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**Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UN Human Rights Council**

UPR WORKING GROUP 45th SESSION, February 2024

**Belize**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel welcome the delegation of Belize and thank it for its report.

Israel welcomes the establishment of the Trafficking in Persons Unit, but remains concerned about the prevalence of trafficking in persons, including women and children, for sexual exploitation, and the alleged tolerance and complicity by officials. Therefore, Israel **recommends** that Belize **ensures that suspected cases of trafficking in persons are investigated and perpetrators brought to justice; and increases its efforts to identify victims, providing them with appropriate protection and assistance, including safe houses and shelters (1).**

While commending the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy in 2022, Israel expresses concerns regarding reports of the persistence of SGBV, including rape and femicide. Therefore, Israel **recommends** that Belize **accelerates access to comprehensive sexuality education, that includes sexual and reproductive health and rights, SGBV and child marriage (2)**. In addition, **recommends** that Belize effectively **investigates all cases of SGBV and brings the perpetrators to justice; strengthen measures to encourage and enable victims’ access to justice, providing them with protection, assistance and reparations (3).**

Israel welcomes the Supreme Court’s decision regarding same-sex sexual conduct. Yet, it remains concerned about stigmatization, violence and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Therefore, Israel **recommends** that Belize **adopts anti-discrimination legislation that expressly contains sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of prohibited discrimination, that it enables access to justice of victims of violence and discrimination based on SOGI and ensures the investigation and prosecution of those acts (4).**

Israel would like to wish the delegation of Belize a successful UPR.

Thank you.