

The UAE and Israel: A Year of Progress

Since the announcement of the Abraham Accords, the UAE and Israel have made incredible progress in building people-to-people connections, spurring growth and generating new opportunities. Collaboration is taking place across numerous fields, including trade, investment, health, technology, agriculture, tourism and more. Below is an overview of joint achievements following the Accords.

Diplomatic

- **HE Obaid bin Humaid Al Tayer**, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, **HE Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri**, Minister of Economy, and **HE Omar Ghobash**, Assistant Minister for Culture and Public Diplomacy at MOFAIC, visited Israel (October 2020).
- **HE Mohamed Al Khaja** presented his credentials to Israel's former President Reuvin Rivlin, becoming the first UAE Ambassador to Israel (March 2021).
- Israel's Foreign Minister and Alternate Prime Minister **HE Yair Lapid** made his first official visit to the UAE. The **Israeli Embassy in Abu Dhabi** and **Consulate General in Dubai** formally opened (June 2021).
- **UAE Embassy in Tel Aviv** formally opened (July 2021).
- **HE Mariam Almheiri**, Minister of State for Food and Water Security, visited Israel (July 2021).

Economy & Trade

- **DP World** [signed](#) a memorandum of understanding with Israel's **Bank Leumi** to explore potential financing to develop Israel's port sector (September 2020).
- **Emirates NBD** [signed](#) an MOU with Israel's **Bank Hapoalim** to allow bank services between the two countries (September 2020).
- **DP World** [signed](#) MOUs with Israel's **DoverTower** to explore opportunities to develop infrastructure for trade between Israel and the UAE and the region (September 2020).
- **Jebel Ali Free Zone** [entered](#) into a strategic agreement with the **Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce** to support businesses and encourage economic cooperation (September 2020).
- **Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry** and **Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce** [signed](#) a strategic partnership agreement that aims to establish a framework for bilateral economic cooperation and mutually beneficial partnerships (September 2020).
- Through its **Dubai Diamond Exchange**, DMCC [signed](#) an agreement with the **Israel Diamond Exchange** to foster collaboration by sharing knowledge, partnering on exhibitions and promoting bilateral trade opportunities (September 2020).
- **Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO)** [signed](#) a cooperation agreement with the **Israel Export Institute** to collaborate on trade and investments (October 2020).
- The **UAE and Israel** [reached](#) a bilateral agreement to protect investors from arbitrary changes in regulations and political situations (October 2020).
- **KIKLABB** and **NY Koen Group** [announced](#) a partnership agreement which aims to facilitate cultural understanding, foreign investment and business development between the business communities of the UAE and Israel (November 2020).
- **Abu Dhabi Ports** and the **Manufacturers Association of Israel** [signed](#) an agreement to enhance

trade, investment and technology cooperation between the UAE and Israel (December 2020).

- **Etihad Credit Insurance** and the **Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corporation** [signed](#) an agreement to develop economic relations between the two countries (December 2020).
- **Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange** and the **Tel Aviv Stock Exchange** [signed](#) a MOU to facilitate channels of communication and develop capital markets in the UAE and Israel (December 2020).
- The **Dubai Investment Development Agency** (Dubai FDI), an agency of Dubai Economy, [signed](#) an agreement with the **Manufacturers' Association of Israel** to explore collaboration in promoting cross-border business and investment opportunities (March 2021).
- Israel's **Money Laundering and Terror Financing Prohibition Authority** at the Ministry of Justice and the UAE's **Financial Intelligence Unit** [signed](#) an MOU aimed at strengthening cooperation to address money laundering (March 2021).
- The **UAE and Israel** [signed](#) a tax treaty to avoid double taxation that will help promote bilateral trade and investment in years to come (May 2021).
- **HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed** and Israeli Foreign Minister **Yair Lapid** [signed](#) an agreement on economic and trade cooperation to foster economic ties and related opportunities (June 2021).

