

63rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by
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17th Session
Commission on Sustainable Development

General Comments on Chairperson's
Draft Negotiating Document

United Nations, New York
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Madame Chair,

Israel would like to congratulate the Chair, Her Excellency, Minister Verburg, and the Commission on Sustainable Development Bureau on their election and would like to thank them for their work during the preparatory process for the seventeenth session of the CSD. Israel is committed to contributing to the commission as stated in our intervention earlier this morning.

The thematic issues related to agriculture, drought and desertification, land, and rural development and Africa are of great importance to Israel. Any significant progress on these issues will require dedication and collaboration by all countries. In this spirit, Israel is looking forward to working together to achieve positive developments in these areas.

The aforementioned issues cannot be addressed in an individual manner. Rather, we must examine these themes also in a global context by acknowledging the impact that the economic crisis, food shortages, and climate change will have on sustainable development. These challenges require urgent action on our part and call upon us to work together to achieve constructive and effective outcomes. Israel is eager to partner together toward this end.

Israel thanks Minister Verburg and the Bureau for their thorough and valuable work in preparing the Chairperson's draft negotiating document from which we will build our negotiations for the outcome of this Commission. Israel finds this document to be a good basis for negotiations and finds it to be a satisfactory foundation for discussions. Israel will contribute additional specific points and comments during the meetings of the working groups.

Madame Chair,

The themes being addressed during this session are of utmost importance. Therefore, Israel calls upon all members of the CSD to resolve to strengthen our effectiveness by focusing on the themes of this Commission. Let us focus on commonalities that bring us together. By maintaining a professional and non-political approach, we will be able to achieve effective and beneficial outcomes.

Thank you.