STATE OF ISRAEL

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Approach for and topics to be discussed at the global dialogues under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

Israel is pleased to have the opportunity to share views on topics for discussion at the upcoming Global Dialogue, focusing on solutions in the forest sector for mitigating climate change. As we have seen during the past two years, the global dialogues have provided an important platform for the exchange of best practices and expertise, while the just energy transition remains as important as ever. This year, we look forward to exploring measures and actions in the land sector that can contribute to achieving the Paris Agreement global temperature and adaptation goals.

The urgency for scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade was reinforced in the first Global Stocktake (GST) decision, and we remain committed to pursuing the recommendations for responding to the climate crisis. Israel's suggestions for the Fifth Global Dialogue are in line with the GST objective to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Nearly 50% of tree species worldwide are currently at risk of extinction, emphasizing the urgent need for strengthening conservation efforts. The theme of the International Day of Forests, 2025, highlighted the role forests play in ensuring food security, sustaining livelihoods and promoting biodiversity.

We would like to suggest topics for the Global Dialogue that could provide an important and very relevant discussion on forest management, agricultural systems, and nature- based solutions for enhancing ecosystem resilience. Parties would be able to contribute to the discussions based on their experience, recommending concrete actions under the guidance of the MWP, which is dedicated to enhancing global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Conserving tree species as a key component of ecosystem function and climate mitigation:

Forests play a vital role in mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. This function is directly linked to their biodiversity and we know that richer ecosystems, with a diverse array of tree species, are more resilient and efficient in stabilizing carbon cycles and buffering climate fluctuations. It is essential that we join forces in preserving genetically diverse populations of tree species that can withstand climate change.

Tree diversity enhances the functionality of forest ecosystems by promoting complementary interactions among species. These interactions improve resilience to environmental stressors, increase carbon sequestration capacity, and enhance nutrient cycling. Forests with higher species richness tend to be more adaptable to changing climatic conditions,

reducing the risk of large-scale forest decline and the subsequent release of stored carbon into the atmosphere.

This inherent resilience enables the continued provision of key ecosystem services, including long-term carbon sequestration and regulation of local microclimates, even under conditions of climate stress.

In addition, we would suggest enriching the discussions by sharing expertise on mitigating climate change in areas suffering from water scarcity. The importance of protecting natural tree populations is particularly critical in drylands, where forest ecosystems often function at the edge of their ecological resilience. In such areas, local tree species have evolved to withstand prolonged droughts and poor soils, demonstrating remarkable tolerance to climatic extremes. This inherent resilience enables the continued provision of key ecosystem services, including long-term carbon sequestration and regulation of local microclimates, even under conditions of climate stress.

Israel would like to suggest topics to be presented at the Global Dialogue, under the heading of **Conservation Strategies for Tree Species,** offering a learning experience as well as an exchange of expertise. In order to address the rapid decline of tree species, conservation efforts should focus on, among others:

- Protecting natural forests: strengthening measures and policies for preventing deforestation and habitat destruction;
- Genetic resource conservation: identifying and safeguarding tree populations with genetic traits that enhance climate resilience;
- Ex-Situ conservation: establishing and supporting existing seed banks and botanical gardens to preserve endangered tree species outside their natural habitats;
- Sustainable forest management: implementing forestry practices that maintain species diversity while supporting economic and social benefits.
- Prevention of invasive alien species.

The benefits of preserving tree diversity extend beyond natural forest ecosystems, influencing agricultural and urban ecosystems. In agricultural landscapes, tree species diversity contributes to soil health, water retention, and pollination services, ultimately enhancing food security. In urban areas, diverse tree planting can help regulate local climates by mitigating the urban heat island effect, as well as improve air quality, and provide habitats for wildlife.

We recognize the importance of tree species conservation as a fundamental component of climate mitigation. It would be of interest to hear how Parties address the issue of **long-term viability of tree species** by presenting actions in their own countries in the following areas:

- Integrating local tree species conservation into climate policy;
- Enhancing research to identify priority species for conservation and restoration projects;

- Raising awareness about the importance of tree species diversity and involving local communities in conservation efforts;
- Strengthening global partnerships to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for tree conservation.

This year again, Israel would like to recommend holding MWP **virtual** meetings and workshops in order to ensure wider stakeholder participation. Regarding the global dialogues, although it is extremely beneficial to participate in person this is not always possible. We would be pleased to suggest names of experts who would be available to present virtually in the Global Dialogues.