



**State of Israel**  
**Ministry of Construction and Housing**  
**Strategy & Policy Planning Division**  
**Foreign Affairs Department**

Mr. President,

Israel has one of the highest percentages of urban residents in the world. In a country where 92% of the population lives in cities, careful planning of the urban environment is crucial to the country's long-term success.

Israel's Ministry of Construction and Housing is leading the country's implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, and promotes sustainable urban growth through broad and long-term policy development and implementation.

This long-term policy has to consider the rapid population growth rate in Israel, currently around 2% a year. This, with the shortage of land in the country, will result in Israel getting more and more dense. This is one of the chief concerns of our government.

Densification and overcrowding are not unique Israeli issues. Many countries across the world are asking themselves similar questions. Through international collaborations and our relationship with academia, we aspire for Israel to be at the forefront of this discourse and set an example for countries worldwide.

Mr. President, Collaborations with international organizations are a key tool for us, both in understanding global trends and facing Israel's unique challenges. Together we can examine the opportunities for densification and build a toolbox for better decision-making based on research and data.

This is why Israel is currently conducting a comprehensive research on the topic of densification. The research is a comparative and complementary analysis of densification with Rwanda, The Netherlands, and the Republic of Korea. It gives us a unique look at the diverse ways to leverage the opportunities of densification and mitigate the associated risks, while developing innovative solutions.

We are proud of the partnership with UN-Habitat as a whole and with the UNI Habitat chain of Universities that lead this densification research.

Israel and many other countries in the world are facing a housing crisis. The Ministry of Construction and Housing is committed to housing for all, and we aspire to provide solutions that offer a quality of life in an accessible urban space.

One of the main solutions Israel uses to face the housing crisis is Urban regeneration and we are working on collaborations with UN-Habitat and other member states on this



## State of Israel Ministry of Construction and Housing

useful tool to tackle urban challenges and benefit our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren, who will live in our rapidly transforming cities and neighborhoods.

Mr. President, The cooperation between the Ministry of Construction and Housing with UN-Habitat, and the outcome of this Assembly are important and essential milestones for helping shape a better sustainable urban future in Israel and worldwide.

Thank you.