

STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of Communications
External Affairs Division

August 4, 2003

Israel's Statement to the GSR

The Administration of Israel holds the following regulatory measures and principles as guidelines in assuring universal access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's) in a free information society, toward which we strive and are fully committed.

- We have implemented a Universal Service Obligation (USO) with relation to broadband Internet, through PSTN and cables. This regulatory measure is significant in facilitating easier countrywide access to information technologies.
- We encourage the investment in connectivity and transmission technologies, in order to enable the most effective accessibility to all types of information and applications.
- We emphasize the need for a real, wide competition in the fields of access infrastructure provision as well as access technology production, as a key element in guaranteeing low-cost, effective connectivity.
- Unused existing infrastructure capacity is to be used to improve low cost connectivity to ICT's.
- We promote wireless access on a temporary basis wherever fixed connectivity is not available yet, until such connectivity is made available.