

**Statement of Israel's Ambassador to Poland, HE Mr Zvi Rav-Ner**

**COP 19, Warsaw, Poland**

**November, 2013**

Mr President,

Mr Secretary,

Israel is a small country in terms of size and population and proudly stands up to be counted as a Party wishing to take part in the efforts that all countries, each and every one of us, must make to address the harsh reality of climate change.

As a non -Annex I OECD member, we are clearly aware of the changes the world has undergone in the decades since the Climate Change Convention was adopted. Therefore, we realize that any agreement must be sufficiently dynamic and flexible to remain relevant and applicable for many years into the future.

Indeed it seems that the best way to bring all countries on board is through genuine and open dialogue where differences are recognized and respected. We have learned that the countries themselves are the most qualified to determine their own domestic actions in accordance with national circumstances. At the same time, in order to increase trust and ambition, there must be transparency and sharing of information.

Commitment by all Parties to a fair and robust agreement would assist greatly in achieving a vision that would put the world on a sustainable path for achieving our global goal. This common path will require us all to abide by certain rules and to increase collective efforts. It is essential that we all know what the other is doing.

Israel, for example has more than 60 years of experience adapting to semi-arid climatic conditions which has made her a hub of entrepreneurship and innovative technologies. We have developed a broad array of environmental and agricultural technologies that are becoming increasingly relevant to countries in our region and around the Mediterranean. I am proud to note that we reuse over 90% of our

wastewater which is a world record, with 80% of that amount going to agricultural use. This expertise is being utilized today, as it has been for the past 55 years, by MASHAV, Israel's agency for international development cooperation. In our development activities and partnerships with developing countries we share that experience and know how.

Our knowledge and expertise in specific areas should be channeled through the technology mechanism, specifically the Climate and Technology Center and Network, the CTCN, as a way for us to share experience with other countries. We look forward to being actively involved by contributing where necessary and also expanding our involvement in other UNFCCC activities.

All countries' concerns lie with their own citizens and this is understandable. But in the end, it is the future generations who will be those citizens and they will wonder why we were not able to overcome our differences for such an important cause that could so significantly affect the survival of our planet.

We are all in this together and must all play a part.

Thank you and thanks to our Polish hosts for organizing this extremely important conference.