

# PATHS TO SUSTAINABILITY

## Key Recommendations for Action from the Shadow Report of Israeli Non-Governmental Organizations, in Response to the Government of Israel's Report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### Overarching Demand:

- Israeli NGO's call on the Prime Minister's office to urgently convene an inter-ministerial meeting of all government ministries at the level of Director General in order to advance the NGO 'Recommendations for Action' as detailed below.
- Each ministry will be requested to create a position for a sustainability review officer who will be responsible to ensure that sustainable development policies are integrated into all policies and decisions taken by their ministry.
- For discussion at the high level inter-ministerial meeting is the Agenda 21 commitment to create a National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO) to function as a multi-stakeholder body. By the Johannesburg Summit the terms of reference, resources and powers of the NCSO are called upon to be finalized.

NGOs identify as a key function of the NCSO the need to urgently develop a **Sustainability Strategy** for Israel with targets, timelines and financial resources stipulated. The strategy must focus on national and international/regional issues and develop an **Action Plan** for implementation. A first draft of the strategy should be made available for public discussion by March 2003 and finalized by third quarter 2003.

NGOs call on the Government to declare its commitment to the following '**Recommendations for Action**' that are drawn out of the Shadow Report, to be later incorporated in the proposed **Sustainability Strategy** and **Action Plan** as appropriate.

### At the International Level:

- Prior to Johannesburg to have ratified the Amendment to the **Barcelona Convention and its Protocols** concerning the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's intention to ratify the 1997 **Amendment to the Montreal Protocol** concerning trade in banned ozone depleting substances with non parties.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's intention to sign on to the **Biosafety (genetic engineering) and Aarhus (public participation) Conventions**.
- At the Johannesburg Summit commit towards a systematic **campaign to curb greenhouse gas emissions** through energy conservation and

investment in renewables, in line with the draft WSSD target of 10% of primary energy supply from new renewable sources by 2010.

- At the Johannesburg Summit declare an increase in Israeli actual **foreign assistance** to 0.1% of GNP in year 2003 with a timetable to meet the Agenda 21 target of 0.7% by year 2010 in accordance with the draft WSSD text.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's intention to legislate the requirement that sustainability assessments be undertaken prior to the signing of any **international trade agreements**.

#### **At the Regional Level:**

At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's intention to urgently develop a **regional sustainability strategy** that will detail an **action plan** to deal with **regional water supply and pollution issues, sanitary solid waste disposal, shared ecosystems** (Dead Sea, river basin rehabilitation, Gulf of Aqaba) **regional harmonization of environmental standards, monitoring enforcement and period public reporting of results**. The environment committee Israel-PA must be re-launched, with third party assistance if necessary. Israel must declare a plan of action that in addition to safe guarding civilians, ensures that any military action does not target Palestinian infrastructure essential for environmental protection.

#### **At the National Level:**

- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's intention to **Promote Sustainable Transport** policies by agreeing to the following the measures:
  - Overcoming the existing implementation gap between government plans and actual decisions made to the detriment of the environment.
  - Increasing investment in public transport with an emphasis on inter-modality.
  - Requiring that transport (rather than traffic) transport impact assessments be carried out as a rule for local land-use changes.
  - Making non-motorized transport a national priority of the Ministry of Transport and allocating resources earmarked for improving conditions in local authorities.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Reduce Air Pollution** by agreeing to the following the measures:
  - Adoption of the EU standard for low sulphur city diesel for all transport users.
  - A complete phase out of leaded fuel by end of 2002.
  - Narrowing price differential between diesel and petrol.
  - Expedited entry of LPG and other cleaner-fuel vehicles for commercial and private use.

- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Articulate Sustainability as a Core Value of the Educational Process** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - The Ministry of Education will create a Task Force to formulate a strategy to transform both the content and process of education.
  - Model environmental practice within the Ministry of Education—enacting an environmental and socially responsible purchasing policy, promoting recycling in all institutions, conducting environmental audits in buildings and environmental design
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Conserve its Unique Biological Diversity** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Create a national museum of natural history to systematically study and record the biodiversity of the country.
  - Promote biodiversity education at all levels.
  - Declare a long list of previously designated but yet to actually be declared nature reserves.
  - Make specific and adequate allocation of water for nature conservation.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Protecting and Promoting the Sustainable use of Water Resources** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Creation of an independent National Water Authority
  - Preparation of an environmentally sound master plan for Israel's water and wastewater.
  - Cease pollution of ground water and implement river reclamation programs.
  - Upgrade its water standards to internationally accepted levels.
  - Reform the water pricing system by internalizing environmental costs.
  - Efficiency and conservation must be optimized to achieve set targets.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development of Land Resources** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Repealing all legislation that attempts to 'speed up' the planning process by reducing the public's right to participate in the process.
  - Priority to development in the cities and urban renewal and halt to planning that supports suburban sprawl.
  - Preservation of agricultural lands whether cultivated or as open landscape including compensation and purchase of property rights.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Combat Poverty** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Channel infrastructure investment into Arab localities and Jewish development towns, including the building of rail transport links to the countries commercial centers.
  - Improve public schools in low income Arab and Jewish neighborhoods.

- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Advance Minorities** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Recognizing the Arab population of Israel as a national minority.
  - Recognize existing Arab villages and communities that have been labeled by the system as 'unrecognized' and thereby denied development opportunities.
  - Undertake outline plans for existing Arab communities and as priority expand and where needed build new Arab towns and villages and industrial zones to compensate for the past.
  - Establish new environmental units, strengthen existing ones and create joint units that integrate Jewish and Arab municipalities.
  
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Promoting Human Health** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Introducing legislation for mandatory health impact assessments for public urban planning.
  - Support research on environmental health issues.
  - Launch a national policy for populations with special needs and regulate coordination between the many initiatives.
  
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to addressing the **Challenges to Sustainability of Growing Consumption and Population Levels**, through the following measures:
  - Conduct a serious "back-casting" from tolerable future levels of environmental impacts in several dimensions, so as to explicate the choices and measures we now face regarding consumption, population size, and lifestyles.
  - Raise public discussion of these pending choices, drawing on the sophisticated debates that have occurred internationally in recent decades, with a sensitivity to equity and gender issues, and to the potential for leakage of political tensions into demographic arguments.
  
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Public Participation** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Create informative, reciprocal and participatory procedures for the inclusion of civil society in the formulation of policy and decision making for sustainable development as detailed in the Aarhus convention.
  - Repeal legislation negating the role of consultation and participation of NGOs.
  
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to **Sound Management of Waste** by agreeing to the following measures:

Update the 1974 master plan in a manner that will reduce dependence on landfills, encouraging recycling and advance environmentally friendly technologies.

Elimination of subsidies for landfills in the form of free land use and absence of liability for long-term environmental damage.

Urgent enforcement of existing laws concerning municipal recycling, beverage containers, hazardous waste disposal and construction waste.

- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to the **Protection of Coastal Areas** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Promulgate comprehensive and effective coastal protection legislation that can be readily enforced.
  - Implement the recently adopted Coastal Policy Document for Israel.
  - Expose decision-makers to action that has been taken around the world in relation to coastal issues.
- At the Johannesburg Summit declare Israel's commitment to the **Cultivation of Environmental Awareness through Art** by agreeing to the following measures:
  - Promoting an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problem solving by including artists and other humanists into decision-making processes.
  - Create interdisciplinary educational centers and programs for raising awareness and encouraging a creative dialogue that is at once more visual and more spiritually oriented.

Revise the law of Quarry Rehabilitation to allow artists to compete for tenders.