



**H.Res. 624 – A resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history.**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.Res. 624 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Alcee Hastings (D-FL) on August 4, 2007, and was reported by unanimous consent from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.Res. 624 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 15, 2007.

**BACKGROUND**

On June 19, 2007, Mr. Ron Adam, director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's United Nations Political Affairs Department, became the first Israeli diplomat to chair a United Nations Committee, the Committee on Program and Coordination. This 33 member committee approves the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies.

Israel joined the United Nations in 1949.

**SUMMARY**

H.Res. 624 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Congratulates the Government and people of the State of Israel on Israel's first ever appointment to chair a United Nation committee;
- Supports continued expansion of Israel's role at the United Nations;
- Welcomes recent attempts by the United Nations to address the issue of prevailing anti-Semitism;
- Calls on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at all United Nations meetings and hold accountable United Nations Member States that make such statements;
- Urges the members of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG) to extend full and permanent membership to Israel, without conditions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effective member of the Asian States Group of the United Nations; and

- Calls upon United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to continue to work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and ensure Israel's full participation in, and access to, all international for a under United Nations auspices.

**STAFF CONTACT**

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.