**Position Paper**

**Committee: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Topic: Promotion of Green Jobs, Transition to Green Economy**

**Country: State of Israel**

**Delegate: Berfin Ergin**

Of all the critical challenges this century has thrown up, none is in more urgent and holistic need of the united actions of all countries than climate change. Moving to a green economy is a response to crisis, as much as it's an opportunity for sustainable growth, innovation, and achieving an inclusive, equitable world economic system. Sustainability is not a dream but a need for Israel. In Israel, with very limited natural resources, the challenge of life had to be fought by innovation, creativity, and determination. It is the same spirit that has led our environmental initiatives to also make economic opportunities. Green jobs are at the heart of this transition. Such jobs pave the way toward poverty reduction, the empowerment of communities, and build the skills of workers needed in the industries of tomorrow. Guided by these two core values of technological progress and social development, Israel seeks to make its fair contribution to the world in moving toward a green economy through knowledge sharing and calling for increased international cooperation.

For years, Israel has taken the lead as one of the countries solving their environmental problems with resourcefulness and innovation. As a result, Israel-innovative steps in terms of a pointed investment, a public-private partnership, and pioneering legislation-may serve as a dream example when it comes to renewable energy, with remarkable achievements. Major investments in highly qualitative photovoltaic systems and energy storage solutions mean that Israel decreases its addiction to fossil fuel to the maximum. The leading example is the Negev Desert, which hosts one of the largest solar fields in the world, supplying clean energy and job opportunities to the local community. Israel is far ahead in water management, reusing over 90% of its wastewater-a record unparalleled anywhere in the world. Such innovations as drip irrigation and desalination have transformed the agricultural sector in Israel into a source of food security and an employer in the engineering, technology, and agriculture industries. Israel is keen to share this expertise with international partners to address global water scarcity challenges. In the State of Israel, more than 600 companies within the highly active startup ecosystem are fully involved in cleantech, from renewable energies and waste management to sustainable agriculture.

Government initiatives through programs and grants have made such an ecosystem encourage high-skilled jobs, placing it as a center for green innovation. Given the role of education within the green transition, various training programs have been initiated that provide Israeli labor with the relevant green jobs skills. This collaboration by universities and research institutions with industry partners makes sure that these programs really answer the needs of the market and hence prepare the labor effectively for emerging green industries. It is through these holistic efforts that Israel is able to address its own environmental challenges and at the same time contribute significantly to global sustainability initiatives. Its commitment to innovation and collaboration makes it a model for others who wish to pursue a green economy.

The State of Israel calls upon the international community to act in accordance with the following program, which will promote green jobs toward a quicker transition into a green economy: Transitioning to the green economy would require a well-educated and skilled labor force; governments should thus invest in education and vocational training, including the provision of scholarships, apprenticeships, and skills for underrepresented groups, women, and youth in emerging green industries. Advanced countries should share their know-how on green technologies; for example, Israel provides technical assistance in renewable energy, water management, and sustainable agriculture. The second is the need for stronger public-private partnership, which really could pay off through innovation of new jobs and green industries, just as the State of Israel has been doing in its cleantech startup ecosystem. And secondly, it is very important to adopt a regional cooperation framework for cross-border renewable energy grids and joint management of water resources, not only for sustainable development but also a way to inspire peace in the Middle East. Financial incentives, like subsidies, tax benefits, and grants by governments and international organizations, may also encourage businesses and individuals to go green and accelerate investment in the green industry and job creation.

Israel is proud of its leading role in green innovation and has expressed commitment to making sure this comes true with all nations around the world: To share, through international partnership and training programs, Israeli know-how in the fields of water management, renewable energy, and cleantech innovation. Increase regional collaboration on environmental projects, particularly in the Middle East. Invest in education and workforce development to provide a pipeline of green jobs throughout the skill continuum; support global community activities toward green inclusive and sustainable economies. The transition into a green economy is a challenge yet, at the same time, an opportunity. We must seize the moment to make investments in green jobs for urgent action on climate change, even as we work toward a fairer, more prosperous world. It requires innovation, collaboration, and inclusion to succeed. We will together shape a future in which economic growth and environmental sustainability go hand in hand, leaving no one behind. Let us be bold and work together toward this vision.

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