

## HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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### **General Debate**

United Nations

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Thank you Mr. President,

Today we are reaffirming our commitment to the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 and I, as the Special Envoy for sustainability and climate change have and feel very privileged to deliver our statement.

It is a very profound task ensuring the well-being of both people and the earth for us and the generations to come. For Israel, inspiring and contributing for a better world is part of the Jewish and Israeli tradition. It is epitomized in the concept of *tikkun olam* – improving the world – which is reflected also in our dedication to realizing the SDGs.

Israel is well-known for innovation in various fields, which, together with the right policy framework, can provide comprehensive solutions. We have been able to implement successful policies and technological innovations. For example, in water management, turning it from a limiting factor in our economic development to an abundant resource, an experience we continue to share around the globe. In this regard, desalination has been a game-changer, but it can only be one part of the water management puzzle if we are to realize SDG 6.

Energy is another example. While access to energy is high in Israel, increasing renewables – even in a sun-drenched country like ours – is not simple. We have limited land resources and Israel's population, which today stands at around 9 million, is expected to grow by about 10% over the next decade. Fast-growing urban areas and the need for renewable energy production compete for limited land.

We strongly believe, Mr. President, in international cooperation. As already mentioned, Israel is committed to share its solutions and expertise to address common challenges at home and abroad. One example is water management and availability. Israel has managed to solve its water problems by desalination and by recycling over 80% of its waste water. This could easily be widened into our neighborhood.

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - combines the transfer of knowledge gained from hands-on experience with modern technologies originating from leading Israeli experts and institutions. With fellow nations, we are joining hands to find solutions for the benefit of people all over the world.

Mr. President,

I am proud to announce that this past Sunday the Israeli cabinet unanimously decided to accelerate investments in the developing world. The Prime Minister also stated that the Israeli government will support the Israeli private sector in becoming more involved with development activities in partner countries.

Through sharing best practices, building international partnerships and committing to foster our global solidarity, we can achieve the SDGs and create a better world for future generations. Israel is honored to participate in this global effort and looks forward to working with other countries and international organizations to achieve these important global goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.