
Human Rights Council
2nd Intersessional meeting, 3 December, 2019

Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel welcomes the 2nd intersessional meeting on the important subject of Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Israel attributes great importance to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the process they engender. Accordingly, just this year, Israel published its first Voluntary National Review. Israel believes that the SDGs embody the understanding that development can only be achieved through responsible and inclusive international cooperation, encompassing concrete action in all three pillars and at all stages of development and growth. In this regard, the interrelation between Human Rights and the SDGs is undeniable. When designing any policy towards achieving one of the SDGs, human rights should be on the table from scratch.

Mr. President,

Israel is investing, both domestically and abroad, in innovation to leave no one behind. For instance, the Israel Innovation Authority has partnered with several other government entities and created tailor-made research and development support tracks. Examples include the GCI Grand Challenges Program focused on humanitarian health, agritech and water challenges in developing nations, the Program of Assistive Technology for persons with disabilities, to improve the quality of life for them and ease their integration into society, and the Diverse Startups Program for ultra-Orthodox and minority entrepreneurs.

Israel's vision is to harness our innovation to address global challenges, while bearing in mind that the benefits must reach every community and every person. The vision of building a society which mends the world – *Tikun Olam* – and which leaves no one behind, has ancient roots in our tradition.

We acknowledge that there are still areas where more needs to be done, in order to improve the lives of our citizens, communities and families, as well as our economy. However, Israel is proud to be an active player and contributor of this global undertaking, and is committed to work in unison with others to turn the vision into a reality.

We thank you Mr. President.