

Human Rights Council 51st Session

Agenda Item 7 – General Debate (September 2022)

NGO: IJL - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Gabriela Goncalves.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to convey its concern about the ineffectiveness of Agenda Item 7.

Mr. President, we firmly believe in the importance of the review process concerning all States, without any exception. This process is essential to ensure that human rights are respected, violations are prevented, and the rights of all persons are protected.

However, Agenda Item 7 is an obstacle to these goals. This item is not only ineffective with its disproportionate, inequitable, and biased designation of one State, but also generates a significant cost – financial, professional, and reputational – upon this Council.

The numerous hours focused on the State of Israel alone, and the human resources spent on writing one-sided, repetitive reports, could have been used, for example, to increase the resources related to more appropriate agenda items, enabling a better review of human rights violations all over the world, including Israel. This would contribute to the important cause of this Council, help it to improve its reputation, and enhance its legitimacy.

Thank you, Mr. President.