

DRAFT 3
4 December, 5pm

**Statement of Ms Lironne Bar Sadeh
On Behalf of the State of Israel
UNFCCC COP 18 and CMP 8
Doha, Qatar, December 2012**

Let me open by thanking our hosts for the generous welcome we have received here in Qatar and for ensuring a successful outcome of this meeting. I thank in particular, His Excellency, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, President of the Qatar Administrative Control and Transparency Authority and President of COP 18; I thank Ms Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

We stand before significant changes in future Climate Change negotiations with the realization that the world cannot continue with its business as usual policies. This was emphasized in the Durban agreements where it was agreed to look forward towards paving the way for a new and comprehensive legally binding agreement.

All countries must be part of this new agreement which will, of course, take into account the capabilities, national circumstances and special characteristics of each country.

Israel, for example, has one of the highest rates of population increase among OECD countries; a relatively high GDP growth and limited options for renewable energy solutions. Nevertheless, Israel realizes that being part of the new agreement will require taking on new responsibilities.

This is why Israel has supported various mechanisms we believe can build mutual trust and a sense of common purpose such as, MRV, the Registry and International Consultations and Analysis of biennial update reports.

Even as we develop the future agreement a great deal can be accomplished in the coming years. Israel is taking significant steps to carry out its pledge of a 20% reduction by 2020 in comparison to business as usual.

In the area of mitigation, Israel is focusing on initiatives that reduce greenhouse gasses improve resource efficiency and reduce operational costs. One of the successful measures that we are implementing, is a government subsidy, which funds projects in the industrial, commercial and municipal. We expect to see reductions of thousands of tons of CO2 emissions by 2020.

Energy efficiency is the most important measure Israel can undertake to reduce its emissions. Israel's Green building initiative, which was launched last year, is an important part of its national plan..

Lack of natural resources and the semi arid climatic conditions of our region, have made Israel a hub of entrepreneurship and innovative technologies. Over the decades we have succeeded in becoming increasingly efficient in wastewater reuse, which stands at over 75%. We have developed resilient crops and increasingly efficient methods of irrigation.

This expertise is shared today by MASHAV, Israel's agency for international development cooperation with developing countries.

Israel has established an Israeli Climate Change Information Center which focuses on climate forecasting, water resources, public health, biodiversity and green building.

In light of our innovative technologies, Israel sees itself as an appropriate contributor to the Climate Change Technology Center Network. We are ambitious to be involved in the center's activity and support the work of the advisory board.

Israel has accumulated substantial experience over its sixty four years, during which it faced the climatic challenges of our region. We are willing and able to share that expertise with our neighbors for the benefit and economic advancement of the region.

Israel remains committed to its Palestinian neighbors in the field of environment and with climate change issues in particular, as those issues affect all the residents of the region equally.

In conclusion, it is clear that many mechanisms have been created to support ambitious measures by all parties of the convention. If

we wish to maintain the centrality and relevance of the Convention
we must negotiate a new, ambitious and dynamic agreement that
will serve the world in the decades ahead.

We again thank the government of Qatar for hosting the COP.
Thank you