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452. Cercle de recherche sur les droits et les devoirs de la personne humaine noted the State's rapid modernization, and welcomed the Government's commitment to improving the human rights situation by sharing its experiences and seeking to draw on the best practices of the international community. It supported the recommendation made by Canada to uphold the freedom of expression of non-governmental organizations by amending the laws limiting it and repealing punitive sanctions.

(d) *Concluding remarks of the State under review*

453. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates thanked the members of the Council for their appreciation as well as their criticism. All comments would help the State to improve further its human rights record, which had been commended by many speakers. Through the review, the State had gained more awareness about the importance of capacity-building and the involvement of civil society. With regard to the review mechanism, the United Arab Emirates noted that it was essential to build a credible and constructive process without merging human rights with pure political matters.

8. Israel

454. The review of Israel was held on 4 December 2008 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the national report submitted by Israel in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/ISR/1); the compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/ISR/2); and the summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/ISR/3).

455. At the 29th meeting, on 19 March 2009, the Council considered the outcome of the review on Israel (see section C below).

456. The outcome of the review on Israel comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/10/76), the views of Israel concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

(a) *Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome*

457. The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations at Geneva indicated that Israel took its participation in the universal periodic review very seriously, as an opportunity for genuine introspection and frank discussions within the Israeli system, despite their reservations about some aspects of the Council's work.

458. Israel thanked all delegations that had engaged in the dialogue in good faith and had shared constructive comments, providing concrete suggestions and ideas. Israel had also appreciated the positive and supportive response received from numerous States throughout the process.

459. Israel had given careful consideration to the recommendations. Certain recommendations reflected the challenges that Israel had already identified and was in the process of addressing, while others highlighted aspects that would require more detailed consideration.

460. Israel agreed to adopt recommendation 14, regarding the investigation of allegations of violence and killings allegedly committed by the police. Israel also agreed to adopt recommendation 18 regarding the law on polygamy, and had recently reinstructed the Qaddi's of the sharia courts to refer every suspected case of polygamy to the police. It had

also decided to adopt recommendation 28, ensuring full protection of the rights of minorities.

461. Israel had also taken upon itself to promote the following items from the Council's recommendations:

- (a) The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) Ensuring best protection of human rights and follow-up to the implementation of international instruments;
- (c) Considering strengthening dialogue with the Council and its special procedures, and cooperation with all relevant United Nations special procedures and mechanisms;
- (d) Redoubling efforts to increase women's representation in society;
- (e) Continuing and strengthening its efforts to achieve gender equality in Government and public services at all levels; to this end, the newly elected Parliament, the Knesset, had 21 women, among the largest number of women members in the history of Israel, and 3 more than in the previous Knesset;
- (f) Ensuring prompt and impartial investigations of allegations of ill-treatment, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention against Torture;
- (g) Ensuring all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures;
- (h) Granting the right to those who object to serve in the army on conscientious grounds to serve instead with a civilian body independent of the military, such as in the form of the newly established and strengthened Public Commission for National Civil Service;
- (i) Further addressing the remaining gaps between the various populations in Israeli society;
- (j) Regarding minorities, Israel intended to strengthen efforts to ensure equality in the application of the law, to counter discrimination against persons belonging to all minorities, to promote their active participation in public life, such as through additional Government resolutions to raise the percentage of the Arab minority in the civil service;
- (k) Following the universal periodic review process, several measures were currently being taken towards further promoting children's rights through several preliminary means. A draft bill on the establishment of a new youth court had been prepared and was currently under review, and additional issues, such as necessary adaptations to probation officers' reports, were being evaluated.

462. While Israel also appreciated the spirit of the recommendation to protect the children and families of migrants, it did not consider that accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was required to achieve that goal, as under Israeli legislation, the rights of children and family members of migrants were already protected.

463. With respect to the recommendation calling for the acceleration of the process of bringing national legislation into compliance with the provisions of the main international instruments to which it was a party, Israel noted that, while international treaties were not directly incorporated into Israeli legislation, given its dualistic system of law, it remained committed to ensuring that domestic legislation, policies and practice complied with its international commitments. Therefore, since treaties were not self-executing and required legislative implementation, Israel carefully considered whether, and to what extent, the

relevant international obligations were already met by existing legislation and case law, and whether passing implementing legislation was needed prior to becoming a party to an international treaty. This process involved extensive and meticulous governmental work to assess the compatibility of new treaties with domestic law, and where necessary, to introduce relevant amendments to the law. Furthermore, Israeli courts recognized and applied a presumption of compatibility as an interpretive tool, assuming that the Knesset, when enacting new legislation, had no intention of derogating or deviating from international obligations; therefore, Israeli legislation should be interpreted in conformity with international law, unless an explicit intention to the opposite existed. In addition, certain laws integrated some of the human rights treaties into Israeli legislation. It also noted that customary law, in contrast to treaty law, was considered part of domestic law; it was binding without the need of transformation by a statute, unless it explicitly conflicted with an existing statute.

