



State of Israel

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

IPM CSD -17

Africa

The delegation of the State of Israel

"The Way Forward"

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

At the outset, we wish to note the long-standing historical and fruitful ties between Israel and African countries.

For the past 50 years, Israel has been steadfast in its commitment to agricultural development cooperation. Its agricultural programming in Africa deals with the introduction of modern agricultural and agro-technical methods designed to increase the levels, sustainability, and quality of agricultural production.

Israel's own development experience — moving from a developing country to a developed one in less than six decades, despite the constant threat of war and scarcity of resources — has enabled us to design comprehensive and holistic programs for urban and rural settings, both of which are of critical importance to Africa.

These initiatives are in alignment with NEPAD principles and strategies which we fully support.

These challenges and development initiatives have been carried out in partnership with donor countries, UN organizations, and international aid agencies. In the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Israel and African partner countries have collaborated on projects with USAID, GTZ and CIDA (Canada). In pursuit of donor harmonization, Israel has signed numerous memoranda of understanding with UNDP, FAO and UNEP for development cooperation in Africa.

Rural development also requires the introduction of nonagricultural initiatives, particularly because modern agriculture is less labor intensive. Therefore, it is important to encourage micro, small, and medium-size enterprises involved in the first-level processing of agricultural products for added value.

Israel's approach to agricultural development in Africa is based on harnessing science, technology, and human capacity development.



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The challenge is to adapt traditional practices to contemporary technologies and standards relating to such critical issues, such as water management and irrigation, appropriate production practices and inputs, crop protection, post-harvest techniques, marketing and value addition.

Madam Chair,

Over the last two decades, Israel and its counterparts established a number of demonstration projects in selected semi-arid regions in Africa. These projects were designed to showcase new technologies for intensifying and diversifying crop production, with the goal of promoting a more efficient use of water through rationing of limited water resources and installation of pressure irrigation systems. These methods have proven to be effective, despite their higher initial cost.

At present, Israel is developing an innovative mini-sprinkler and drip irrigation system that requires a much lower level of atmospheric pressure than the systems used today. The system, called Africa Market Garden (AMG) or Techno-agricultural Innovation for Poverty Alleviation (TIPA), lends itself to establishing individual market gardens in limited areas to contribute substantially to sustainable food production. By utilizing this system, the smallholder African farmer can construct his/her own small water rationing facility.

By disseminating technologies such as these, African community gardens and individual market gardens are encouraged to develop on a large scale throughout the continent, thereby revolutionizing traditional African agriculture, which emphasizes the role of women in obtaining food security for their families.

Another program currently being developed is entitled the “Farmers of the Future,” designed to acquaint school children with modern agricultural technologies.



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Madame Chair,

In conclusion, Israel proposes that these models be recommended by the CSD-17 as possible programs that could contribute to food security and development in Africa.

Thank you, Madame Chair.
