

## **Delegation of Israel Position paper for the General Assembly**

The topics before the General Assembly are I. Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development and II. Disaster Risk Reduction. The State of Israel (Israel), being one of the leading countries in the ICT sector emphasizes the importance of these developments and is looking forward to discussing possible solutions.

### **I. Information and Communications Technologies (ICT's) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development**

We live in a digital era now more than ever. Many people in our developed countries have access to the internet and benefit extremely from its affects. Whether it is enabling us to realize human rights such as the freedom of speech or more importantly to strengthen democratic systems with enabling access to a free and unbiased media. But on the other side there are millions of people who don't have access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT'S). Especially during the pandemic the division between the developed and underdeveloped countries have become more obvious than ever. Hence all the benefits of the new invented technologies, Israel urges the international community to further cooperate by enabling everyone in this world an access to both information and communication technologies.

As the State of Israel we experienced the benefits of an sustainable economic development in the ICT-industry. Within the last decades the market capacities "increased by almost 400 %". Israel acknowledges the importance of an sustainable development of its industry. During the last decades the ICT industry in Israel developed and became one of the most profitable industries in both the country and the world. The government of Israel focused on promoting development by investing in little start up companies. Foreign investors used its potential with the rising industry and therefore Israel can be "considered (as) a vital player in the digital world, especially in IT". With its role Israel is committed to improve the overall situation of the accessibility of ICTs and developing the economy sustainably.

Moreover Israel is noting with great concern how unequal the resources of ICTs are shared. It hopes to become a part in giving access to ICTs worldwide with its industry. Israel is additionally dedicated to share its experience with further member states to expand the development of information and communication devices.

The goal of the establishment of ICTs for an sustainable development was reassured in the UN General Assembly Resolution 74/138 in 2019.

Especially with the focus on the Social Development Goals (SGD) ICTs play an important role in realizing them. Only with an equal opportunity for every human being in having access to ICTs international community can realize the goals set together.

ICTs play an essential role in achieving the goal of quality education for everybody (SDG 4).

The internet is a source of knowledge and can be used to continue ones studies. It furthermore lays a base for equal opportunities because of the limitless contingent of information. With the internet a deep interwinding of experts was rendered possible for the first time in human history.

Israel is acknowledging the benefits of ICTs for both human society and the economy and is committed to further work on expanding the advantages of a strong ICT industry.

Also the goal of an economic growth with an industry of innovation and a developed infrastructure (SDG 8 and 9) will be achieved by expanding the ICT-industry.

But Israel furthermore is noting the challenges to achieve the goals set as an international community.

Israel urges the international community to work further on reaching the SDG 2030. With developing a sustainable economy and the use of ICTs further goals can be achieved which will secure the general peace because of its beneficial democratic effects.

### **II. Disaster Risk Reduction**

If the last decades have shown us anything but how easily one can be affected by disasters. People globally suffered from hazards and other disasters. But especially in times like these with an ongoing global pandemic the international community has to lay its focus on the reduction of disaster risks. We witnessed what happens if we don't have mechanisms to prevent involving disasters at an early stage.

Many experts warned that with the developing climatic changes multiple disaster risks will arise. Millions of people are on the move after their homes were destroyed by natural disasters such as floods or droughts. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) predict that with the end of the decade the number of refugees will increase drastically. In 2020 82,4 million people were fleeing for several reasons. Scientists see an interdependence between the increasing effects of the climate change and natural disasters and involving war-like conflicts. Therefore, the international community needs to work closely together to prevent a crisis like the omnipresent Covid-19- pandemic crisis.

We learned within the last two years that disaster risk reduction is nothing that can be done alone therefore Israel is committed to continue its cooperation with the international community and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO`s).

Additionally, Israel developed a Governmental Disaster Information Network (GDIN) which is designed to prevent victims of earthquakes and other disasters even though Israel has not from any natural disasters the last decades.

Israel was always committed to further expand its partnership with the international community with the spirit of the United Nations hence it partners with the United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR) by being part in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign (MCR2030) .

With the increasing risk of health care crises Israel urges the international community to fight crises at an early stage. It is required to tackle future crises with more precise planned moves and together as a community. Without a joined strategy it will be impossible to sustainably realize the SDGs nor secure a peaceful cohabitation.

Covid-19 showed the fatal gaps in our disaster prevention systems. Israel is looking forward to further develop a strategy to tackle upcoming crises with more purposefulness to prevent high numbers of victims who suffer from the disasters. The victims of Covid-19 should function as a reminder that the weakest in our society are the ones who are suffering most from health care crises or other crises. We have to protect them, especially minors and women, as well as elderly people.

But Israel reminds the international community that after a crisis there is a need of support for the victims of a crisis, they should not suffer any further nor should they be forgotten. The probability of more crises affecting mankind in the next decades worries Israel. As facing together the same issues Israel is committed to combat them together as well.

Israel is committed to intensify the close partnership with the UN and other member states and is willing to reach joined goals and guidelines such as the Sendai Framework as an approach of governance.