

Statement delivered by H.E Yacov HADAS-HANDELSMAN

**Special Envoy for Sustainability and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
.Israel**

Madam President/ Chair

Distinguished colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen.

The last year has witnessed a massive change in the Israeli mode of operation regarding sustainability and climate change. First of all, Israel is going to present its first sustainability report on 17th July 2019 during the high level political forum to be convened in New York. This report, which is almost ready, will focus of course on a kind of stock taking regarding the updated situation of the implementation of the 17 goals and 169 targets. But, and not less important, there will be a chapter portraying our vision towards 2030. This vision aspires to recruit the Israeli proven innovation qualities, not only the scientific-economic ones, but also the social ones, to help fulfilling the noble goal of leaving no one behind.

Ladies and gentlemen

Inclusiveness or one of its synonyms leaving no one behind, should and could be transformed into reality. It seems that the international community is facing these days two main challenging problems. Climate change and the widening gap between the privileged and the dis privileged.

Talking about climate change, it is obvious that the two big challenges the world is facing are: the shrinking of fresh water availability and the clear decline in food. This, especially in developing countries. Well, ladies and gentlemen, with the help of various water purification devices and technics good management, and what we call smart agriculture, one can achieve/ make miracles. It is not something beyond reach. Israel has these technologies and is ready to continue sharing them with whoever is in need, and for the benefit of humanity. And let us not forget that Israel has indeed solved its water problems!

With regard to the less privileged sectors of society, Israel is investing in its social innovation and creativity. Only one example, making digitalization accessible for old people or what is usually called the third age community.

Another significant development concerning climate change is a decision adopted by the Israeli government last July, dealing with the adaptation of gas emissions according to the Paris the developments in Israel regarding

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, there is a lot more to be said about developments in Israel regarding sustainability. But time is always limited so, I will only say we are on the right path, ready to cooperate with every one for the benefit of every one

Thank you very much.