Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson - 52, rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva (Switzerland)

30th July 2018

Dear Chairwoman Gomes,

We, the undersigned human rights organizations based in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), write to you to request your intervention with the Government of Israel (GOI) to urge it to submit its very overdue State Report to the Committee.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights last considered Israel's implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in November 2011, and the Committee issued its concluding observations in December 2011, almost seven years ago.

The GOI's Report was due on 2 December 2016, more than a year and a half ago.

Physicians for Human Rights Israel approached the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in January 2017 to inquire as to the status of the Report. The MoJ responded in March 2017 that it was working on a draft report. However, so far no report has been submitted. The Convention notes that States have an obligation to report (Art 16) in accordance with the prescribed timelines (Art 17).

Non-governmental organizations, including the undersigned, believe that timely reporting is imperative in order to appropriately check compliance with the Covenant and with the previous concluding observations and to urge the State Party to fulfill its obligations under the Covenant. In 2011, the Committee raised over 30 principal subjects of concern and recommendations, predominantly related to the rights' violations of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living in the oPt, and these conclusions need urgent review and examination.

We are increasingly concerned about the deterioration of ESCR in territories under Israel's control, including in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. The Committee's review of this situation is of particular significance at this time.

The NGOs are ready to submit their parallel reports and to respond to the State but must await the GOI's submission of its State Party Report.

We call upon you to urge Israel to submit its report in order to fulfill its reporting requirements, and to schedule a prompt session to review the State Party's compliance with the Covenant. These

actions would provide support for local non-governmental organizations working to protect economic, social, and cultural rights.

Signed,

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality
Physicians for Human Rights Israel