



[Checked against delivery]

**Statement by His Excellency Ofer Sachs
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Israel to FAO**

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen,

I will open by saying that as a son and grandson of a farmer, I am honored to speak here today. FAO's work in the field of food and agriculture is essential for the global community, and as we are all aware, climate change affects the developing as well as the developed world. The basic security of the world is at stake and we must act together in order to make sure we make progress and leave no one behind.

Agriculture is a cross-cutting issue, one that has the power to create economic growth, mitigate the effects of climate change, increase food security and nutrition, empower women, and protect and renew the environment. This can be achieved through collaboration, investment and innovation among all stakeholders.

For decades, Israel has struggled to meet the challenges created by our harsh climatic and geographic conditions. Despite severe water and water limitations, agricultural production in Israel continues to grow. This is the result of the close and ongoing cooperation between researchers, extension centers, farmers and agriculture-related services and industries. The agricultural sector in Israel today is based almost entirely on science-linked technology, with government, academia and the private sector working together to meet challenges and seek new solutions.

As you well know, Israel is a world leader in the field of water efficiency and desert agriculture. These innovative technologies bring Israel to the forefront of agriculture and water management. In Israel, 91 percent of the sewage is being collected and treated and 80 percent of the water in agricultural irrigation is wastewater reused. Other technologies such as drip irrigation and the development of techniques to increase crop yields and post-harvest technologies are essential for the flourishing of Israeli agriculture.

Within this context, MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, in alignment with Agenda 2030, addresses global challenges of climate change, agriculture and food security, including the incorporation of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, health, education, community development and environment aspects. MASHAV focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing



relevant expertise accumulated during Israel's own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives.

Mr President,

We must work hard to address the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition, which include a lack of social and economic empowerment, natural resource degradation and scarcity, and demographic pressures, climatic pressure must also be seriously addressed.

Israel remains committed to sharing its experience and knowhow with our partners worldwide, especially in the developing world, to help identify the most efficient and successful methods to ensure food security, develop sustainable agriculture and to ultimately achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you very much Mr President.