

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
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Ministry of Construction and Housing

Review of SDG implementation
SDG 11- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and
sustainable

United Nations
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Mr. President,

Israel has one of the highest percentages of urban residents in the world. In a country where 93% of the population lives in cities, careful planning of the urban environment is crucial to the nation's long-term success.

Israel's Ministry of Construction and Housing is leading the country's implementation of SDG-11 and promotes sustainable urban growth through broad and long-range policy development and implementation. In addition, Israel recently established the *National Headquarters for Urbanism* – a think-tank that articulates a variety of needs and goals to be achieved through a process of cooperation of all levels of Government to academia, civil society and the private sector.

As follow up to the New Urban Agenda a forum of experts and key stakeholders was established in Israel named "*The Quito Forum*": with the goal of expanding knowledge for the promotion and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

One of the main issues promoted by the Ministry of Construction and Housing is public space. With the aim of bringing life into the urban space and making it accessible to the public, we prepared a compilation of best practices designed by local authorities, residents and municipalities to other local authorities. We also began to conduct urban nature surveys with the goal of assisting in the preservation and accessibility of urban nature and to provide additional quality public space.

Cities have always been focal points for economic growth, innovation, and employment, and can offer important opportunities for economic and social development. Getting urbanism right is, therefore, especially important for developing countries, where the future growth in urban populations will be greatest. MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation – work together with governments around the world building and hosting programs to address the complex issues surrounding urbanism.

Cities will continue to grow – some at a tremendous rate. The goal of sustainable and resilient cities can only be achieved through careful long-term planning and action across all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.