



*Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**State of Israel - Right of Reply - Agenda Item 8 “General Debate” – CSP28**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am compelled to take the floor in response to statements that mentioned my country. We categorically reject the accusations made in these statements and regret the exploitation of this forum in order to promote political agendas.

On the morning of October 7th, the terrorist organization Hamas, brutally massacred more than 1200 people, among them babies, children, women and elderly people. Entire families were butchered in their homes and burned alive. Infants were mutilated and children gunned to death with their parents, but not before first cutting off their limbs whilst still alive. Over 240 were abducted to Gaza.

This was not a random attack, but rather a calculated and meticulously planned, act of war by Hamas-ISIS, a Palestinian terrorist group which is armed, financed and backed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Beyond these atrocities, as we detailed in our National Statement, we now have evidence that Hamas was also planning to use chemical weapons against Israeli civilians.

Contrary to the false and completely unfounded claims made by the Palestinians, these aforementioned findings are real and must alert the international community to the imminent threat which arises from the proliferation of WMD's to non-state actors.

The lies that were spread here yesterday have specific goals – to draw attention away from the renewing and rebuilding of the chemical weapons project in Syria, and to detract from the concerns, that some of the countries making these false accusations, have themselves used chemical weapons in a number of incidents.

Mr. Chairperson,

Regarding the false allegations brought forth before the OPCW about the usage of White Phosphorous, the Palestinians have already received a clear response from the OPCW on that matter. Such claims are not covered under the CWC but rather in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

To continue raising baseless accusations, after the Director General's clear advisory that the place to address such claims is in a completely different forum, is an abuse of the Convention for political purposes and a pointless attempt to distract from other critical items on the agenda.

That said, the facts do matter, so let me be crystal clear.

Israel is committed to conducting its military operations in accordance with its obligations under international law, including its obligations under international treaties, such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, as well as customary law.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let us also not be misled by the deceitful Iranian rhetoric. Their words about disarmament, non-proliferation and security are but a feeble guise to distract from the murderous actions of a genocidal regime, which inflicts tragedy both inside Iran, and beyond its borders.

While attempting to distance itself from the war in the Middle East, the Iranian Ayatollah regime puppeteers its terror proxies – Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, the Houthis and other militias. It guides them and provides financial and military means – weapons, expertise, and training. The responsibility for the horrors of the horrendous October 7<sup>th</sup> attack on our people lies in Teheran.

We would like to request that this statement be designated as an official document of this Conference and be posted on both Catalyst and the public website.