



Mission permanente 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

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Statement by Mr. Walid Abu-Haya

Permanent Mission of Israel

To the United Nations, Geneva

Human Rights Council Review

Open-Ended Working Group

Item 3

25 October 2010

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council review process has appropriately come at a time when the Council is beginning to show troubling signs of a lack credibility, legitimacy and professionalism in its exercise of selectivity, politicization and double standards.

The Human Rights Council has failed to adhere to its mandate and to allow the principles of "universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity ...without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner" to guide its work and functioning.

Israel sincerely expects that the review process will not fine-tune the inherent institutional flaws found so readily apparent in its making, but will rather serve to foster an environment where the Council can take a good look at itself, and in good faith, right the wrongs it so easily determined the first time around.

Mr. President,

The most obvious example of politicization, double standards and selectivity is evidenced by the establishment of Agenda Item 7 of the Human Rights Council. As it stands, portions of Section V (B) and (C) of the IB package directly contravene resolution 60/251 establishing this Council.

Within this Council, the State of Israel has been consistently singled out for disproportionate and unfettered focus by the establishment of Agenda Item 7, through six of thirteen special sessions, in thematic debates and even during other states' UPR presentations. Special mechanisms, such as Fact-Finding Missions, Committees of Experts, Special Sitings etc., were designed to prejudge, and enthusiastically operate only for, the State of Israel, in blatant disregard of other situations in the world that deserve the Council's attention and action.

By removing Item 7, as we propose, from the permanent Agenda of this Council we will be able to begin the process of reconstructing its credibility and legitimacy. Israel is certainly open to legitimate criticism, however, in the same manner as any other country or region in the world under Agenda Item 4.

Mr. President,

The independence and the legal separation of the High Commissioner and her Office from the Human Rights Council must be maintained and even strengthened to a higher threshold to which it now stands.

In the same manner, the independence and integrity of the Special Procedures must be preserved and be free from any state interference.

Mr. President,

In short, the removal of Item 7 from the Permanent Agenda of the Human Rights Council, ensuring the independence of the High Commissioner and her Office, and preserving the independence and integrity of Special Procedures are our main priorities.

We also stand firm on our position that the Member States of this Council must live up to the membership standards as set forth in resolution 60/251 and serve as a model for others in the forefront of the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights for all.

I thank you.

