By 2015 over 60% of domestic water demand will be provided by desalinated water and this figure should reach 100% by 2050, freeing up freshwater for the rehabilitation of depleted rivers and groundwater resources. Israel’s desalination water production is one of the most energy efficient in the world.

Just two weeks ago Israel successfully hosted our second International Water Technology and Environment Control Exhibition and Conference (WATEC), bringing together Israeli and international businesses, political decision makers and leading researchers to showcase the most advanced technology from around the world.

Advanced water technology is central to Israel’s sustainable agriculture policies. Israeli farmers constantly research and introduce new botanical species that require less water and land, and better resist heat and pests. They encourage water preservation and reverse desertification. Our expertise in this field is reflected by the recent election of our own Prof. Uriel N. Safriel to chair the prestigious UNCCD Scientific Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Achieving sustainable development is only viable if all areas of society participate. Governments, civil society and the private sector must work in partnership to ensure that the outcomes of Rio +20 are translated into concrete progress.

Women must be given opportunities to contribute to achieving sustainable development. Reducing maternal mortality and achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health is critical to sustainability. Israel strongly believes that the post-2015 sustainable development framework must include a goal that encompasses a range of crucial targets related to gender equality and women’s empowerment—including sexual and reproductive health and rights. At the same time, gender equality should be mainstreamed across all other goals.

And of course, we cannot neglect the tremendous potential of young people in our pursuit to advance sustainable development. We must involve youth in our decision-making to ensure the long-term success of our goals. We need all hands on deck to address the challenges we face.

Mr. Chairman,

Innovative solutions can lead to real and transformative change. The longer we wait, the higher the cost – in dollars, in environmental degradation, and in human life. We need to act strongly and we need to act together. And most importantly, we need to act now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Second Committee
Agenda item 19- Sustainable Development
Statement delivered by
Mr. Eldad Golan
Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN

Mr. Chairman,

The world is standing at a critical juncture. As Winston Churchill said "The era of procrastination...is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences".

Achieving sustainable development is one of the greatest challenges we face as an international community. Arable soils, fresh water, forests and biodiversity are under growing pressure. The rise in the global population and living standards are increasing demands for energy, water and food. As we grapple with these obstacles, we must recall that behind every challenge, is an opportunity.

During High level week, leaders from around the world gathered in this building to usher in a new era for implementing sustainable development. Together, they pledged to fully integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development — and forge a new path towards our common future.

The launch of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development presents an historic opportunity to meet new and emerging sustainable development challenges. Generating new momentum and fresh ideas, the Forum will be a springboard to follow up on our Rio commitments and kick-off an intensive phase of implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Jewish tradition teaches that: "Righteous people do not waste in this world even a mustard seed. They use all their strength to save everything possible from destruction."

In this spirit, Israel is proud to advance policies that place us at the forefront of technological innovation, promoting sustainable development and efficient use of natural resources.

Thanks to strong support from our government and the innovative spirit of our people, we are paving the way forward, building green jobs and opening new markets for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Currently, more than 100 solar companies operate in Israel and 90% of Israeli homes are fitted with solar water heaters.

Israel is also contributing its expertise in the field of water sustainability. We live in one of the most arid areas on earth and we excel in the efficient use of water. Over 90% of our wastewater is recycled and 80% of agricultural wastewater is returned for irrigation purposes, the highest rate in the world.