The following statement has been received from the delegation of Israel.

On 16 February 1990, the Government of Israel signed the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade which, in accordance with Article 15.6 of the Agreement, entered into force on 18 March 1990. Pursuant to Article 15.7 of the Agreement, the Government of Israel has the honour of submitting to the Committee details of the measures taken in respect of the implementation and administration of the Agreement in Israel.

1. The Standards Institute of Israel (SII) is the body responsible for the preparations of standards in Israel. SII became a statutory organization in 1953 with the enactment of the Standards Law. This Law governs all standardization in Israel and thus also the implementation of the TBT Agreement. Standardization in Israel includes the preparation of standards, testing and certification of products, and quality systems according to the ISO 9000. SII’s policy is to adopt, wherever possible, existing international standards to avoid any form of discrimination.

2. All Israeli Standards, as prepared by SII, are voluntary. The Minister of Industry and Trade has the authority, according to the Standards Law, to proclaim a standard mandatory (called an "Official Standard") for the purposes of preventing deceptive practices and protecting health, safety or the environment. When the standard relates to the activity of another ministry, that ministry may refer to the standard in a specific government regulation. Either way, the requirements of the standard are incumbent on products marketed in Israel, be they imported or locally produced.

3. After being issued, notices of all standards, revisions of standards and regulations are published in RESHUMOT, the official government gazette of Israel. Notices on proposals for standards are published in SII bulletin "MATI, Journal of the Standards Institution of Israel."

4. Before the final publication of a standard and the revisions to a standard or to an official standard, a time period of between three weeks to 60 days is allowed for comments on the proposal. Before the changing of the status of a standard to an official standard, the Standards Commissioner in the Ministry of Industry and Trade requests for comments on this action. After the enactment of an official standard, there is at least a 60 day time period before it comes into force.
5. The enquiry point and notification body required under Article 10 of the Agreement is the Information Centre in the SII. This centre is an ISONET member and is fully operational. The address of the enquiry point in Israel is as follows:

The Standards Institution of Israel  
Export Information Centre  
42 Haim Levanon St.  
Tel-Aviv 69977  
Israel  
Tel: + 972 3 646 50.47  
Fax: + 972 3 641 27.62

6. The name and address of the agency for consultation in accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement is as follows:

Department of Multilateral Affairs  
Foreign trade Administration  
Ministry of Industry and Trade  
30 Agron St.  
Jerusalem 94190  
Israel  
Tel: +972 2 220 316/7, 220 706  
Fax: +972 2 243 005

7. To fulfil its notification obligations under Articles 2.5, 2.6, 7.3 and 7.4 of the Agreement, on 18 September 1994 the Government of Israel approved a proposal to establish a special committee for examining technical legislation and standardization in the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The main purposes of such a committee will be to ensure that national authorities preparing new official standards, technical regulations, certification systems or substantial amendments to existing ones provide early information on their proposals. These will then be examined by the committee which will decide whether a notification to other Parties of the TBT Agreement is warranted.