

# High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2023

## General Debate

Honorable Chair, Excellencies,

It is an honor to participate in the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations.

As we meet here, halfway to twenty-thirty, I come with a clear message. Our shared environment goes beyond any one nation or political dispute. Issues that go beyond man-made borders demand that we act in partnership.

Israel is committed to working together to create a better future for all of us. This is our only planet. Israel fully supports the implementation of the SDGs, and their vision to protect our planet, and to ensure everyone the enjoyment of health and prosperity.

We are a small country of less than ten million people, even smaller than some cities around the world. Yet, we strive to make a real impact through innovation. In our Start-Up Nation, our scientists, researchers, business community, and policy-makers work hard to solve complex challenges. For example, though our total carbon emissions are small, we have much to offer global efforts to fight climate change. This is true both for fighting climate change, and for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Israel has many innovative solutions to share in the fields of health, agriculture and education. We are also well-known for our achievements in water management, and stand ready to share our expertise.

Israel is located in one of the driest regions of the world. And yet, despite the growing gap between demand and available water resources, we are able to satisfy our own water needs. We desalinate seawater. And we recycle over eighty-five percent of our wastewater, allowing it to be used for irrigation and returned to nature.

We seek to work with regional and global partners to apply innovative solutions at scale. There are many opportunities for cooperation. We can work together to promote our common welfare in the fields of clean water, wastewater reuse, renewable energy, and so much more.

While we aspire to work across borders, we also try to lead by example, working across sectors at the national level. My ministry is advancing a climate law that will greatly reduce Israel's

carbon emissions by twenty-thirty. In addition, we are working with local communities to improve the standard of living in our cities, reduce air pollution and increase recycling.

We are committed to working towards advances in water management in support of SDG six. We are promoting renewable energies in support of SDG seven. Our high-tech and innovation hubs are developing sustainable infrastructure and industry-leading innovations in support of SDG nine. We are advancing the development of sustainable cities and communities in support of SDG eleven, including a national plan to shade and cool urban spaces using trees. We do this, since we understand that we are stronger when we partner together in support of SDG seventeen and the promise of sustainable development.

The Abraham Accords have opened up new possibilities for regional partnership, and the State of Israel is dedicated to cooperating on issues impacting us all.

In conclusion, I would like to deliver a simple message: Israel will remain a committed partner for the promotion of sustainable development.

I am grateful to be here among my colleagues from around the world. Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to working with you in the years to come towards a healthy and sustainable future for us all.