464. With regard to the recommendation to evaluate the possibility of ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty, Israel reiterated what was indicated in its national report, that while it is not in a position to ratify the Protocol, Israel had applied a de facto moratorium on executions, and the only exception that had ever been implemented since the establishment of Israel was in the case of the Nazi war criminal Adolph Eichmann in 1962, who was convicted by the Supreme Court of committing genocide under the 1950 punishment of Nazi and Nazi Collaborators Law. The death penalty had not been applied since. This policy complies with the State's obligations as a State party under United Nations human rights treaties and its sponsorship of United Nations resolutions in support of a moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty.

465. Israel also took note of the recommendation to intensify its efforts to ensure that human rights were respected in the fight against terrorism. This remained an ongoing challenge for Israel as it continued to confront the threat of terrorism. Israel was keenly aware of the need to find a balance between competing rights and other considerations in this regard, and remained ready and willing to share its experience and challenges with other countries.

466. Israel indicated it would make a concerted effort to incorporate civil society groups when considering how to implement further the recommendations received, and would continue to explore ways to engage with the members of civil society in the protection of human rights in Israel.

(b) *Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome*

467. Palestine noted that none of the 12 recommendations that it had made on the basis of the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law had been taken into account by Israel. Palestine reminded that Israel was the occupying Power of Palestinian and other Arab territories and had recently unleashed a savage attack against the Gaza Strip, leading to thousands of deaths, the destruction of homes, places of worship, hospitals and even United Nations buildings. Israel had imposed a blockade on Gaza for two years, and had already started to demolish 80 other houses and displace more than 1,500 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem. Due consideration should be given to the numerous appeals by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, by special rapporteurs, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and the presidents of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab League and international

and Israeli organizations condemning practices of the occupying Power and its violations of human rights. It highlighted calls for inquiry into war crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people and stated that Israel must comply with its international humanitarian and human rights commitments, which are applicable to the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. It added that the international community must uphold its moral and legal obligations and seek cessation of this occupation.

468. Cuba indicated that, during the review of Israel, almost all delegations raised concerns about the situation of the Palestinian and Syrian Golan occupied territories, in particular regarding the human rights and humanitarian situation. Many recommendations had been made, including by Cuba, in a spirit of cooperation. Cuba stated that Israel must recognize that the concept of democracy was not compatible with the situation of being an occupying Power and negating the human rights of Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and that the review must include the human rights situation in the territories. It noted that a few days after the review, Israel had unleashed military action against the Gaza Strip. Cuba re-emphasized its recommendations and expressed hope that the requests of the international community would be met with a view to achieving fair and lasting peace that would allow to build a better future for the people in the Middle East, guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people to live in a free, independent and sovereign State fully exercising their human rights.

469. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that Israel continued to pursue its violations of the most fundamental principles of humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. It highlighted that, while it was presenting its national report to the Working Group, Israel was preparing its attacks on the Gaza Strip, which took place a few days after the review. It said the campaign of disinformation continued at the present session. It noted that Israel claimed not to have executed individuals, but said it had been responsible for the deaths on a daily basis of thousands of men, women and children. Israel had broken the record when it came to violations of international resolutions, especially Council resolutions.

470. Egypt indicated that the review of Israel showed that it chose to ignore its commitments under international human rights and humanitarian law. Its national report ignored that it remains the occupying Power of lands of three Arab countries, that since 1967 more than 20 per cent of the Palestinian population had been detained by Israel and that it was currently engaged in building a wall of racial separation on Palestinian territories. Regarding the Syrian Golan, Egypt stated that Israel continued the confiscation of lands and to impose its citizenship on Syrian people. Egypt repeated some of the obligations that Israel was trying to avoid, in particular that it should end its occupation of all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan; respect the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital; respect the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homelands and to be compensated for losses and damage incurred and to retrieve their properties; annul its illegitimate decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan; and end all settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories, in particular and around occupied Jerusalem and in the Syrian Golan.

