

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Ofir Akunis
Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology
State of Israel
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On behalf of the Government of Israel, it a true pleasure to address the UN General Assembly at this important meeting.

Israel is located in one of the most dry regions of the world. For years, we, and our neighbors, were forced to limit our use of water.

For many years, there was a national campaign that called on all Israelis to save water because Israel is drying up. Just two days ago, the worst winter in Israel came to an end. With the lowest level of rainfall in years.

We would have a long drought every year. Our rabbis often declared special days of fasting and prayer for rain. We barely had enough water for ourselves, let alone our families, friends, and neighbors.

For several decades, this was the sad reality in Israel and other countries in our region.

But over the last few years, this changed.

Israel now leads the world in water. We are the number one country in water recycling. We recycle almost ninety percent of our water. **More than four times the percent of any other country in the world.**

We have created desalination plants for clean re-usable water. We have created machines that produce water from thin air.

In doing so, Israel has become the first country in the Middle East **without a water problem, but with a water solution.**

These innovative water-tech solutions have provided clean water to all Israelis, both in the north and in the south – like in our Negev desert – where it’s needed the most.

This water has changed the lives of all Israelis – both Jews and Arabs alike. It has helped save the Jewish vineyards in the Judean Hills, Druze farms in the north, and Bedouin shepherds in the south.

Israel now has more than enough water not just for our country, but for other countries as well. And our water innovations are not just serving those in Israel, but peoples around the world.

For example:

- Israel has built numerous water desalination plants in Africa. Additionally, Israeli Watergen machines are now in many countries in Africa and the Middle East, including most recently in the United Arab Emirates.
- Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan recently signed an agreement on the Prosperity Project, in which Israel will provide clean water to Jordan and Jordan will provide clean energy to Israel.
- And an Israeli company recently launched an Aqua Culture Water Project in Layun in the Moroccan Sahara.

These and other areas of cooperation, have been made possible by the Abraham Accords – the peace treaties signed in 2020 between Israel and four Arab countries.

My friends,

The Abraham Accords provide us with a real opportunity to collaborate on water projects for the benefit of the entire region.

Abraham was a man of few words, but of many deeds.

In his words:

”יוקח נָא מְעַט מִיָּם”

“Take a LITTLE water”

Abraham taught us that we can do more with less.

With only a *little* water – we can make a *big* difference.

Israel continues to serve as a huge resource of water for itself, for Africa, and for the Abraham Accords countries, Jordan and the Palestinians – to whom we give even more water than required under the Oslo Accords.

Our neighbors are realizing that Israel is not the **problem** in the Middle East. Israel is the **solution** in the Middle East.

In many such countries, one has to walk for miles every morning just to find water. Just imagine how many more countries could benefit if they sign the Abraham Accords and make peace with Israel.

As Israel's Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology – I am so proud that our water technologies are saving the lives of people around the world. I am proud that our food-tech and agri-tech sectors are providing so much to the world as well.

By working with Israel and investing in our technologies, you will be able to provide more opportunities for your countries and for your peoples in water, food, energy and more.

I am proud that today, for solutions to these common challenges, leaders across the globe are looking to Jerusalem.

As the prophet זכריה teaches us:

”וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יֵצְאוּ מִיָּם חַיִּים מִירוּשָׁלַיִם

חֲצִיָּם אֶל הַיָּם הַקָּדְמוֹנִי וְחֲצִיָּם אֶל הַיָּם הָאַחֲרֹן - בְּקִיץ וּבְחֶרֶף יִהְיֶה”

“On that day, life-saving waters will flow from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, in both summer and winter.”

Ladies and gentlemen,

Israel will continue to do everything in its power to make our life-saving water technologies available for all peace-loving countries who seek it. I urge you to join us in realizing this opportunity.

Thank you.