

**The 340<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body**

**November 2020**

**Reply by the State of Israel to Written Statements on Agenda Item POL/5**

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Israel wishes to exercise its right of reply and would like to express its regret as to the misuse by some delegations of this forum to promote political agendas.

Israel supports the ILO's technical assistance and development programs, including in the Palestinian territories. Israel has always cooperated with the ILO and facilitated its activities in the territories; including an annual delegation.

However, it is unfortunate that the facts and data presented under this item and in the report, do not reflect the reality on the ground in an accurate and balanced matter. This agenda item, which is the only political one on the agenda, is based on a report that suffers from methodological and factual deficiencies that we wish to bring to attention.

The goal of the programs and assistance of the ILO in the territories should be to better the lives and livelihood of the Palestinian people. However, the report does not provide information or analysis of the working conditions of Palestinians in areas that are under the Palestinian Authority's control. Furthermore, the report refers to many other elements that affect the situation in a very superficial manner, if at all, such as, informal economy, inter-Palestinian divide, the control of Hamas- a terrorist organization - on the world of work, discrimination against women, minimum wage and pay gaps between women and man etc.

The report could have benefitted from a more extensive analysis of actions taken in the PA on employment creation, vocational training, cooperatives and social entrepreneurship, supporting entrepreneurship and youth unemployment, just to name a few examples. These topics are in the core of the Organization's professional work and should hence receive more focus.

In the current report there is data based on sources that are not clear. It is necessary to build a solid methodology that would guide the work of the mission as well as data collection, including

setting high standards for using external sources and reports. Only through these means will this report be relevant in understanding and battering the situation on the ground.

We urge the members of this organization to maintain its credibility and professional standards and work on accomplishing its global mandate.

Thank you.