

Statement of the State of Israel
by His Excellency, Yossi Gal,
Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands,
COP-6 UNFCCC
The Hague Holland, November 21, 2000

Thank you Mr. Chairman.
Your Excellencies,
Members of the UNFCCC Secretariat,
Distinguished delegates.

I would first like to express the gratitude of the government of Israel, to the members of the UNFCCC Secretariat, for their tireless efforts. Without your contribution and professionalism, the climate change agenda would not have progressed to its present status. An achievement that is demonstrated by the impressive attendance in quality and quantity at this summit.

Israel has been following the progress of the Climate Change Convention since the Earth Summit in Rio, in 1992. We became a party to the convention in May 1996, and signed the Kyoto Protocol in December 1998. We are encouraged by the progress which has taken place and look forward to its continuance.

In anticipation of this conference, we have submitted Israel's First National Communication on Climate Change. This national report outlines our initial achievements in developing a national plan. Implementing and updating the proposed action plan will be undertaken over the coming years.

It is our strong belief that the issue at hand affects us all, and 'crosses borders' throughout the Mediterranean basin - including the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe.

The quality of our environment thus is a pressing issue that requires immediate monitoring and action.

That is why we support the regional environment dialogue - to provide cleaner air for all our children.

Let me once again emphasize that Israel places great importance on the issue of Climate Change. We are determined to join forces with the world in protecting the global climate and in taking the necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are prepared to transfer and share our expertise with all our neighbours and with countries world wide.

We have the capacity to contribute in fields such as water conservation, afforestation, solar energy, desalinisation and combatting desertification.

Indeed, this remains a cornerstone of Israel's policy, for example, development aid programmes through the offices of the Foreign Ministry's Centre for International Cooperation.

Finally we are confident that all Parties will do their utmost to make this conference a success. And lead the global effort at providing a fresh and healthy environment for the future generations.

Thank you.