

At the outset, I wish to express the sadness and deepest sympathies of the Government of Israel and the people of Israel over the tragedy in which Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, senior members of the Polish government, army and all of the members of the Polish delegation lost their lives.

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to offer you my personal warm congratulations on your election to the bureau and I wish you success and achievement. I am confident that your leadership and guidance will help the

CPD effectively tackle the many issues it addresses in a professional and effective manner. I also wish to offer my best wishes to the vice-chairs on their elections to the bureau.

Since its inception, the Government of Israel has adopted many laws, policies, and programs that work to sustain the health and safety of its population. This task is complicated by the fact that

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Europe, Africa, Asia, as well as North and South America. These demographic realities are in addition to the mosaic of Israeli society that encompass traditional populations.

Such multifaceted cleavages within Israeli society require many specific and targeted programs

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