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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Permanent representative
Päivi Kairamo

17th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's recommendations to Israel

29 October 2013

Mr President,

Finland wishes to thank Israel for the national report and its presentation today.

While regretting that there was no time to study in detail the national report, we appreciate the information about the situation of minorities in Israel. Elimination of discrimination is key in ensuring human rights for everyone, and we welcome that Israel has identified increased equality between its different communities as a national priority.

Finland recommends that Israel amend the Basic Laws and other legislation in order to include the prohibition of discrimination and the principle of equality, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN human rights treaty bodies (*Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)* and the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*).

Finland is concerned that children aged 16-17 living in the oPt are not effectively protected by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, in particular, the provisions relating to the administration of juvenile justice. We are extremely concerned about the reports that ill-treatment of children, who come in contact with the Israeli military detention system, appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized. We take note of your on-going cooperation with UNICEF in this regard, and would appreciate hearing about the concrete steps Israel is taking to implement UNICEF's recommendations.

Finland recommends that Israel ensure that detention of civilians, especially children, is carried out in accordance with international law and standards and without any discrimination paying particular attention to the recommendations of the *Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*.

Thank you.