

## **ISRAEL'S 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR**

### **MAIN MESSAGES**

#### **‘Transforming Resilience into Progress’**

April, 2025

Israel's second VNR comes in the aftermath of October 7, under unique circumstances that pose profound challenges to sustainable development. Nevertheless, Israel remains committed to the 2030 Agenda, pursuing it across all sectors. Israel's review will intend to highlight progress, identify persistent gaps, and outline forward-looking measures for effective and synergetic implementation of the SDGs.

Israel's demographic diversity requires tailored and inclusive strategies that leave no one behind. Special emphasis is placed on inclusive growth, resilience, and closing gaps between central and peripheral areas.

#### **Social Resilience in a Digitalized World**

Israel has a young population and a relatively high fertility rate, in stark contrast to most OECD countries. It is also renowned as a global powerhouse in high-tech innovation and digital transformation. Linking these two trends, the government has implemented several initiatives, focusing on marginalized communities and contributing to gender equality. Recent initiatives include an online platform addressing cyberbullying and harassment, empowering children and teenagers, including disproportionately affected young women and girls, to safely navigate digital spaces. Another platform provides equal access to educational and career information, potentially alleviating discrimination against women and girls in education and employment.

#### **Health Services and Emergency Response**

Israel's advanced health services played a critical role in responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of October 7. Recent events highlighted the need for enhanced emergency response systems and post-trauma care.

The national health system adopted innovative methodologies and digital tools to support both physical and mental health, with targeted care for conflict-affected populations. Addressing long-term trauma remains a national priority.

### **Reducing Economic Disparities**

Israel is addressing regional disparities, particularly between central and peripheral areas, through targeted investment in innovation hubs, vocational training, and infrastructure. Efforts are underway to bridge economic gaps between Jewish and Arab populations by promoting equal opportunities and social cohesion. A notable initiative is the establishment of diverse innovation centers across the country that promote high-tech development in peripheral regions, ensuring that all citizens benefit from national progress.

### **Climate Change and Urban Resilience**

Located in a climatic hotspot, Israel faces pressing issues related to climate change and extreme weather events. At both municipal and national levels, initiatives have been launched to address challenges such as heatwaves and droughts. These include green building projects and shading strategies designed to create climate-resilient cities, enhancing the quality of life for urban dwellers - who comprise approximately 92% of Israel's population. However, significant work remains.

### **Water Management and Food Security**

Israel continues to promote innovation in advanced water management and agricultural practices. By implementing advanced desalination technologies and integrating water sources, the government aims to secure a reliable and sustainable water supply, particularly in arid regions. Additionally, the national food security plan focuses on ensuring a reliable food supply that safeguards against shortages and nutritional deficiencies, especially during crises.

## **International Aid Contributions**

Supporting international aid and resilience is another key focus. Through its official aid agency and other entities, Israel provides relief and training to developing countries on topics such as agriculture and climate resilience. These efforts not only contribute to global sustainable development but also strengthen international partnerships.

## **Future Challenges**

Israel's second VNR underscores the nation's dedication to advancing the 2030 Agenda, domestically and internationally. However, Israel still lacks a multi-agency, cross-sector national approach for implementing the SDGs. Moving forward, Israel will focus on creating robust national frameworks that facilitate coordinated efforts among government entities and other stakeholders. Israeli creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit will be pivotal in sustaining progress toward a resilient and equitable future for all.