Technology

- The **Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence** and Israel's **Weizmann Institute of Science** are [working](#) together to advance the development and use of AI through academic exchanges, conferences and the establishment of a virtual institute for AI (September 2020).
- **Abu Dhabi Global Market** [announced](#) it would sign an MOU with **Israel Securities Authority** and **Bank Hapoalim** to support the fintech sector through projects to facilitate international trade, business and financial services activities between the UAE and Israel (November 2020).
- **DIFC FinTech Hive** [signed](#) an agreement with Israel's **FinTech-Aviv** to strengthen the role of Dubai International Financial Centre as a global fintech hub (November 2020).
- The **UAE-Israel Tech Zone** [launched](#) to connect over investors, technology leaders, government officials and developers and promote business cooperation in the tech sector (December 2020).
- **EDGE** and **Israel Aerospace Industries** [signed](#) an MOU to develop an advanced C-UAS (Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System) tailored to the UAE market (March 2021).
- **G42** and **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** [formed](#) a joint venture to commercialize AI and big data technologies (April 2021).

Energy & Environment

- **Masdar** and Israel's **EDF Renewables** [announced](#) an agreement to explore renewable energy opportunities in Israel and support the country's clean energy objectives (January 2021).
- Israel's **Delek Drilling** [announced](#) the signing of a non-binding MOU with **Mubadala Petroleum** for the sale of Delek Drilling's 22% non-operated stake in the Tamar gas field (April 2021).
- An agreement was [signed](#) to launch a joint Israeli-Emirati water research program as part of a collaboration between the Israeli **Watergen** company and **Baynunah**, a sister company of Al Dahra Group, an Emirati agriculture group that specializes in food security (June 2021).
- UAE Minister of State for Food and Water Security **HE Mariam Al Mheiri** [signed](#) an MOU with Israeli Agriculture Minister **Oded Forer** that aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of food production, food supply chains, and research and innovation (July 2021).
- **HE Mariam Al Mheiri** [signed](#) a second MOU with Israeli Minister of Environmental Protection **Tamar Zandberg** aimed at joint research efforts for the mitigation of climate change and

ensuring biodiversity and ecosystem conservation (July 2021).

Health

- The **UAE** and **Israeli** health ministries [agreed](#) on immediate cooperation in the healthcare sector. The ministers pledged to appoint a representative responsible in part for coordinating relations between both countries, particularly in the response to COVID-19 (August 2020).
- Abu Dhabi's **G42 Healthcare** [signed](#) an agreement with Israel's **NanoScent** to develop, distribute and manufacture a test that detects COVID-19 from exhaled air (August 2020).
- Emirati company **APEX National Investment** [signed](#) a strategic commercial agreement with Israel's **Tera Group** to cooperate on COVID-19 research and development, with a focus on advancing testing and vaccine technology (August 2020).
- Israel's **Sheba Medical Center** and **APEX National Investment** [signed](#) a preliminary agreement to jointly promote healthcare technologies in the UAE and the Gulf region (September 2020).
- **SURE Universal Ltd**, a developer of IoT (Internet of Things) software for home healthcare, has [partnered](#) with **HBK Department of Projects** in the UAE to launch a white label smart IoT healthcare solution for both the UAE and Middle East regional markets (September 2020).
- The **Galilee Medical Center** and **Azrieli Faculty of Medicine** at Bar-Ilan University in the Galilee [signed](#) an agreement with the dental clinic at the **Gulf Medical University** to collaborate in the fields of dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery (December 2020).
- **Bar-Ilan University** [signed](#) an agreement with the UAE's **Gulf Medical University** to promote medical research and improve public health throughout the Middle East (January 2021).
- **Zulekha Hospital** in the UAE and Israel-based **Health Plus** have [signed](#) a mutual agreement to cooperate in the field of medical tourism (February 2021).
- The **Emirates Health Services Establishment (EHSE)** [signed](#) an agreement with the **Israeli Ministry of Health** aimed at enhancing quality of healthcare in the two countries (April 2021).
- Dubai-based **SJM Group** and **INMED**, an Israeli medtech startup, will [partner](#) on creating a digital health platform for remote patient management in Dubai (July 2021).
- The **Department of Health-Abu Dhabi** [signed](#) an MOU with **Clalit Health Services**, the largest HMO in Israel and second largest globally, on healthcare cooperation (July 2021).
- The **Department of Health-Abu Dhabi** [signed](#) an MOU with **Sheba Medical Center**, creating a framework for cooperation in developing and improving healthcare services (July 2021).

