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

**UPR WORKING GROUP – 40th SESSION**

**January 2022**

Review of Venezuela

Thank you, Mr President.

The situation of human rights in Venezuela remains extremely concerning. The Venezuelan government continues to intimidate, harass and attack anyone who opposes them. The migration crisis of the regime’s own making, has seriously affected human rights. We commend neighboring countries, such as Colombia, who have facilitated the large flow of migrants and refugees.

Israel remains concerned by the use of force by security forces known for their brutality, who continue to be armed and supported by international state-backed terror organizations and foreign governments, who do not only seek to destabilize the Middle East but the whole world.

 In this regard, Israel recommends that Venezuela:

1. Eliminate the excessive use of force as a policy to repress peaceful demonstrations.
2. Immediately hold free and fair elections and restore democracy.

I thank you, Mr President.