

General Assembly- Session 76

**High-level Dialogue on Energy**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

**Mrs. Karine Elharrar**

**Israel's Minister of Energy and Water Resources**

United Nations

24 September 2021

Secretary General António Guterres,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Friends.

I would like to begin by thanking Secretary General Guterres for his commitment to this issue. His vital and ongoing leadership on promoting the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This commitment is one, we in Israel share deeply.

Since entering the Ministry of Energy, we have been making great efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. During this government's first 100 days in office, we have managed to pass a governmental decision to reduce 85% of carbon emissions by 2050.

We recently introduced a carbon tax for the first time, and ended the issuing of new permits for onshore drilling. Furthermore, recently we have introduced a purchase tax on all plastic disposable utensils, and are investing hundreds of millions into electric transportation infiltration.

I am glad to tell you that this is just the beginning.

In line with our commitment to the Paris climate accords, Israel will be moving to a low carbon emissions economy, while dealing with the climate crisis that threatens our world.

Our economy will be clean, green, efficient and competitive. We are hoping to complete a successful transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and align Israel with the other developed countries in the global fight against the climate crisis.

This is not just a commitment to the future; we are already acting across the board.

Israel has begun drastically reducing the amount of coal usage, and by 2025, this will end completely.

We are significantly increasing the amount of solar energy generated in Israel. Our goals in transition to renewables is also emphasizing the huge importance we see in connectivity with our neighbors in the region.

I strongly believe that Israel can and will contribute far beyond its borders.

As many of you know, Israeli creativity, innovative thinking and breakthrough technology is at the forefront in many industries.

Israel's vibrant innovation ecosystem has developed processes, products and services that reduce negative environmental impacts and use energy resources more consciously and sustainably.

We are focusing and investing in research and development of energy storage technologies, hydrogen, carbon capture and water solutions. Hundreds of Israeli start-ups are working on those and related issues to expand and maximize our use of sustainable energies and solutions to climate change.

The Israeli government is assisting this energy startup ecosystem by investing in green solutions by our brightest and most innovative minds that will be of great benefit to all.

As in other arenas, Israel will be taking revolutionary and innovative steps to transform our energy sector and catapult it into the global arena to help the world reach the vaunted goal of a net zero carbon economy.

Especially as we celebrate one year since the Abraham Accords, we see great potential in regional cooperation because climate and energy related challenges are shared by us all.

We look forward to cooperating with our neighbors and colleagues around the globe for sharing best practices and knowledge, because climate change has no borders and the future generations deserve to receive a greener and cleaner planet. Thank you.