

ISRAEL – Video Transcript

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates and colleagues, it is a great honor for me to take part in the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

As the Ambassador and permanent representative of Israel to the UN in Vienna, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this important session, and wish to thank the UNODC for hosting it.

In the past few years Israel had enhanced its efforts on crime prevention. We have shown unwavering commitment to promote changes and adopt new tools in order to prevent crime, and I wish to focus on trafficking in persons.

Israel continues to take a leading role in the global efforts to combat trafficking in persons and is recognized worldwide as a leader in this field. We reached outstanding achievements - especially the dramatic decrease to full eradication of the severe form of trafficking in women for the purpose of prostitution that was prevalent in the past. These accomplishments are due to the actions of the Israeli authorities, together with strong collaborations forged with civil society and international organizations.

As we see this issue as crucial, I am happy to update that few weeks ago the Government of Israel decided to join the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings - making Israel the first country outside of Europe who is not a member of the Council of Europe, to join the convention. Israel's joining the convention is an important step, solidifying its commitment to this important issue, and giving it important tools to continue its efforts to fight this ever-changing phenomenon.

As part of these efforts, I am pleased to invite you all to a side event organized by Israel with the support of the Netherlands and the United States on the issue of "The critical role of the Judiciary in combatting trafficking in persons". We see the judges' role in combatting trafficking in persons as crucial, and therefore the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducts bi-annual trainings for judges from many countries, in Israel on this issue.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like to reaffirm the strong cooperation between Israel and the UNODC, and to wish all delegates a productive session.

Thank you.