471. The Islamic Republic of Iran stated the universal periodic review could not appropriately address this specific situation, and the gross and systematic human rights violations over 60 years required the particular attention of the international community. It cited human rights and humanitarian violations, such as racist laws and practices, extrajudicial killings, the demolition of houses, the imprisonment of innocent people, racist and discriminatory policies and practices, torture, the expansion of settlements, increasing checkpoints, the closure of crossings and military incursions, the illegal construction of a racist apartheid wall, targeted killings, the use of Palestinians as human shields and heinous

aggressions against the Gaza Strip, in flagrant breach of international laws, especially those constituting genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It urged the international community to take measures to end all forms and manifestations of occupation, aggression, racism and human rights violations perpetrated by the occupying Power.

472. Yemen recalled the recent Israeli attack against the Gaza Strip and indicated that Israel had ignored recommendations since 1948, so it was not surprising that it would ignore most review recommendations, especially those related to putting an end to the occupation in all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, to an independent sovereign State with Jerusalem as its capital, and to the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland and their right to compensation and restitution of their properties. Yemen also noted the recommendation that Israel implement fully its obligations under international humanitarian law, and all Council decisions relating to human rights in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

473. Malaysia appreciated the opportunity of the universal periodic review for delegations to engage in peaceful, constructive and non-confrontational dialogue to better understand, assess and ultimately effect tangible improvements to the human rights situation on the ground. It regretted that the presentation by Israel had not addressed most of the pertinent issues and recommendations raised by the Working Group. Noting that Israel had accepted only a small number of recommendations, it stated that the human rights of the Palestinian people remained unfulfilled and the humanitarian situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remained dire. Malaysia remained convinced that the occupation of the Palestinian territories was the root cause of human rights violations and called for the immediate end to all forms of occupation and aggression against Palestinians. Malaysia emphasized the importance of distinguishing between terrorists and legitimate resistance against occupation. The only means of achieving lasting peace, security and stability between Palestine and Israel is through peaceful non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations and dialogue. It reaffirmed its support for the constructive role of the Council in monitoring and deliberating the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

474. The United States of America noted the energetic civil society in Israel and its independent media, and urged Israel to continue to conduct consultations in the follow-up to the review outcome. The United States noted the visits by special rapporteurs hosted by Israel, which demonstrated its commitment to United Nations human rights mechanisms. It commended the State's efforts to increase opportunities for inclusion of minority communities and its determination to improve the status of women in all sectors of Israeli society. It noted the serious and constructive approach that many in the Council took towards the review of Israel, although it regretted the politicized nature of many of the recommendations. The United States was actively engaged in the international effort to establish peace in the region, including the establishment of a Palestinian State, that would exist side by side with Israel in peace and security.

(c) *General comments made by other relevant stakeholders*

475. Amnesty International shared many of the recommendations made during the review and looked forward to learning which recommendations did or did not enjoy the State's support. It suggested that the recommendations be strengthened, by recognizing the applicability to the occupied territories of the State's responsibility under international human rights and humanitarian law and to investigate war crimes and other violations of international law, holding perpetrators accountable and providing reparation to victims; lifting the blockade of the Gaza Strip and allowing the unhindered passage of people and goods; halting the expansion of Israeli settlements, the destruction of Palestinian homes and

the construction of the wall/fence in the West Bank; removing the more than 500 checkpoints and barriers impeding the movement of Palestinians; and reversing policies and practices that undermine the rights to health, education, housing, work and an adequate standard of living in the occupied territories, as well as for the Bedouin communities in Israel. It stated that many of the recommendations made had taken on an additional urgency in the wake of the recent conflict in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, and it urged their full and prompt implementation.

476. The Arab Commission for Human Rights stated that the lack of cooperation reduced the opportunity for a dialogue and the effectiveness of the universal periodic review. It suggested that the Council should not adopt the report. It noted that countries from various regions had expressed their concerns and made realistic and measurable requests to end the human rights violations against the Palestinians. It indicated that the behaviour of the Hebrew State as an occupying Power was in contradiction with its international obligations. The Commission stated that the separation wall, the segregation, the fragmentation of the Palestinian territories and the expulsion of Palestinians compromised the establishment of peace and the right of future generations to solve the problem. The Commission concluded by expressing its hope that the Palestinians would one day have an independent and sovereign State.

477. The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims stated that the implications of Israeli air strikes and ground invasions went beyond the destruction of infrastructure to the loss of innocent people's lives, including those of women, children and the elderly. It indicated that Palestinians had experienced oppression and continuous traumatic experiences and massive destruction, including internal displacement. More than two thirds of Palestinian women and children suffered from trauma. It emphasized the necessity of respecting international humanitarian law and formation of an independent fact-finding delegation as part of the responsibilities of the Council with regard to Palestine. It called upon the Council to deliver an independent report on the psychological and mental trauma of Palestinian women and children, especially in the Gaza Strip.

