
World Health Organization
EB 150 – January 2022

Item 20.1: Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
Documents EB150/33 and EB150/34

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

Israel aligns itself with the statement made by the United Kingdom.

Once again, Israel would like to state that it condemns any form of sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment. Our hearts are with all the victims and survivors. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge their courage to come forward and give their testimonies about these abominable events. We believe that these events must serve as a wake-up call for the organization to immediately reform its existing policies and processes to address this matter.

We welcome the Director General's report presented to the EB and the steps taken by the WHO to build capacity to implement the institutional changes needed to introduce effective prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment across all the organization levels.

We commend the establishment of an independent commission on the DRC Sexual Exploitation and Abuse allegations and the report published by it; the establishment of an organization-wide task team; the development of the Management Response Plan; and the increase in funding for the ongoing work on the organization on prevention and response to SEAH.

Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment must remain a top priority issue on the organization's agenda. Israel is fully committed to supporting the WHO on this matter and encourages the organization to keep intensifying its collaboration with other bodies in the United Nations system.

This critical moment serves as an opportunity for the organization to further enhance its work, and lead by example in the U.N family.

Thank you.