

Life and Environment  
Israeli Union of Environmental NGOs  
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66102 Tel Aviv

July 22, 2013

Miss. Christiana Figueres  
United Nations  
Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)  
P.O. BOX 260 124  
53153 Bonn

**Re: State of Israel GHG reduction commitment under Copenhagen Accord**

Excellency,

In January 2010, the Israeli government re-approved its commitment to the United Nations Climate Change Convention, and confirmed the National Mitigation Target which was declared by the President of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres, at a 20% reduction in greenhouse gasses emission by 2020, compared to a business as usual scenario. As a non-Annex I country, the target was registered in Appendix II of the Copenhagen Accord, and the main actions for achieving it included reaching 10% renewable energy for electricity generation, as well as 20% reduction of electricity consumption by 2020.

Life and Environment, as the Israeli Union of Environmental NGOs that have been working together for over a decade to promote climate policy in Israel, wishes to convey its deep concerns regarding the ability of the state of Israel to achieve the reduction target and comply with its commitment to the goal it set.

An inter-ministerial steering committee, headed by the chief of Ministry of Finance, had prepared a National Mitigation Plan according to the governmental commitment, and by the end of 2010 the Israeli government approved a budget of 550 million USD for its implementation by the end of the decade.

All the mitigation steps in the National Mitigation Plan were selected according to their financial feasibility and expected ROI, and, if executed fully, would lead to reduction of 13% in the emissions compared to BAU by 2020.

Currently, after only two years of implementation process, the Israeli government intends to postpone the continuation of implementation for three years, and block any investments in the plan's programs.

**If approved, this decision will ruin any chance of achieving the mitigation target that was set by the government.**

Moreover, previous governmental decisions, regarding reaching 10% renewable energy resources for electricity production, as well as reduction of 20% in electricity demand by 2020, are not carried out in practice, and there are no reasons to believe these targets will be met by the end of the decade.

Israel has all it needs to reverse this unsustainable trend and reach its targets or even exceed them: technological know-how, entrepreneurial spirit, suitable weather and limited area. What we lack is the political will and leadership. Despite Israel's relatively small contribution to the overall global GHG emissions (less than one percent), it is our view that postponing the mitigation plan is a drastic error that locks the rapid development in Israel into an unsustainable track.

Knowing the importance you place on global climate mitigation efforts, we are certain you will be dismayed by this unpromising trend. We request your help and hope for the UNFCCC intervention to help protect the climate protection plan in Israel.

Please accept our highest appreciation for your ongoing efforts for the sake of the next generations.

Sincerely,



Naor Yerushalmi  
Director  
Life and Environment