478. The World Federation of the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Association of Iran, noted the continued neglect of civilians' rights as human rights violations, in particular in the Gaza Strip. The Federation stated that Israel had violated all international human rights and humanitarian instruments. It indicated that children in Gaza were facing health epidemics and that, according to the World Health Organization, trapped Palestinian children were at risk owing to the lack of vaccination. The Federation referred to the likelihood of a health crisis and to the inflicted health trauma caused by the three-week offensive in Gaza.

479. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies commended the engagement of Israel in the universal periodic review process. It noted that international bodies and United Nations mechanisms, including the Council, had concluded that the confiscation and settlement of occupied Palestinian lands by Israel constituted illegal acts under international law. It noted that the process of settlement continued unabated. It said that the illegal policy of settlement and territorial confiscation had led to the violation of the fundamental rights of Palestinians and the endangerment of security and basic rights of all Israeli citizens. It asked about steps taken or to be taken by the Government to end this policy and dismantle settlements. It said that acknowledgement by Israel of the suffering of the Palestinian people caused by the occupation and policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory would constitute an important first step in addressing the current political impasse. The State's unwillingness to adequately address the human rights violations committed by Israeli forces within its review report was an ominous sign.

480. Conscience and Peace Tax International regretted that the response of Israel to the recommendations had not been made available in advance. It expressed its interest in the

recommendation in paragraph 100, subparagraph 22. The Organization welcomed the State's indication in its introductory remarks that it was planning to introduce an alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors to military service. The Organization encouraged Israel to bring in legislation consistent with international standards as set out in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/77 and in the jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee. The Organization called on Israel to ensure in particular that arrangements be put firmly under civilian control, compatible with the nature of the objections, not punitive in nature by comparison with military service, and that it should accept declarations of conscience without inquiry. The Organization stated that it would follow with interest the progress of bringing forward relevant legislation.

481. The Women's International Zionist Organization, while noting the steps taken to promote human and women's rights, stated that barriers remained to the full realization of human and civil rights. It noted the establishment of the Commission on Equal Employment Opportunities and the Commission of Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities, and that the commissions ensured active participation of non-governmental organizations. It called upon Israel to continue in this positive direction and to remove or narrow down its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, particularly on equality in public representation and on gender equality in family life. It noted as unjustified the reservation to article 16 and urged Israel to provide for civil marriage and divorce. It said more than 300,000 Israeli citizens with no religious affiliation could not marry in Israel. The introduction of civil marriage would provide them with one of the most basic civil rights. It would also introduce an egalitarian divorce law, replacing the existing discriminatory religious laws that currently held exclusive jurisdiction over marriage and divorce in Israel.

482. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence referred to the Israeli military operation launched against the Gaza Strip and to the death, injuries and displacement of Palestinians and the blockaded population. The Organization noted the destruction of Government and other buildings as well as the United Nations aid distribution to refugee centres. The Organization indicated that Israel had committed genocide according to the Geneva Conventions and Protocols; war crimes according to the Charter of the Nuremberg International Military Court Tribunal; crimes against humanity according to the Rome Statute and the Charter of the Nuremberg International Military Court Tribunal; and a crime of aggression, according to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX).

483. The Society Studies Centre expressed concern that the outcome of the review only addressed the rights of Israeli people, ignoring the gross violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel had tried to avoid its responsibility as an occupying State with regard to the violations committed in Gaza and the West Bank and other occupied lands in the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. The Centre stated that the most prominent violation committed by the State was to deny the self-determination of a nation by occupying the Palestinian lands, which had caused atrocities against the civilian population. It noted that 10,000 Palestinians were imprisoned, including Members of Parliament, and that a few days after the review, Israel had committed a massacre in Gaza. The Centre stated that Israel must be reminded and made accountable for what it had committed in Gaza and other parts of Palestine, and that it was unfair for Israel to destroy facilities and have European nations and other donors pay for rebuilding them.

484. The African American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development said it followed with alarm the tragedy of the Palestinian people as the Israeli occupation committed the worst human rights violations, ignoring all international laws and international humanitarian law. It appealed to the Council to stop immediately all violations contrary to all international laws and to oblige the occupying Power to comply with international resolutions in this regard. It said that the lack of respect for these resolutions

by Israel demonstrates its disdain for the international community. It appealed to the Council to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and to oblige Israel to put an end to the ethnic purification and massacres in which it was engaged in the Palestinian territories.

(d) *Concluding remarks of the State under review*

485. Israel indicated that, while the questions and recommendations were challenging, they hoped that they would ultimately serve a constructive purpose for all Israeli citizens. Israel was committed to implementing practical measures that, over time, would lead to the successful realization of the recommendations that it had accepted.

