

**Statement of H.E. Ambassador Mr Dov Segev-Steinberg
On Behalf of the State of Israel
UNFCCC COP 16 and CMP 6
Durban , South Africa, December 2011**

Your Excellency, Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation of South Africa and President of COP 17,
Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane
Ms Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

Chairperson
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me first open by thanking the government and people of South Africa for organizing this conference in the beautiful city of Durban. One hopes that the human warmth and the spirit of reconciliation which characterizes South Africa, can assist in our reaching substantive agreements at this COP

At Copenhagen in 2009, Israel's President Shimon Peres announced Israel's commitment to achieving a 20% emissions reduction target by 2020 compared to a business as usual scenario.

Since that time Israel has developed a wide ranging, government funded National Action Plan, which will bring us closer to realizing this ambitious goal.



An unprecedented investment of more than 620 million dollars of government financing will go, over the next 8 years, towards a mix of policy measures which include:

- Financial support for projects **reducing** greenhouse gas emissions in the industrial, commercial and public sectors with added bonuses for first-time **commercially** installed solutions.

In addition, the government is investing 430 million dollars in fossil fuel substitutes.

All these projects are required to monitor, report and verify their reductions, **as** an integral part of the domestic MRV system, Israel has designed.

Other features of Israel's National Action Plan relate to improving energy efficiency in the **domestic** sector through the following measures:

- Scrapping energy-inefficient electrical goods.
- Green building standards and projects including retrofit and urban renewal.

*This is a good example of a project which combines green economy and poverty **eradication**.*

- Extensive educational programming and raising public awareness

These policies are central to our Green Growth initiative - together with programs on energy security, technology innovation and sustainable production and consumption.

With respect to **adaptation**, Israel has recently set up the Israeli Climate Change Center, which aims to gather and coordinate the available scientific knowledge and to identify the gaps in the following seven areas: regional climatic forecasting, impacts of climate change on the water sector, urban planning and building, public health, biodiversity, the economy and regional geo-strategic issues.

Our intention is to develop a National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change which will be periodically updated.

An additional function of the Climate Change Center will be to share Israel's know-how among countries with similar characteristics, especially in water management and **desalination**, combating **desertification**, afforestation, agro-technology and solar energy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To return to our Convention, Israel favours a legally binding agreement as the **preferred** outcome of Durban.

When the risks are so high and the potential effects so catastrophic, *clear and definite results are required*.

But the world has changed and is changing rapidly,

We have heard much at this conference about the need to reexamine the conventional division between Annex and Non Annex 1 countries, while maintaining the principle of CBDR.

Israel is a Non Annex 1 country which has committed to reduction targets and is actively working to that end.

Israel is acting in the manner suggested by many, as the way forward, even if agreement cannot be reached on a second Kyoto period.

Israel may not be **obligated** but Israel is definitely committed.

One of the major achievements of the Cancun agreements was the recognition of the important role of "transparency".

Israel considers the finalizing of the transparency guidelines to be an important outcome of Durban.

With Regard to the Registry: it should include an appropriate recognition of **domestically funded** actions, in order to encourage all countries to undertake ambitious mitigation actions.

Mr. Chair person, Distinguished delegates,

Environmental challenges require **cooperative** solutions.

Therefore, Israel calls on all parties in the region to join hands in order to tackle our joint environmental problems.

And finally,

Incremental progress on key elements is nevertheless positive progress. But this should be the very minimum outcome of our deliberations in Durban – our countries expect no less and we must live up to those expectations.

I thank you.