

**Statement by the Delegation of Israel: UN-Habitat First Executive Board Meeting**  
**21.04.2026**

AGENDA ITEM: 7

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,**

Any reference to the report on the *Status of the Development of Efforts to Reconstruct the Human Settlements in the Gaza Strip* should not be limited solely to the work of this organization or to the activities of the United Nations system. A comprehensive understanding of reconstruction efforts must also take into account broader international initiatives, including **The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict**, concluded on *29 September 2025*, and the work of the **Board of Peace**, under the leadership of the United States and with the participation of many Member States represented here today. We encourage all Member States to support its full implementation in order to advance peace, stability, and sustainable reconstruction.

**Mr. Chair,**

It is also essential to acknowledge the underlying conditions that have significantly impacted reconstruction efforts. Since 2007, the Gaza Strip has been under the **control of Hamas**, an entity designated as a terrorist organization. The governance realities on the ground have contributed to the diversion and misuse of resources, including those provided by the international community, thereby undermining efforts aimed at improving the living conditions of the civilian population.

Instead of enabling sustainable urban development, such dynamics have, in many instances, hindered the development of critical civilian infrastructure and contributed to continued instability.

Israel supports all efforts that genuinely seek to improve the humanitarian and developmental situation of the Palestinian population in Gaza.

Israel's position remains clear and consistent: a sustainable future for the region requires that reconstruction efforts be safeguarded from misuse and aligned with the broader goal of peace and stability. The international community must ensure that resources are directed toward the well-being of civilians and not diverted in ways that perpetuate conflict.

**Thank you.**