

Madam vice President, Excellences, dear delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to first join everyone in congratulating Ambassador Lepre for your election as the President of the twentieth session of the General Conference, and on the professional and impressive way she is conducting these sessions. I would also like to commend UNIDO and Director General Muller, for this general conference and for the vision of UNIDO of “Progress by innovation”. The State of Israel believes in this vision for all of us, and will continue the partnership with UNIDO in order to promote it, while promoting gender equality, and sustainable development

Even in these challenging times, Israeli innovations are present at the COP 28 conference, held these days in Dubai. Technologies that were developed in the Kibbutzim of the Western Negev, the region that was attacked by Hamas murderers on October 7th. Technologies like the production of plastic from non-fossil sources, actually from waste processing; Cloud services for agriculture, throughout the value chain, from the sowing stage to marketing, with the aim of enabling every organization to meet the global sustainability goals; Forecasting and warning systems from climate change

hazards with the help of artificial intelligence. Specializing in flood protection, warnings against urban flooding, environmental pollution and various damages

However, it's not just Israeli technology and innovation that have been at the forefront of the development field, Israelis have also been highly active in the field, in many countries.

Israelis like Dr. Shoshan Haran, founder and president of "Fair Planet", a non-profit organization, aimed at enabling the success of smallholder farmers and assist with seeding and agro-environmental solutions active in Ethiopia and others. Dr. Haran's life has been dedicated improving the lives of countless others. Dr. Haran was abducted from her home on October 7th, along with 8 members of her extended family. This while four others were murdered. Only after 49 days, was Dr. Haran released along with most of her family, her son in law Tal Shoham is still held in Gaza, like 159 out of the 238 that were abducted On October 7th. Make no mistake, the hostage release outline is only possible as a direct result of the military activity, and Hamas is still using babies as bargaining chip.

The hostages are being unlawfully held, denied their rights, and in violation of international law, the ICRC has been denied access, and there is no information available about their well-being or whereabouts. Regrettably, international organizations, including the UN, the Secretary-General, UN Women, UNICEF, The Human Rights Council and others, who is very purpose it to help them, have not adequately addressed

their plight. Their testimonies from are now emerging, revealing extremely disturbing experiences that must not be overlooked or forgotten.

In what was the worst daily killing of Jews since the Holocaust, more than 1,200 were brutally murdered that day. Bloodthirsty Hamas terrorists raped and tortured innocent Israeli civilians in the cruelest of ways and mutilated them. They burned men, women and even babies alive, some of them so badly that it took forensic archeologists to identify their remains. However, the terror doesn't stop. This morning in Jerusalem, we witnessed the same horrendous visuals of bodies at a bus stop of 3 civilians were murdered by terrorists. Two elderly people and a young women.

Israel is resolute in addressing the hostage issue and is committed to taking decisive actions to dismantle the Hamas regime, obliterate its military capabilities, and neutralize the terrorist threat posed to Israel from the Gaza Strip. Currently, 200,000 Israeli citizens have been displaced from their homes and seek safety within their own country.

We are at war with Hamas, not the Palestinian people. This war was forced on us. On October 6th, there was a ceasefire when the terrorist organization Hamas decided to brutally attack our people. Yet, we hear voices in this very room accusing Israel. By condemning Israel, you do not do any justice with the people of Gaza, in fact, you are calling for them to continue to live under the rule of a brutal terror organization.

We have already established in this conference that some delegates cannot, or are not allowed to, tell the truth - Say Hamas TERRORISM. Because Hamas poses a threat to both Israelis and Palestinians. Hamas does not prioritize the well-being of Palestinians or seek a peaceful resolution. Calls for a ceasefire only serve to empower Hamas. Furthermore, their objectives extend beyond targeting Israel. Terrorist organizations, including their mastermind, the Iranian regime, aim to spread terrorism globally. I would like stress that allowing Hamas's rule to persist, permitting its continued rule in Gaza, sends a dangerous message to our region - a message that terrorism can prevail. This threat won't confine itself to Israel; history has shown that it never does. As Iran bears direct responsibility for Hamas' capabilities and therefore for the use that Hamas makes of these capabilities, this Iran promotes attacks on Israel from other fronts, using Hezbollah, the Houthis, and other terror organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude to all the Member states that steadfastly stand with Israel.

Israel is also and has always been a peace striving nation. In the past few years we have all seen the benefits of the Abraham Accords to our region, its peoples, its economy and of course

the cooperation that developed with the countries of the agreement also under the auspices of UNIDO.

I thank you Madam President, Director General Gerd Muller.