Dear international participants,

The visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem will take place January 22th, you'll receive a detailed program soon.

Within the program there is a component of a mini workshop in working groups. You will be participating in a working group on diplomatic economic activity. The title of your workshop will be "From Aid to Trade – How can diplomacy transfer a development project to a commercial one".

Development diplomacy plays a central role in today's global policy and processes. It is based upon GtG (Government to Government) efforts. Governments are facing challenges of limited resources but growing demands.

How can a country bring the private sector as a partner to the implementation of its international development projects and transform them to be more commercial in their nature (bringing benefit to the private sector of the country) while keeping the diplomatic/political interests? This is, in a way, similar to what some countries are doing today, in the defense sector. The issue is very much alive on the Israeli Government's agenda.

You will be asked to draft a blue print for a strategy for this concept titled "From aid to trade".

In a plenary session, later during the same visit, the ad hoc head of the group will present the group's product. In this case it will be Patrick.

For further background information here are some recommended relevant websites:

* MASHAV the Israeli foreign aid agency (within the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs).
* The Milken innovation center.
* The DAC (OECD's development committee).
* Foreign aid agencies of your own countries.