission permanent d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

29th session of the Working Group of the UPR
Adoption of the Draft Report on Israel

Aviva Raz Shechter
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Israel

Thursday 25 January 2018
United Nations, Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Secretariat and the Troika members, the UK, Rwanda and Mongolia for their commitment to engage in a fruitful dialogue and for their intensive work in producing the report before you.

Mr. President,

We came to the UPR in good faith. We are neither immune, nor afraid, of criticism. I believe that during our UPR session, we have shown how seriously we have taken many of the recommendations from the previous cycles and implemented them. As was reflected in our national report and during the interactive dialogue, we have shared with you recent

developments and challenges in major human rights areas, including: gender-based equality, LGBTI and minority rights, combating racial discrimination and trafficking in persons, rights of persons with disabilities among others.

Our delegation composed by dedicated professionals who deal with these issues on a daily basis, tried to provide you with information and answers.

After the discussion, we started immediately to work with the Troika and the Secretariat in a cooperative spirit which clearly led to the report just adopted.

Mr. President,

Israel would like to thank those delegations for their important contributions, reflected in their recommendations, questions and advises, based on their experience in advancing human rights in their own countries. We thank those delegations who participated in our UPR in a spirit of constructive criticism, acknowledging the many complexities in our region.

I can assure you that we will study your recommendations and provide answers in a later stage of the review process.

Israel continues to be committed to the promotion and protection of Human Rights and to improve their implementation. We hope that our engagement with the UPR process will promote a deeper understanding of the challenges we are facing, which may lead to a change in the Council's attitude towards Israel.

Finally Mr. President, I would like to commend you for the leadership you have shown throughout the process.

Thank you.