

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Check Against Delivery

Statement by

Ambassador Daniel Carmon
Deputy Permanent Representative

Closing Statement

16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable
Development

United Nations, New York
16 May 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation and as a member of the Bureau, please allow me to convey once again our sincerest appreciation for your able stewardship throughout the 16th session of the CSD. I wish also to thank my fellow colleagues in the Bureau.

Israel has taken great interest in the Commission on Sustainable Development and contributed its share towards a successful sixteenth session. Our delegation from Israel featured ministerial representation in the person of the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as experts from a host of relevant fields, including Israel's International Center of Cooperation, Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment, among others.

Having taken an active role in the meetings throughout the CSD-16, the Israeli delegation found them to be both informative and fruitful, and extends its gratitude to the Secretariat and all those involved in organizing and hosting these valuable gatherings.

Serving as a member of the Bureau, Israel took great care to ensure a successful review of these important topics. My delegation was proud to contribute to the preparations towards this meeting by hosting a conference and a seminar involving the topics of the CSD-16. During the course of the session, the Israeli delegation hosted two side events and a learning center, and was one of 37 countries to submit its national reporting to the CSD-16, affirming in action its commitment to the goals set forth in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In addition, members of our delegation conducted dozens of professional meetings on the sidelines of the conference. This outreach effort reflects Israel's intention to translate the positive work Israel is doing bilaterally to the broader Membership. It is my delegation's firmest intention to continue to contribute in the most productive and substantive way in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

As my delegation has said so many times in the past two weeks, Israel is committed to

playing an active role in the global community's pursuit of sustainable development. Both in our region and around the world, the challenges that face us in these important fields can be viewed as a source of conflict and strife. My delegation, however, prefers to believe that these challenges can be the very impetus for cooperation. In this context, Israel reaffirms its commitment to implement the Agricultural Technology for Development Resolution adopted by the General Assembly. We are also committed to continue sharing our expertise and know-how with our neighbors, including our Palestinian neighbors, and with the wider global community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Bureau of CSD-17 on its instatement, in particular the Chairman of the Bureau, Mr. Verhagen of the Netherlands. My delegation extends the Bureau its sincerest wishes for success in the coming year.

Thank you.