



No to Establish a Waste and Energy Facility in the Occupied Territories **Yes to Advance Waste Management Solutions Based on Principles of Environmental Justice and Regional Sustainability**

November 2019

A. Introduction

This position paper is part of the preparation of the Association for Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI) in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSO), in Israel and in Palestine, following the Government of Israel publishing a Pre-Qualification Procedure for international tender for planning, financing, construction and operation of Israel's first facility to convert 'waste to energy' in the occupied territories.

Although the far reaching implications for this plan in internal and international arena, the publishing on 10th October 2019 was in time of "High Holiday period" in Israel and while a provisional government is acting – therefore we see the necessary to act as early as possible - in key levels of awareness, environmental policy advocacy and legal procedures in Israel and in Europe.

B. The Plan

- B.1. The facility will be built across the Green Line, near the Good Samaritan site, in the jurisdiction of Ma'aleh Adumim. It is planned to absorb the municipal waste of the city of Jerusalem and generate electricity through incineration.
- B.2. The plan for the construction of the waste treatment and incineration facility is part of Israel's Waste Management Strategic Plan for 2030, which includes 3 energy facilities (North, South, Center).
- B.3. The formulation process of Israel's waste treatment strategy for 2030 was funded by the EU and with contracted of 3 European countries via Twinning projects: Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland).
- B.4. It has also been announced that the main source for funding the building of the waste facility will be government finance (NIS 2.8 billion), which will come from the Cleanliness Fund in the management of the Ministry of the Environment in Israel.



C. Environmental and International Legal Aspects

- C.1. Israel ranks at the bottom of national municipal waste recycling rates internationally compared to developed countries. Most of the municipal waste in Israel is currently transferred to landfill (80%).
- Therefore, in addition to the effort required for reduce consumption and increase waste separation in origin (at domestic and municipal level), we support the solution of converting organic waste into energy in environmentally controlled and monitored processes.
- C.2. Utilizing of the designated areas for waste treatment is in violation of international laws:
- C.2.1. According to the Geneva Convention- the designated area for the construction of the waste facility is occupied territory. According to the Israel government this area is 'State Land' (*Master plan of Waste treatment sites, 2012, Environment Ministry*).
- C.2.2. According to the Basel Convention¹ – the designated facility is aimed to absorb the municipal waste of the city of Jerusalem. Transferring the municipal waste of Jerusalem to the West Bank, an area that is weakened in terms of environmental governance and civic society capability to act, is a process of realizing environmental injustice policy.
- C.2.3. It should be noted that the facility, which will start operating in 6 years, will include a sorting facility that will separate the waste components that are suitable for incineration and recycling. As Israel aware, according to the plan, the residuals of the energy generation process will be returned to landfill within the State of Israel, and will not be buried beyond the Green Line.

D. Environment, Social and Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

- D.1. The Israel's strategic plan for 2030 includes number of similar facilities to be built in the north and south of Israel.
- D.2. Establishment of such a facility, the first of its kind, would create new jobs on backdrop of creating Green Jobs in frame of Energy Transition solutions and could leverage economically and socially of the areas. Therefore, the importance is to build it in the peripheral of Israel, within the borders of 67.
- D.3. Due the geopolitical situation in our region, including the stagnation of civil and economic cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and considering the possibility of a change in the future so that elected governments would prefer to promote economic cooperation, we think it is worth reviewing the plan - given the possibility of positive change - and further examine the possibility of establishing a facility of waste-energy as a joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative with the EU in the future.

¹ A multilateral environmental agreement, on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other and their Disposal.



The Association of Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI)
المنظمة للعدل البيئي האגודה לצדק סביבתי בישראל

Therefore, the planned actions we have initiating via - Public awareness, Legal procedures, Policy advocacy – are aimed to raise discussion and advance policy principles of environmental justice and social justice and to support the efforts to stop the promotion of the plan in the occupied territory, as promoted by the Israeli government, and revising further options, including:

- 1) Relocate it into the Green line.**
- 2) Joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative based on examining alternatives of locations – an option to be considered in the longer term.**

For further information please contact us at:

Office@aeji.org.il | www.Aeji.org.il |