

20/02/2024

UNEA 6 - Statement by Israel

Ambassador Michael Lotem

Madam President,

Madam Executive Director,

Honorable Ministers,

Dear colleagues,

I thank Kenya for its perfect hosting.

Madam President,

The scripts tell us that right after finishing the creation of the world "God took man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to guard it".

But from who must man guard the garden, when he and Eve were the only ones there?

The answer is clear: man had to protect it from himself.

And only a joint effort of all humanity will enable us to attain this goal.

UNEA is the right platform for advancing bold multilateral action to tackle the triple planetary

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crisis. It is indeed time for action.

Israel joined the action through various steps: A new climate bill was approved by our government and is now pending parliament approval. A bill which sets in legislation a national zero-emission target for twenty-fifty.

We have developed an online portal with physical mapping of risks, sensitivity, adaptive capacity and vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Next week we will publish the new Biodiversity Action Plan, which includes a series of goals and measures for 2030, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We have revolutionized our energy generation sector and by 2026, in less than a decade coal will be totally phased out.

Israel's innovation Eco – System has been intensively engaged in producing innovative solutions to face the new challenges. JADE – Jerusalem Aidtech for Disaster Relief, is just one example of the mobilization of the eco system to deal with current and future disasters.

Indeed, Israel is keen on learning from others, cooperate and share knowledge.

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Yet,

While attending this important international conference, we have a moral duty to remember the 134 Israelis, including children and women, still being held hostages by the Palestinian Hamas in Gaza. Gaza the entity of terror.

The attack on Israel, on 7th October, carried by the Palestinian terror groups Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad aimed at sheer murder- not to advance the goals of UNEP: improving the lives of the Palestinians, their living conditions and health.

It is the professional and moral duty of the UN to ensure that the Palestinians get to enjoy the SDGs. These goals will not be achieved as long as their terrorist leadership uses them as human shields.

UN agencies and organizations must adopt urgent measures to make sure that none of its resources is exploited, let alone supports, terror activity, as is the case in Gaza.

Thank you very much.