

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear colleagues,

We would like to join other delegations in thanking the secretariat for the excellent preparation of the documents that lie before us. We would also like to thank the director-general for the report of the activities during this year.

Mr. Chairman, Israel has been extending international development assistance to countries that can benefit from the Israeli know-how and expertise for a long period of time in various fields from agriculture to technology, medicine and many others. In that spirit, the Permanent mission of Israel has been working closely with UNIDO in the formulation of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNIDO and Israel's International Development Agency, MASHAV that was signed in May this year. We've taken first steps in realization of the MOU and are proud to say Israel is already increasing cooperation on food security, water management, the empowerment of women and youth and industrial development in Africa and other developing countries.

Israel continues to demonstrate its commitment to Millennium Development Goals and goals of Rio +20 in terms of sustainable development. It does so in concrete actions through the work of MASHAV, which has already trained close to 270.000 people around the world. Israel will continue to empower people across the world through programs that encourage all pillars of sustainable development.

Israel is devoted to empowerment of women and exposing women and youth to agricultural entrepreneurship. Empowering rural women is crucial for fighting hunger and poverty, by removing the barriers they face and boosting their skills as producers, leaders and entrepreneurs. Building entrepreneurial cultures helps people with not only skills to solve problems but also promotes innovative ideas and solutions. Israel thus supported the New Partnership for African Development that is aimed at finding African solutions for Africa's problems. Israel is also working close with UNIDO in the framework of the signed MOU to develop tailor-made capacity building programs for women and youth empowerment.

Furthermore, Mr. Chair, Israel has put forward together with 62 other states on November 8, 2012 a GA resolution A/C.2/67/L.34, promoting Entrepreneurship for development. The resolution aims to once again emphasize the need for initiatives and policies that promote entrepreneurship and foster small- and medium-sized enterprises and microenterprises, stressing the positive role entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation and expanding opportunities for all. The resolution also emphasizes the important role that **private sector partnerships** play in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment as well as the value of capacity building in entrepreneurial skills at all levels of education. This is in our opinion where UNIDO's strength lies among other areas – by engaging in cooperation with

the private sector and aligning their corporate strategies with the ones of UNIDO's development policy.

On another front, understanding the potential of renewable energy for the future, Israel has become world leader in developing sustainable energy – just next week; Israel is hosting the annual Eilat-Eilat Conference on Renewable Energy, which every year attracts entrepreneurs, experts and researchers from across the globe. We are proud that UNIDO has accepted Israel's invitation and is now taking part of this important international event.

Israel is also hosting a conference this month on Combating Desertification, a phenomenon that today threatens the livelihood of over 1 billion people around the world and plays an important role in poverty eradication. By sharing its experience and know-how Israel stands ready to contribute its part to the solution to this global problem.

Given the extensive research and innovation in water efficiency, purification and desalination, arising from our own shortcomings, Israel is furthermore committed to cooperate with UNIDO in 2013 in the UN "year of water" , by sharing its experience and extensive know-how in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel is committed to the strategic mandate of UNIDO and will continue to support post-Rio+20 and the post-2015 Millenium Development Goals negotiation process, in view of promoting sustainable development, green industry and energy access for all.

In cocnclusion, we would like to congratulate Mr. Yumkella for his strong and successful and dynamic leadership and thank him for his dedication towards sustainable development, energy security, green energy initiatives and personal élan and optimism he has put into his position of leading the international development agenda. We would like to wish him all success and best of luck in the future role as the Chairman of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which we believe is , and should remain, closely linked to the mandate of UNIDO in the future.

Thank you.