Tourism & Aviation

- **Israel** was [invited](#) to participate in **Expo 2020 Dubai** in April 2019. The Israel Pavilion will be featured at Expo when it begins in October 2021.
- The UAE's **General Civil Aviation Authority** [signed](#) an air transport services agreement with the **Civil Aviation Authority of Israel** to strengthen bilateral air transport relations and expand air links between the two countries (October 2020).
- **Etihad Airways** and **El Al Israel Airlines** [signed](#) an MOU to introduce codeshare services and frequent flyer programs with the aim of encouraging tourism to Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv (November 2020).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [ratified](#) a bilateral agreement that will exempt tourists from both countries from visa requirements when visiting the other country (November 2020).
- **Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC)** and **Expo Tel Aviv** [signed](#) an MOU to collaborate and cooperate in the regional business tourism sector (February 2021).

- **Israel Aerospace Industries** said it [signed](#) an agreement with **Etihad Engineering** to establish a facility in Abu Dhabi that will convert Boeing passenger planes into cargo aircraft (August 2021).

People-to-People

- **UAE and Israeli** health ministry officials [announced](#) that both countries would create a student exchange program once conditions allowed amid the COVID-19 pandemic (August 2020).
- The **Abu Dhabi Film Commission, Israel Film Fund and Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film & Television School** [reached](#) an agreement to cooperate in the fields of film and television (September 2020).
- The **UAE Pro League** [signed](#) an MOU with the **Israeli Professional Football League** to jointly advance football-related activities (October 2020).
- The **Ahmed bin Zayed Foundation and Yitzhak Rabin Center** [signed](#) an MOU which aims to provide humanitarian aid to all segments of society, regardless of their religion (October 2020).
- **TRENDS Research & Advisory** in Abu Dhabi [signed](#) an MOU with **Mitvim**, the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, to enhance research cooperation on Israel, the GCC and the Middle East (October 2020).
- **TRENDS Research & Advisory** also [signed](#) an MOU with the **Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies** at Tel Aviv University to enhance academic and analytical research, as well as cooperation in mutual interest areas (October 2020).
- The **International Fund for Houbara Conservation** in Abu Dhabi and the **Israel Nature and Heritage Foundation** will [work](#) together over the next five years on the conservation of the houbara bustard and other vulnerable bird species in Israel (November 2020).
- **ZAKA International Rescue Unit** [signed](#) an MOU with the organizing committee of the **Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition (DIHAD)** to support collaboration in mutual humanitarian assistance and training (November 2020).
- The **UAE and Israel's Football Associations** [signed](#) an MOU to organize friendly matches and hold workshops, among other activities to support football in both countries (December 2020).
- The UAE's **Al Ain Football Club** and Israel's **Maccabi Haifa** [signed](#) an agreement of cooperation and agreed to play friendly matches (February 2021).
- The **National Archives of the UAE and National Library of Israel** [signed](#) an MOU committing "the two organizations to work together in support of mutual and separate goals and for the benefit of the international cultural and documentary heritage sector" (April 2021).
- The **Emirates News Agency (WAM)** and Israel's **Tazpit Press Service (TPS)** [signed](#) an agreement to strengthen professional cooperation and news exchange experiences (April 2021).
- **i24NEWS** [signed](#) a series of cooperation agreements with leading companies in the UAE, including **Dubai Media Incorporated, Abu Dhabi Media Group** and **Motivate Media Group**, as well as with the **Dubai Ministry of Tourism** (June 2021).