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Panel on Enhancing Capacity Building in Public Health

Delivered by Mr. Brian E. Frenkel,
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Advisor

Mr. President,

Capacity building in public health has increasingly become a priority for the Israeli health establishment.

Israel's leading universities in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and Haifa today all offer advanced degrees in public health, as part of their medical schools, some of which are international programs. The Braun School for Public Health and Community Medicine in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has 50 years of experience in training public health professionals from Israel and from nearly 100 countries across the globe.

More than 850 graduates, in particular from low and medium income countries have been awarded the MPH degree since the 1960's, in addition to more than a thousand Israelis. Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV, has been a vital element in the development of this unique program since its establishment, including through the provision of scholarships.

In order to ensure the quality of the training in public health, the Ministry of Health supervises the courses and seminars organized in Israel, through its unit for training and development. This includes, inter alia, training courses having to do with environmental health, with particular focus on water and sanitation.

The Ministry itself has an elaborate public health unit, charged with the wide spectrum of issues pertaining to contemporary public health. An example is a clause in the 2015 law of Public Health and Food, which gives the Ministry the authority to condition the issuing of a manufacturing permit, on the participation of the food manufacturer in a public health course.

I thank you, Mr. President.