**UPR 29, January 23, 2018**

**Recommendations by Canada for Israel’s UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada commends Israel for its active participation throughout the third cycle of this universal peer-review process, including in the UPR pre-session. Canada values Israel’s commitment to democratic principles and believes these principles, as enshrined in Israeli law, should benefit all individuals in Israel.

Canada recommends that Israel:

1. Reduce restrictions on freedom of movement to allow for better access to health services for Palestinians, particularly those residing in Gaza.
2. Take measures to ensure an equal and non-discriminatory institutional approach toward all communities in Israel, particularly Israeli-Arabs and African asylum seekers.
3. Protect the ability of civil society organizations to operate freely in Israel, particularly human rights groups and international nongovernmental organizations.

We recognize the significant security challenges faced by Israel, including attacks from terrorist groups, and recognize the right of Israel to protect its citizens in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Canada also welcomes the measures recently adopted by the Israeli government to promote the equality of LGBTI persons, including the introduction of gender-neutral legislative criteria for adoption, and the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the prohibited grounds of discrimination listed in the *Pupil’s Rights Law.*