

RESOLUTION EC 160912 - 2
UNITED NATIONS BIAS

The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Jerusalem on 12 September 2016,

NOTES that 2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the existence of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC);

RECALLS that the Council's predecessor, the UN Human Rights Commission, was disbanded, and that then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called that body "politicized" and accused it of being "selective";

NOTES that at a meeting of the UNHRC in Geneva on 20 June 2007, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon criticized the Council in a statement that read: "The Secretary-General is disappointed at the Council's decision to single out only one specific regional item given the range and scope of allegations of human rights violations throughout the world";

FURTHER NOTES that the Human Rights Council is still marred by the same flaws as its predecessor, notably a blatant and unjustified bias against the democratic State of Israel, which manifests itself in the 67 condemnations of Israel by the Council—more than all other states in the world combined—over the past 10 years;

DEPLORES the application of different standards to Israel by the UN and in particular by the UNHRC, in an effort to single it out for blame;

EXPRESSES concern that the obsession with Israel discredits the work of the UNHRC and undermines the credibility of the United Nations in pursuing its human rights agenda;

NOTES WITH CONCERN the repeated attempts by UNESCO to deny the Jewish people's historic connection to Jerusalem, the Tomb of Rachel, and the Cave of the Patriarchs and that UNESCO has before it a draft resolution in relation to a light rail transport system connecting Jewish and Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem, condemning Israel for the light rail on the grounds that it blocks views of the walls of the Old City;

NOTES that in 2016, the World Health Organization condemned only one country—Israel—for its treatment of Syrians in the Golan Heights, ignoring entirely Israel's medical treatment of refugees and others from Syria injured in the war in Syria;

NOTES with alarm that the UN and its agencies have been silent on egregious denials and abuses of human rights;

NOTES that these developments continue to give rise to grave concerns about the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations among fair-minded people everywhere;

URGES the removal of Item 7 dealing with the "Human Rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories" from the permanent agenda of the UNHRC;

CALLS on the Council to hold all countries, including Israel, to the same standard;

CALLS upon WJC members to encourage their respective governments to support the reforms of the UN advocated in this resolution and to insist that the UN follow a human rights agenda that is genuinely focused upon the realization of human rights in accordance with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.