

Geneva, January 17, 2007

Report by Shalom Goldberger – Israeli Delegation

Madame Chair, Dear Delegates,

Israel did not sign the Protocol but I would like to inform Madame Chair and the forum about some of our progress in the fields of sanitation and drinking water.

In 2000, an inter-ministerial committee lead by the Ministries of Health and Environment was established. The committee recommended tertiary treatment of sewage, including filtration and disinfection of effluent. Regulations are in preparation. Due to budget problems, implementation is planned for ten years.

In 2003 the Ministry of Health established an experts committee to update the current drinking water regulation. The committee finished its work. New regulations are a process that may take a year or two. The regulations are based on WHO, EPA and EU regulations and guidelines.

The Israeli Government decided that the solutions to water shortage in the country are desalination of sea water and water reuse. A big desalination plant producing 100 million cubic meters a year is already working. Two more plants will work by 2009 producing together about 25% of domestic water consumption.

Israel is reusing about 60% of the effluent, and with the progress of tertiary treatment this number will increase.

Last, but not least: we initiated studies in “Environmental Health” in a college in Jerusalem. Education and training of the young generation became critical, as the number of students in Water, Health and Environment Studies, as well as the number of professionals in these fields, did not meet our needs.