

Statement by Israel
“10 Year Framework of Programmes
on Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns”
18th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development
United Nations, New York
May 2010

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

For nearly 10 years, the Israeli government has accelerated the introduction of a wide range of tools and policies to facilitate increased sustainable consumption and production.

These include technological innovation in energy and resource efficiency, green procurement by government agencies and bodies, the greening of government operations, public-private partnerships with industry and academia in order to “green” buildings and schools, the adoption of an extended producer responsibility approach and a life cycle approach and green labeling.

Mr. Chairman,

While the subject of sustainable consumption is extremely diverse, I wish to touch upon unique aspects of Israel's commitment. In the field of sustainable water management, Israel stands as a leader.

This know-how developed as the direct result of a scarcity of water coupled with expanding demands for water from a growing population and economy.

The government engaged in major public campaigns and developed economic tools such as taxation and differential water pricing according to consumption in order to promote conservation and to reduce consumption on the household level.

In recognition of the cross-fertilization between sustainable water policy and energy policy, Israel launched a national program known as Israel NEWTech.

The program, based upon Israel's experience in coping with scarce energy and water resources, seeks to promote new technologies of water management and energy efficiency to reduce resource consumption and environmental pollution

Simultaneously, we continue to explore new areas where we believe our added value can foster better environmental performance and sustainable patterns of production and consumption. One such area is the Information and Communication Technology market (ICT) that presents new opportunities in supporting energy and resource efficiency, such as green building or smart grid electricity transmission and distribution.

In the realm of education related to sustainable consumption and production, Israel initiated a Green School accreditation program, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Education . Not only do students learn about the importance of environmental awareness, hundreds of kindergartens, schools and universities have met

sustainable standards and been certified as green educational institutions.

Such success at these educational systems is encouraging and we are working on additional initiatives in order to offer incentives and benefits when peoples' preferences and behavior shift towards sustainable consumption patterns.

Through a coordinated and comprehensive approach, and innovative technological leadership, we hope to bring about a real change in consumption and production practices at all levels

Thank you.