



Mission permanente d'Israël  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies  
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל  
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות  
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

### **Statement by**

**Ambassador Itzhak Levanon**

**Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations in Geneva**

High-Level Segment/Annual Ministerial Review of the  
Economic and Social Council

(Geneva, 4 July 2007)

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your able stewardship and express my delegation's support and satisfaction in taking part in the High-Level segment of ECOSOC, in the inauguration of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum.

Israel hopes that the enhanced and reinvigorated ECOSOC borne out of the latest deliberations will serve as a beacon of light, inspiration, and direction for the development of our world. If we are to see the eradication of poverty and reduction of hunger, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, ECOSOC must lead and coordinate the efforts of the international community.

Our gathering here today, which aims to accomplish exactly that, is premised on the notion of collective responsibility, of each and every State, of each and every person, to do their best to ensure the possibility of a bright future, for all mankind, for generations to come.

Mr. President,

Israel recognizes that good governance and the rule of law are essential for constant economic growth, development, and the eradication of poverty and hunger. Each State must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development by strengthening governance, combating corruption, and mobilizing domestic resources for development, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus.

At the same time, Israel also recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programs, measures, and policies aimed at

expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies, and sovereignty.

To this extent, my delegation wishes to reiterate its strong support for global development initiatives and bilateral coordination. From the earliest days of statehood, Israel initiated a variety of development programs, sharing the results and experiences with others. The outcomes led to the emergence of extensive Research and Development programs, which have come to benefit Israel and many other nations of the world.

A core component of Israel's development activities is the formation of international partnerships with like-minded governments and members of civil society. Hence, Israel encourages the international community to cooperate in researching and developing approaches and solutions to global challenges such as poverty, desertification, water management, agriculture, climate change, management of energy resources and public health.

In 2006, through MASHAV, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Center for International Cooperation, Israel was active in 108 countries, training thousands of participants in courses focusing on human capacity building. The courses were offered in a wide range of disciplines, including Agriculture, Education, Economic and Social Development, Community Development, Rural and Urban Development, Medicine and Public Health, and Science and Technology. More than 8000 participants were trained in Israel and field courses in more than 32 countries.

Mr. President,

Israel has always considered its relations with Africa to be among its highest priorities. As early as the 1950s, Israel sought to build development partnerships with the newly independent states of sub-Saharan Africa. Israel offers its experience and expertise to assist the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in helping the African continent to flourish, sharing its competence in areas such as food security, gender equality, democracy, education and health. Such expertise can be shared bilaterally or with the participation of UN agencies, development funds and programs.

In addition to aid and training programs, Israel actively supports international initiatives such as the World Bank's International Development Association and the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) program for debt reduction.

Mr. President,

These examples offer a mere snapshot of Israel's development activities, particularly those that relate to Africa. Israel is considering expanding these activities, and is taking part in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The ancient Jewish moral imperative of giving back to the community found expression in Israeli foreign policy during the earliest years of statehood. Giving back – by way of cooperation programs, sharing of best practices, transferring of technology and know-how, and active participation in such international fora – is rooted deep in Israel's hallowed traditions and carried out in our daily practice.

Thank you, Mr. President.