



## Transatlantic Declaration:

# END THE DISCRIMINATION of Israel at the UN

**We, lawmakers from both sides of the Atlantic and from across party lines, call on EU Member States and fellow democracies to help end the systematic discrimination of Israel at the UN.**

To name just a few examples: In 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted 17 one-sided resolutions against Israel and only six resolutions naming six of the other 192 Member States for human rights violations. The UN Human Rights Council targets only one state – Israel – with a separate, stand-alone agenda item (No. 7), while human rights violations in all other countries are considered under one single agenda item (No. 4). Currently, 21 percent of the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council focus just on Israel. Last September, the UN's Economic and Social Council condemned Israel alone among the nations for allegedly violating women's rights.

Within the context of rising global antisemitism, the relentless, disproportionate, and ritualistic condemnation of the world's only Jewish state at the UN is particularly dangerous and must finally end. Israel deserves attention and scrutiny, as does every other nation. But it also merits equal treatment – nothing more, nothing less.

As strong supporters of a rules-based international order, we fear that these double standards against Israel also damage the UN itself. By violating its own Purposes and Principles, which commit the organization to “develop friendly relations among nations,” and to the “principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members,” the UN is undermining its credibility and losing public support. Moreover, by spending an inordinate amount of time on Israel, the UN is diverting scarce resources and attention from urgent international crises. As German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas put it in 2019:

*“Israel is still being denounced, treated in a biased manner and marginalised inappropriately in UN bodies to this day. This state of affairs is painful and unsatisfactory, and especially since the UN is at the heart of the multilateral, rules-based order and vital to international security and peace.”*

We therefore call upon EU Member States and all fellow democracies to:

- Vote against the excessive number of anti-Israel resolutions in the General Assembly and other UN organs. Such concerted opposition from democratic member states would deny discriminatory resolutions unwarranted legitimacy.
- Work to reform the UN Human Rights Council and abolish its discriminatory Agenda Item 7, which is designed to censure and stigmatize Israel.
- Work to help discontinue the discriminatory UN committees and programs within the UN system with a specific mandate to promote an anti-Israel agenda, which only serve to undermine the prospects for peace within the framework of a negotiated two-state solution.

As the late UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, both Israel and the United Nations “rose from the ashes of the Holocaust.” The transatlantic community of democracies has thus a sacred duty to ensure that the UN system is no longer misused to constantly vilify the Jewish state and, in so doing, damage the world body itself and its universal values.