

Commission on Sustainable Development – 18<sup>th</sup> Session  
Opening Statement – Israel  
3 May 2010  
By  
Shuli Davidovich, Counsellor

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, allow me to convey our wishes for a very successful meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. My delegation extends to you our full support and cooperation.

As we begin this Commission, the international community stands at the dawn of a new era to attain the goals of Agenda 21. Israel, for its part, continues to reinvigorate its efforts to protect and preserve our environment and our most important natural resources, for we understand that environmental protection is not bound by borders.

To achieve sustainable development and to transition to a green economy, we know that massive efforts both on the level of policy and of practice are of great necessity.

We have re-prioritized our national goals to transform waste from a liability into an economic resource, to prevent and reduce air pollution to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, to increase enforcement based upon a policy of zero tolerance, and to promote environmental education and sustainable lifestyle.

This last point is crucial. Israel knows intimately of the importance of educating our youth and the great contribution it can bring to cultural shifts specifically in regards to our relationship with the environment. As such, Israel is investing in environmental education in the formal school system, including in kindergartens and primary schools.

Mr. Chairman,

We have accomplished incredible progress in the last half century. But this scientific advancement was accompanied by an unprecedented amount of harmful consumption and waste. Agenda 21 and PFIA 21 set out clear ways in which we can transition to green societies. We look forward to the work and outcome of this session of the CSD, and we anticipate that it will foster new resolve, new partnerships, and new initiatives through which we can all achieve truly sustainable development.

Thank you.