



Forest Department - אגף הייעור
מנהל פיתוח הקרקע –
KKL – Jewish National Fund – קרן קימת לישראל

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the bureau members for the successful convening of the 13th United Nations Forum on Forests.

Just three weeks ago, the State of Israel celebrated its 70th Independence Day. Since its early days, Israel has shared its vision of a world where all types of forests and trees outside forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for present and future generations

In this context, we are delighted to announce our initial Voluntary National Contribution towards achieving the Global Forest Goals (GFG), under the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We believe that Israel can play a crucial role in contributing to the following GFGs:

- GFG 1
 - Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4
 - Local target: increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and enhance the contribution of forests to climate change
 - Justification: Since its establishment in 1948, the forest area in Israel has increased roughly by 1800%. This afforestation enterprise is ongoing, including in semi-arid regions, and contributes to the increase in forest carbon stock. Israel will continue investing in research in order to better cope with climate change challenges, especially in dry regions, and further develop advanced tools and practical methods to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of our forests, enable rehabilitation of degraded lands and combat desertification.

- GFG 3
 - Targets 3.2, 3.3
 - Local target: Generate sustainable Master Plans for forest that do not yet have one established

- Justification: The Forest Management Policy of Israel furnishes an obligating professional basis for managing Israel's forests in a goal-oriented and sustainable fashion, designed to supply ecosystem services to the well-being of all citizens and the environment. Therefore, Master Plans for Forests reflect a holistic approach of sustainable, particular and ecosystem-specific management plans. We shall continue the effort and generate Master Plans for each and every forest in Israel.

- GFG 4
 - Targets 4.3, 4.5
 - Local target: increase our involvement in scientific and technical international partnerships
 - Justification: Israel actively shares its knowledge and expertise worldwide. We intend to increase our involvement in global and regional scientific initiatives, especially in supporting of capacity building of the forestry sector in developing countries by promoting related international cooperation.

- GFG 6
 - Targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5
 - Local target: increase our engagement and contribution to UN systems in order to enhance international cooperation, coordination and coherence on forest-related issues
 - Justification: Israel takes part in international forest-related cooperation through UN platforms. We would further strengthen our engagement in all relevant organizations and stakeholders involved, on a regional and global scale.

Israel comprises only a tiny fraction of the world's forests, yet it holds great knowledge and technical expertise in confronting growing global challenges such as desertification and land degradation, and has developed techniques to manage forests in climate sensitive



Forest Department - אגף הייעור
Land Development Authority – מנהל פיתוח הקרקע
KKL – Jewish National Fund – קרן קימת לישראל

regions. However, we must recognize that the challenges are escalating in face of climate change and threats cannot be overcome alone.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs call for global efforts to reduce fragmentation and enhance coordination among international organizations, institutions and instruments of the forestry sector. We strongly believe that sharing of knowledge and expertise should meet adequate financial resources in order to support capacity development on sustainable forest management. In Israel, we work to share our knowledge and expertise worldwide, and are already conducting several international collaborations. We believe that through the assistance of international institutions and instruments the impact and scale of capacity development worldwide could be further amplified, bringing the world closer towards achieving the GFGs and SDGs.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.