
UN Human Rights Council
42nd Session, Item 3 – September 9, 2019

ID with the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation

Delivered by Adv. Merav Marks
Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN in Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President.

Israel wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur on clean water and sanitation for focusing his last report on the important issue of access to water and sanitation in public spaces.

Israel shares the global responsibility of striving to achieve worldwide sustainable development and social equity to overcome development challenges with a strong emphasis of leaving no-one behind.

Water is a basic existential commodity for both human survival and for the environment. The right to water in Israel has been established in 1959 in the *Water Law*, which states that every person is entitled to access and use of water.

Since then, Israel has developed national programs and legislated obligations of the authorities to build and maintain proper facilities, to allow clean water and sanitation in the public sphere.

In 2007, the Israeli Water Authority was established with the aim of ensuring the supply of water and the provision of sewage services in adequate quality, quantity and reliability, and with economic efficiency for the development of the State and sustainable welfare of all consumers.

Mr. President,

Israel embraces its international responsibility and works towards allowing access to clean water in other countries around the world through MASHAV- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. MASHAV holds a large variety of courses for professionals from all over the world including on the issue of clean technologies in order, amongst other things, to purify water to provide safe drinking water.

In the face of the concerns that global warming will affect water supply worldwide, MASHAV supplies, together with the Israeli company G.A.L Water Technologies Ltd, a mobile desalination unit to countries suffering from severe drought. This first of its kind unit is self-contained, independent and automatic and can connect to any water source and produce drinking water that meets WHO standards.

Israel will continue to improve its clean technologies knowledge and development for the benefit and welfare, both internally and globally.

I thank you Mr. President.