

**Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 1:
“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in
the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”
Vienna, 22 - 23 January 2007**

Opening Session

**Statement by Galit Ronen, DCM of the Israeli mission to the
OSCE at the part I of the Fifteenth Meeting of the OSCE EEF**

Thank you chair,

First of all allow me to thank the organizer of this forum which I am confident will help us all deal with the problems of land degradation, soil contamination and water management.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind this forum that Israel, due to its geographical location and scarce natural resources, had been forced to be in the forefront of those dealing with such problems. As a result, we are now recognized as one of leading countries in finding innovative, high-tech solutions to such challenges.

On several previous occasions, we offered to share our knowledge and expertise with the OSCE either as an organization or with its participating states on a bilateral basis. We stand ready to cooperate with the organizers of the EEC to provide key note speakers, case studies and best practices in both the Sargosa meeting and the Prague meeting.

We hope the Prague meeting will also include a side event for the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation as this issue is of vital interest to all the partners as well as to Mediterranean participating states. We will be happy to provide suggestions and speakers to this side event as well as to the forum itself.

Thank you Chair.