

RESOLUTION GB 1811 - 3

Israel: Bias at the United Nations Human Rights Council

The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Paris on 19 November 2018,

RECALLS AND REITERATES the resolution adopted at its meeting in Jerusalem in September 2010 dealing with the United Nations Human Rights agenda and that organization's repeated attempts to cast Israel as a pariah state;

NOTES WITH CONCERN that at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Israel is the only country in respect of which there is a dedicated standing agenda item, known as item 7 "Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories", which has been discussed at every regular session of the UNHRC in March, June and September each year;

NOTES WITH CONCERN that under item 7, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur is to investigate "Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967", and not to investigate violations committed by any or all other relevant parties, including terrorist groups such as Hamas;

NOTES that in respect of all other countries their situations are considered at the UNHRC under one agenda item, item 4: "Human rights situations that require the Council's attention";

NOTES that the disparate treatment of Israel in this way constitutes a clear manifestation of antisemitism as explicitly delineated by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in its working definition of antisemitism;

NOTES WITH CONCERN that every year the UNHRC adopts more resolutions condemning Israel than any other country;

RECALLS that the World Jewish Congress has systematically condemned the discriminatory treatment that Israel faces at the UNHRC, and in the United Nations more generally, and has called on the UNHRC to deal with Israel using the same standards and approaches used for all other democratic countries;

CALLS UPON all countries, whether they are members or observers of the UNHRC, to publicly denounce the organization's blatant and totally unacceptable bias and to demand that Israel is treated on the same basis as other democratic countries;

FURTHER CALLS UPON all countries to advocate strongly for and take concrete steps to effect the removal of item 7, as a standing agenda item from the UNHRC's permanent agenda, including by changing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to investigate alleged human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict;

FURTHER CALLS UPON every member of the UNHRC in addition to make their opposition to item 7 known, by systematically voting against every resolution presented under that agenda item.

APPROVED BY THE WJC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN PARIS ON 19 NOVEMBER 2018