486. Israel noted the remarks of the President of the Council who, citing paragraph 32 of Council resolution 5/1, recalled that recommendations that enjoy the support of the State concerned would be identified as such, while other recommendations, together with the comments of the State concerned thereon, would be noted. The President emphasized how important it was for the State under review to indicate whether the recommendations that had not been referred to by the delegation were supported or noted.

487. In view of these remarks and the Council resolution, Israel indicated that it had already referred to the recommendations that enjoyed its support, and that all other recommendations had also been noted.

488. Israel would continue to consult with representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations to ensure the full realization of human rights in Israel. Israel believed that strong civil society involvement in the follow-up to the universal periodic review would make its vibrant democracy stronger, more resilient and more secure.

489. Israel was aware that its human rights record was not perfect; however, it had not lost sight of the founding ideals in their declaration of independence and looked forward to ensuring the continued growth of a society based upon the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

490. Before the adoption of the outcome of the review on Israel, statements were made.

491. Palestine reiterated its support for the universal periodic review process and noted that the applicability of international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention, with regard to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, made it incumbent upon the occupying authority to submit a detailed report on the human rights situation in the territories under its occupation, in addition to its report on the human rights situation within its own. Palestine questioned the commitment of Israel to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law and international humanitarian law in view of the fact that it occupied Palestinian territories in clear violation of United Nations principles and threatened international peace and security. Out of respect for international law and resolutions in general, and for the Council in particular, Israel must be obliged to apply all resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Council. Israel must respect all human rights mechanisms within the Council, in particular special procedures and fact-finding missions. Palestine indicated that the fact that Israel, as the occupying Power, had rejected a number of recommendations threatened the whole universal periodic review mechanism and undermined the work of the Council; it thus expressed its reservations. It noted that, in accordance with paragraph 32 of Council resolution 5/1, all recommendations form part of the outcome.

492. Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, noted that the universal periodic review was one of the most important mechanisms established by the Council to address human rights situations in the country under review in a comprehensive

manner. It noted that the Council should bear in mind that Israel, as an occupying Power, had a different status and had obligations flowing from international human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention. Under humanitarian law, the Palestinians were protected people and Israel had an obligation to ensure their enjoyment of all human rights. During its review in December 2008, many States reminded Israel of this fact and recommended the implementation of its human rights and humanitarian obligations, which Israel had chosen to ignore. It should be held accountable for persistent violations of all fundamental rights of the people it currently occupies and should respond to all the recommendations made. The Council should ensure that there will be no impunity for those who violate the rights of occupied people. The Organization of the Islamic Conference believed that the Israeli policy of ignoring some fundamental concerns relating to its human rights obligations had seriously undermined the objective of the universal periodic review exercise. It thus stated its reservations on this approach.

493. The United States of America noted that it had re-engaged with the Council and sought to ensure fairness and that no one country was singled out and treated differently from others. It noted that, during the consideration of the outcome of the review of Israel, certain procedural questions had been raised that were not raised with regard to any other State. They considered efforts to treat one country, any country, differently from all others, unacceptable. The United States noted with appreciation the remarks from Palestine, in its commitment to sticking with procedure and proceeding in a fair way. It appreciated the work of the secretariat and the President in keeping the Council on the right path. The founding principles of the Council — universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity — were not intended to shield countries from criticism but to create an environment in which all would be treated fairly, and ultimately make the Council more effective. It noted that all should rededicate themselves to the goals and founding principles of the Council.

494. Australia expressed its deep concern that, during the consideration of the outcome of the review of Israel, procedural questions had been raised that were not raised during the review of the other 30 States that have undergone the review process. Australia indicated that the singling out of one country was unacceptable and regrettable, given the generally positive operation of the review process and its contribution to human rights promotion in many countries. Australia expressed appreciation for the President's efforts to find a way through and to ensure the decorum of the Council.

495. Cuba indicated its support for the universal periodic review as an effective tool to make progress in human rights promotion and protection. Cuba had hoped that Israel would follow common practice, respected by all, to react to all the recommendations on which their position had not yet been set out during the Working Group review. Cuba would not object to the adoption of the report, but wished to put on record its hope that Israel would understand the appeals from the international community and would endeavour to respect all human rights, including of the Palestinian people living in the occupied Palestine territories, as was its obligation as the occupying Power.

9. Liechtenstein

496. The review of Liechtenstein was held on 5 December 2008 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the national report submitted by Liechtenstein in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/1); the compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/2); and the summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/3).