



Jerusalem, May 28th 2018

Input from Israel on possible outcomes of UNEA4

Key priority areas within the agreed theme where we should concentrate our collective interventions towards the next Environment Assembly

- Creation of an international framework for development of environmental standards and best available technologies/techniques (BAT) and knowledge transfer in the area of innovative solutions for environmental challenges.
- Development of an international framework for regulation and control of waste trade, recycling and recovery, especially electronic waste.
- Development of an information platform on product labeling based on analysis of environmental footprint throughout the whole life cycle.

Possible elements and key messages that could be used as building blocks for the Ministerial Declaration

- Governments must lead as example by promoting green procurement and sustainable conduct.
- Governments should enact ambitious regulations that create a supporting regulatory environment for development of novel technologies. Creating the regulatory need for implementing technological solutions may lead entrepreneurs to innovative inventions, since there is a demand from industry/consumers.
- Governments should also look for ways to ease the regulatory burden on adoption of innovative technologies (in industry and households) which could have a positive impact on the environment, and promote incentives for adoption of such technologies. For example, easing permit requirements related to implementation of innovative (and even experimental) technologies and pilot/pioneer projects.
- Work with transportation ministries on promotion of better, affordable and clean public transportation.





Possible elements for an Implementation Plan against pollution, building on the outcomes of the Third Session of the Environment Assembly

- Enhanced work with the automotive sector to create cleaner benzin/diesel cars (until we shift people to public transportation).
- Promotion of green building in cities.
- Joint regional efforts on marine litter.

Strategic partnerships and initiatives at national, regional and international levels with a multiplying effect and impact

- Israel, Cyprus, and Greece are promoting trilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection. One of the main areas in which this regional cooperation is taking place is water management and wastewater treatment. Due to several factors including the growing impacts of climate change (droughts, floods, etc.) there is a need to find better ways for water management in the region and also develop new sources of water, like water desalination and wastewater reuse which are implemented on a large scale in Israel. Cooperation will focus on regulatory issues related to sustainable water management and consumption, as well as innovative water technologies. The partnership may be enlarged to include additional countries in the region.
- Since 2013 Israel has gained much from the EU SWITCHMED program aimed at promoting sustainable consumption and production in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries and encouraging a transition to a green economy. The program is operated by UN Environment.

The main objective of the program is to minimize the environmental impacts associated with the life cycle of products and to promote sustainable production and consumption.

The program has four components:

- A policy component to promote advanced environmental policies
- A demonstration component that uses national or regional projects to promote sustainable production and consumption methods.
- A component of promoting environmental entrepreneurship - these projects promote environmental social and business initiatives.





- A networking component that enables the exchange of information, lessons learned and the recovery of successful initiatives.

Identification of strategic innovative solutions for environmental challenges that could have far-reaching positive impacts if implemented globally.

- Recycling and reuse of (properly) treated wastewater could have a big impact on water availability. Reusing wastewater for agricultural irrigation can free potable water for domestic consumers and increase agricultural yields.
- Digitization of supervision and control can create better, easier, more comprehensive, real-time and cheaper inspection and enforcement procedures.
- Cyber protection of critical infrastructure (water, chemicals etc.).

