

Statement by Israel
“Waste Management”
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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

Waste management is a major global challenge. In Israel, such issues are compounded by the country's unique demographic conditions: a high rate of population growth, rising standards of living, accelerated building and development, and continued industrial growth.

To address the challenges of both solid and hazardous waste, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has formulated policies based upon three driving principles. First, and most importantly, to reduce waste at its source. Second, to reuse and recycle waste.

And third, effective and safe disposal. This multilayered approach seeks to turn waste from a hazard into a resource.

The first decade of the 21st century has witnessed major efforts to increase Israel's recycling rate and minimize landfill use.

Such an achievement has been made possible through legislative instruments, such as the Deposit Law on Beverage Containers, the landfill levy which requires landfill operators to pay a levy for every ton of waste landfilled, the Tire Recycling Law and, most recently, a draft Packaging Law, which will impose direct responsibility on manufacturers and importers for collecting and recycling the packaging waste of their products.

Revenues from these landfill taxes fund local recycling and recovery projects.

On the local level, school and community-wide recycling programs, along with campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness on these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Hazardous waste represents yet another major challenge. To address this matter, strict enforcement measures for any facility dealing with hazardous substances were established.

Permit applications for those dealing with hazardous material require detailed and verifiable information on the types and quantities of hazardous waste produced and the treatment method for such waste.

Overall, Israel's policy on hazardous waste is based on the “3 R’s” Policy.

To promote the reduction, reuse, and recycling of hazardous waste, the Ministry of Environmental Protection grants financial incentives to industries for projects that reduce hazardous waste.

The project has led to a decrease in hazardous waste generation in Israel and has demonstrated that environmental improvement is cost-effective.

Existing regulations on hazardous waste mandate the disposal of hazardous waste at Ramat Hovav, Israel's national site for the disposal and treatment of hazardous waste.

Such regulations also allow for alternative hazardous waste treatment under specific conditions. This leads to nearly 30% rate of recovery of hazardous waste.

The Ramat Hovav facility handles inorganic, organic, liquid and solid hazardous waste using different treatment processes and technologies, including: neutralization, detoxification, recycling, on-site incineration, secured landfilling and stabilization of inorganic waste before landfilling.

The older part of the site is currently undergoing a comprehensive remediation process and at its completion will be transformed into a state-of-the-art plant for the

treatment of hazardous waste, complying with the most stringent safety and environmental standards.

While Israel continues to upgrade its facilities to cope with hazardous waste, municipal waste, and construction waste, Israel has also begun to promote a lifecycle thinking approach on these matters — to shift from waste management to materials management.

Such thinking joins together government and the private sector and other stakeholders in order to increase effective use of materials.

Thank you.