*UPR 43: Session of the UPR Working Group*

*Statement at UPR of Israel*

**Tuesday 09 May 2023, 09:00 – 12:30**

Albania welcomes the delegation of Israel and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Albania welcomes the progress made by Israel since the last UPR, particularly regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the safe use of the internet by children, efforts to provide equal health services to all without discrimination and advancing equality in women’s participation in the public sphere.

Albania welcomes that Israel joined the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2021.

We encourage the State of Israel to continue its efforts to address the challenges facing the Arab community, including regarding economic and social rights, and to reduce the gaps between different groups in society.

Albania would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Step up efforts to counter and stem the tide of racism and xenophobia in public discourse.
2. Guarantee the effective protection of journalists and human rights defenders against any kind of threats, pressure, intimidation, attacks, and arbitrary arrest and detention, ensure a thorough investigation, and bring those responsible to justice.

Albania would like to wish to the delegation of Israel a successful review during this cycle.