
UN Human Rights Council
UPR Working Group 43rd Session, 9 May 2023

Israel

Closing Statement

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President,
Excellences.

On behalf of the State of Israel and the delegation here today, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the UPR process, to share Israel's efforts in the promoting and protection of human rights and to hear your important and meaningful recommendations.

We wish to thank all those delegations who honored the UPR process as a professional and non-politicized fora, and the efforts they have put into providing insightful remarks and recommendations. However, I deplore the use by other delegations, most of which don't even recognize Israel's rights to exist, of this distinguished forum as a political tool to attack Israel, to politicize human rights and to undermine the importance of this process.

After listening to many of your concerns I wish to state, that despite facing numerous security challenges, Israel continues to strive to live in peace and security with all our neighbors including the Palestinians. This was reflected recently during the summits in Aqaba and Sharm el sheikh where all sides agreed to maintain positive momentum towards a wider political process leading to a just and lasting peace. Moreover, Israel signed in 2020 the Abraham Accords, which established relations with the UAE and Bahrain and reestablished ties with the Kingdom of Morocco.

As stated in my opening remarks, Israel takes this process extremely seriously and we will study all the recommendations given.

I wish to apologies that we were unable to address all the questions and recommendations raised during this review. We remain committed to continue the dialogue on all human rights issues.

Finally, I wish to thank you Mr. President for the professional way in which you have conducted this dialogue, and to the troika members and secretariat for all their hard work.