

Israel's Commitments Following the 2021 Summit for Democracy

The State of Israel stands as a proud democracy in the Middle East. Since its establishment, Israel has been committed to upholding and preserving the values of human rights.

In 1948, in the proclamation of the establishment of the State of Israel, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion declared that "the State of Israel will be... based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture..."

Despite unusual challenges at home and in the region, the State of Israel continues to abide by the Declaration of Independence, striving for peace, security, and justice, and it works to improve the lives of its citizens and the peoples of the region.

The current Iranian regime is the biggest threat to democratic values and human rights in the region. Hence, the fight against the autocratic Iranian regime is a fight for the rights of the Iranian people, for stability in the Middle East and for the international community.

The Abraham Accords and normalization as a tool to improve and advance development and prosperity in the region

The State of Israel, together with its partners in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, are working tirelessly together in all scopes of life, to bring about a better future for the region.

This includes addressing minority issues and gender equality, combatting climate change and desertification, increasing awareness of and addressing the needs of people with disabilities, working together to develop better healthcare and medical systems, and confronting the security challenges we all face.

- **Women, Peace, and Diplomacy:** On September 21, 2021, at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Ambassadors of Israel, Bahrain, UAE, and Morocco, presented a joint statement on women, peace, and diplomacy. The statement called upon all member states to strongly commit to ensuring that

women have a seat at every table, that they are heard and given the opportunity to contribute to finding solutions and preventing conflict; to take into account the experiences of women and girls living in conflict zones but also those who enjoy peace and stability; and to always include a gender perspective, recognizing that different situations impact women and girls differently. Israel's special envoy for the implementation of UNSCR No. 1325 is planning to promote these issues with counterparts in the UAE.