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**World Health Organization**  
**WHA 71 – 25 May 2018**

**Committee A**  
**Assistive Technologies**

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Thank you Chair,

Israel is very pleased to see the issue of assistive technology discussed here today. The importance of assistive technologies and products cannot be overstated. A society cannot be truly inclusive as long as it does not care for its most vulnerable. Those in need of assistive technology - like older persons, persons with disabilities, people suffering from NCDs – fit exactly into that category.

We commend the Secretariat for the work it has done so far, which reflects the international community's commitment to this topic. This stands in line with our commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by 175 countries thus far (including Israel). However, our work is not yet done. For example, while we commend the WHO for compiling the priority assistive products list in 2016, we still do not see assistive products enjoy the same intense and comprehensive attention given to medicines, for example, which are likewise technological advancements for health.

Israel is often cited as an innovation hub, yet not many know that a great part of this pioneering spirit is dedicated to finding ingenious solutions for people in need of assistive technologies to lead better lives. As co-sponsors of resolution EB142.R6, Israel stands ready to work with all interested parties in increasing access to affordable, safe and efficient assistive technologies and products for the benefit of all.

Thank you very much.