

# ISRAEL

## High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Statement delivered by Ambassador Mordechai Amihai-Bivas,  
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

July 19, 2016

PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
800 Second Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Tel: 212-499-5510  
Fax: 212-499-5515  
[info-un@newyork.mfa.gov.il](mailto:info-un@newyork.mfa.gov.il)  
<http://israel-un.mfa.gov.il>

Mr. President,

This year, the High Level Political Forum marks the beginning of an exciting era in which we work together to improve the future of humanity.

The theme this year, “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, has become a familiar phrase of the 2030 Agenda. Our task now is to turn this catchy slogan into our way-of-life.

Leaving no one behind goes beyond inclusion; it is also about involvement – From politicians to professors, from scientists to small business owners and from philanthropists to farmers – Each and every member of our society holds the key to unlock the huge potential of our Agenda.

Mr. President,

Israel’s commitment to leave no one behind has shaped our national policies at all levels. A special ministry – the Ministry of Social equality- has been established in order to reduce inequalities between sectors of Israeli society, and empower vulnerable groups including women, youth, the elderly, the disabled and minorities.

One issue of particular importance for Israel is gender equality. In 2015, for the first time in its history, the State budget included a gender perspective that aims to mainstream gender into all aspects of society. In addition, each ministry is required to advance gender equality through access to decision-making roles and special employment programs, tailored for the specific needs of Arab and ultra-orthodox women, as well as single mothers.

Mr. President,

Achieving the 2030 Agenda will require innovation and creativity in the way we use our unique resources.

Israel may not have many natural resources, but it makes up for it in human resources. With a vibrant civil society, we have managed to successfully solve many development challenges.

In Israel, education to innovation starts at an early age. Engaging youth from all sectors of society ensures that they get the tools and the opportunity to create social and economic change in their communities.

Mr. President,

In order to achieve lasting results we need strong and effective international collaboration.

Israel has been working for decades with countries around the world in order to build their capacities and help them pave the path to sustainable development.

MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, demonstrates the importance of effective partnerships for development and the implementation of bilateral and multilateral projects, with each side contributing its strengths and unique experience and expertise.

Mr. President,

French philosopher Albert Camus once said, and I quote: "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend." As we embark on this new and exciting chapter of sustainability and prosperity, we should walk side by side on the path of a better tomorrow.

Thank you