2015 Conference participants presenting the Haifa Declaration to the President of Israel

**28-30 May 2018**
**Haifa & Jerusalem**
**ISRAEL**

# MASHAV'S 30TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE:

## *LEADING WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE*

### 60 years of Israeli International Sustainable Development Cooperation

**Background:**

Since its establishment, the Golda Meir MASHAV Carmel International Training Center, under the auspices of MASHAV- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, has hosted 29 women leaders conferences. This year, in the midst of the 60th year of MASHAV activities, and the celebrations of 70 years for the State of Israel, the 30th International Women Leaders Conference will be held, titled: *"Leading Women Making a Difference: 60 Years of Israeli International Sustainable Development Cooperation"*.

This year's special conference is intended to provide a platform for outstanding women who are leading a positive change in society and to learn from their experience on the role of women leaders and their significant impact on sustainable international development.

**Participants:**

The conference will gather over sixty leading women from developing, developed and emerging economies, including heads of states, senior policy-makers, Ministers and MPs, leading figures from all walks of life including the media, business and the private sector, sports, science and education, as well as high-ranking representatives from the academia, international NGO's and UN organisations, specialized agencies and programmes.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to present their personal experience as models for change and exceptional leadership, share knowledge in interactive panel sessions, participate in professional visits and go on tours to historical sites in Israel.

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**Conference objectives:**

**Upon completion, the conference aims to create an international network of women committed to advancing the leadership of the future by connecting all the participants of the present conference to an interactive digital network that will enable sharing of relevant knowledge, mentoring and mutual support with the goal of promoting leadership in participants' various countries. Thus, the conference will be an occasion for leading women worldwide to jointly come up with practical recommendations for the way forward to a more equitable and inclusive global society.**

## KEY TOPICS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

- ✓ Testimonies and personal experience of outstanding women leaders participating in the conference.
- ✓ Mentoring and Leadership: How leading women can support the development of future leadership
- ✓ Innovation in leadership
- ✓ Policy, legislation and programs to promote women's leadership
- ✓ Recommended ways to increase the number of women in decision-making processes
- ✓ The role of women leaders in promoting gender equality

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**About MASHAV:**

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel's own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives.

One of the oldest aid agencies in the world, MASHAV is celebrating 60 years of development cooperation. Since its establishment, MASHAV has promoted the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process – an approach which has attained global consensus. MASHAV's activities focus primarily on areas in which Israel has a competitive advantage, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; entrepreneurship and innovation; community development; medicine and public health, empowerment of women and education. Professional programs are based on a "train the trainers" approach to institutional and human capacity building, and are conducted both in Israel and abroad. Project development is supported by the seconding of short and long-term experts, as well as on-site interventions. MASHAV's mission to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, is in line with the new 2030 sustainable development agenda (SDGs). Since its inception in 1958, close to 300,000 professionals from over 140 countries have taken part in capacity building activities both in Israel and abroad.

**About MCTC:**

MCTC- The Golda Meir MASHAV Carmel International Training Center, a training center of MASHAV, was established in 1961 to conduct training activities in the socio-economic arena, with an emphasis on gender equality. Founded by former Prime Minister Golda Meir, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, MCTC was the first of its kind in the domain of women's empowerment. MCTC endeavors to provide professional women and men from developing countries and transitional societies with the necessary tools for socio-economic development. To this end, MCTC conducts training activities and high-level conferences both in Israel and overseas. MCTC focuses on three areas of study: Sustainable Community Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Early Childhood Education and Development, all in line with the Sustainable Development goals of the United Nations. MCTC stresses the importance of community participation in the process of development and the role of women in global development.

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