



PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 19th SESSION Norway

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel praises the longstanding commitment of the Norwegian government to Human Rights, which is evident in the reports provided as a basis for its second universal periodic review. We also congratulate Norway's submission, in 2012, of a UPR mid-term report describing its progress on recommendations received.

Israel welcomes Norway's ratification of two more human rights instruments in 2013, as well as its strong position as a vocal advocate for gender equality, and its continuing efforts to implement a wide range of initiatives across different sectors of its society.

Israel appreciates that Norway's national budget for 2014 has allocated funds for an action plan to combat anti-Semitism, including funds for school initiatives and for the Oslo Jewish Museum. We recognize the value, as well, of Norway listing as a national priority - included in education and training on human rights topic - to examine how anti-Semitism, racism, extremism and radicalization issues are handled. In spite of this, it is pertinent to point out that Norway's Jewish community presented a survey revealing that anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish harassment remains.

Consequently, Israel would like to ask: **what concrete measures will be adopted to strengthen and support efforts to combat anti-Semitism?**

With this in mind, and following on from observations made by the Human Rights Committee regarding the persistence of hate speech, as well as xenophobic and anti-Semitic statements, we wish to **recommend** Norway to raise awareness and promote tolerance and diversity in society, and to train law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of hate speech.

Thank you.