Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

4th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

In Response to Report A/HRC/4/113

22 March 2007

1-3, avenue de la Paix - 1202 Genève - Téléphone 022 716 05 00 - Téléfax 022 716 05 55
E-mail: mission-israel@geneva.mfa.gov.il

Mr. President,

By any possible standard, Israel has been the subject of unprecedented and disproportionate interest and attention from the United Nations, with countless visits by envoys, missions, NGOs and special rapporteurs, which far exceed that of any other country seated in this hall. Illustrative of this phenomenon is the fact that the fact-finding mission following the 3rd Special Session was concomitant with a similar decision reached by the U.N. General Assembly in New York to send its own mission. The lack of coordination between the UN organs in New York and Geneva is perplexing.

Nevertheless, Israel, as a democratic and pluralist State, has managed to maintain a policy of transparency and openness regarding such visits, provided that they meet with minimum standards of neutrality and impartiality, based on due process, demonstrable expertise and an objective and credible assessment. Problems arise when such visits are based on politicized, pre-determined processes.

None of the countries seated in this hall would ever agree to be repeatedly and endlessly judged by wholly one-sided criteria. None would accept any dictated mandates singling them out. The most basic minimal guarantees for

ensuring universality and integrity in any professional assessment of conduct are indispensable and self-evident. Yet even they are currently absent from the work of the Council. A genuine claim for objectivity and non-selectivity cannot exist on paper alone, and will only become a reality once this Council endeavors to translate them to common practice – as has long been due.

Mr. President,

The Special Session held in November 2006, which gave rise to Resolution S-3/1, was just the latest in a long series of anti-Israel measures taken by the new and supposedly improved Council, a Council which—since its inception—has condemned Israel (and only Israel) **eight times**. In less than a year of operation, the Council has criticized any other country in the world exactly **zero times**.

Mr. President,

Israel is willing to undertake difficult self-reflection, admit where we made mistakes, and strive to ensure that lessons were learnt and implemented. We have done so in the case of Beit Hanoun, a tragic event which was thoroughly investigated by the Israeli authorities, in an inquiry lead by the Military Advocate General. We are never opposed to engagement with the international community, through dialogue and consultation and not through

the imposition of partisan resolutions leading to a predetermined and imbalanced outcome.

Thank You.