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

**UPR WORKING GROUP – 42nd SESSION**

**24 January 2023**

Review of Gabon

Israel expresses its condolences to the people in Gabon on the death of Michael Moussa Adamo, Gabon's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Israel welcomes the delegation of Gabon to the UPR and would like to thank it for its National Report.

Israel commends Gabon for taking legislative steps to decriminalize same sex relations in 2020. Israel also welcomes the adoption of new laws designed to reduce the risk of violence against women and prohibit discrimination in the economy.

However, Israel is concerned that provisions on sexual and psychological harassment against women and girls have not been fully implemented and that LGBTQI persons still face violence and discrimination. Israel is also concerned over the high prevalence of child marriage.

In this context, Israel would like to recommend that Gabon:

1. Provide effective protection to LGBTQI persons from violence and discrimination and ensure their access to justice.
2. Implement provisions on sexual and psychological harassment and ensure victims have access to effective, independent and confidential complaint procedures.
3. Take further measures to prevent child marriage.

I thank you.