

## Israeli Environmental NGOs Call For An Ambitious Climate Policy

In 2009, the Israeli government committed to a Green House Gasses emission reduction target of 20% of expected growth according to Business As Usual scenario by 2020, and joined the global effort to abate climate change. This positive turning point was followed by the commission of an inter-ministerial committee, and the creation of an unprecedented National Mitigation Plan that was approved and financed for the next decade.

However, the set target is not ambitious enough. In order to ensure sustainable future, and maintain its innovativeness achievements, Israel must adopt a daring vision that will challenge the BAU scenario and establish new priorities. The set target must be regarded as a preliminary one, and new, long term, ambitious targets must be set today, along with an action plan and performance indicators.

Moreover, even a complete implementation of the National Mitigation Plan will not suffice to achieve the set target. The sole largest carbon emitter in Israel, electricity production, was not included in the plan, and other sources with major reduction potential, such as transportation, energy efficiency and green building, were not adequately treated.

Furthermore, in the absence of a comprehensive climate policy, the Israeli government is still promoting contradictory measures, which would make any emission reduction target unachievable.

As Israel is located at the heart of the Middle East, defined by the IPCC as highly prone to climate change impacts, there is also an urgent need to catalyze government action on adaptation to climate change in various fields. Strong governmental involvement, as well as public engagement and increased collaboration with Israel's neighbors is required to prevent from climate impacts on water, migration, public health etc. to become a threat to the entire area's stability.

**The Paths to Sustainability Coalition urges the government of Israel to create a daring vision, and formulate a comprehensive climate policy that will allow Israel to affectively mitigate climate change and adapt to its implications. The recent governmental initiative to create a national green growth plan should be used to mainstream climate change considerations into decision making processes. Strategic view is needed to seize the opportunities of a low-carbon economy and its technological inventiveness.**

*The Paths to Sustainability Coalition* is spearheaded by *Life and Environment*, the Israeli Union of Environmental NGOs. The Coalition includes dozens of NGOs, and has been promoting policies to address sustainable development and climate change vis-à-vis the Israeli Parliament and government since 2002.

