 ISRAEL.

Mr. President,

Since the creation of the new Human Rights Council, in each and every single discussion or consultation, formal or non-formal, all delegations—member or not—have spoken about non-selectivity as a mandatory characteristic for the Council. They have also repeatedly addressed the necessity of the Council dealing with each country, situation or agenda item in an equal and non-discriminatory manner.

To my dismay, what we see on the Working Paper provided by the facilitator of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Agenda and Programme of Work, displays just the opposite. One of the primary reasons behind the demise of the old Commission was the repeatedly singling-out of one Country, the infamous "Article 8." And what do we see before us today? We see mention of the ***exact same*** Article 8, as if 60 years of one-sidedness and politicization of the Commission were not enough to learn the lesson that our body can never gain legitimacy if its procedures are illegitimate. How can the new Council possibly return to the old, failed system while simultaneously speaking about renovation and reform? Can we already determine, at this early stage, that the Council will display the same schizophrenia as its predecessor?

Mr. President,

It is shameful that because of political considerations, the Council is ready to compromise its own values. It is shameful that because of tit-for-tat deals and behind the scenes horse-trading, the Council will forever bear the results of the "race to the bottom," the collective efforts to establish the lowest common denominator of human rights. It is shameful that persecuted innocents all over the planet, the cries of women, children and the elderly who suffer at the hands of their abusers, are being intentionally ignored just for the sake of predominance games in the Council. I sincerely hope that the Council will take into account all these points

Mr. President,

It is a dark day for the Council. I sincerely hope we will be able to emerge from this obscurity and walk towards the bright light of day, to establish a credible human rights body that can speak for those whose rights are being violated the world over.