

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 9. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Intervention by Israel¹

Chairperson, Distinguished delegates and participants,

Israel is characterized by a high rate of population growth compared to other developed countries and one of the highest population densities in the developed world. Rising standards of living and consumption patterns, accelerated building and industrial activity put increased pressure on natural resources.

The Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) has identified sustainable consumption and production as one of the key levers to promote sustainability and has included it among the ministry's main goals in its work plan.

A recent report on the economics of greenhouse gas abatement opportunities in Israel, commissioned by the MoEP and prepared by McKinsey & Co., found that behavioral changes, including energy efficient lighting, public transportation, bicycle use, reduced meat consumption could reduce emissions by about 7mTCO_{2e} in 2030.

Hence, one of the interministerial committees, charged with finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Israel, focuses on ways to encourage behavioral changes.

A national campaign will convey clear and informative messages on SCP to the public, along with a comprehensive guide on sustainable lifestyle, to be published.

One of the main questions we are dealing with is how we can overlap the gap between public awareness and sustainable behavior.

Israel will participate in the next round of the OECD survey on household behavior, commencing 2010. The results of this project are expected to serve as a database for policy makers.

A government decision on greening the government will be submitted for approval shortly. In addition, a green procurement initiative by government already exists.

In addition, the MoEP established a roundtable with representatives of government, businesses, industry, academia and NGO's, in order to coordinate and initiate joint activities to promote sustainable production and consumption.

It is the intention of the MoEP to establish a committee charged with preparing a national action plan on sustainable consumption and production.

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.