



## The UAE and Israel: Two Years 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 Reuven Rivlin, becoming the first UAE Ambassador to Israel (March 2021).
- Israel's Foreign Minister and Alternate Prime Minister **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).
- **HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, [participated](#) in a virtual I2U2 Summit with his counterparts from **Israel** as well as the **US** and **India** (October 2021).
- **HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [met](#) with Israeli President **Isaac Herzog** during his first visit to the UAE (January 2022).
- **Israel** hosted the [first Negev Forum](#), welcoming the top diplomats from the **UAE** and **US** along with other Arab countries (March 2022).
- **HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [received](#) Israeli **Prime Minister Naftali Bennett** during his second visit to the UAE (June 2022).
- The **UAE**, **Israel** and **US** launched the inaugural [I2U2 Summit](#), convening leaders from the three countries and **India** to collaborate on economic and trade matters (July 2022).
- **HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [became](#) the first UAE foreign minister to visit **Israel**. Sheikh Abdullah met with **Israeli President Isaac Herzog** and attended a reception marking the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords (September 2022).

### 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).

- The **Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority** [signed](#) an MOU with the **Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce** to support Israeli companies in establishing business in Dubai (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).
- **Etiihad 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).
- **DP World's Smart Solution Logistics FZE** [signed](#) an agreement with Israel-based **Allalouf Logistics** to explore growth opportunities for the logistics and general freight forwarding business in the UAE and Israel (January 2021).
- 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).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) an agreement to facilitate cooperation in energy sector priorities, such as clean energy and energy storage (November 2021).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) an MOU on cooperation in maritime transport (March 2022).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) a free trade agreement, the first of its kind for the region, seeking to expand bilateral trade to \$10 billion by 2027 (May 2022).

## 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).
- The **UAE** [approved](#) a multi-million dollar joint fund with **Israel** to support private sector technology research and development (January 2022).
- **HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [met](#) with the Minister of Finance of Israel, **Avigdor Lieberman** to discuss opportunities in trade and finance. (September 2022).

## 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).
- **HE Mariam Almheiri** [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 Almheiri** [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).
- At Expo 2020 Dubai, the **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) an MOU to bolster cooperation in the energy sector (November 2021).
- The **UAE**, **Israel** and **Jordan** [signed](#) a declaration of intent to build renewable electricity and water desalination capacity to address the threat posed by climate change on energy and water security in the MENA region (November 2021).
- The **Ministry of Climate Change and Environment** [signed](#) an MOU with Israel's **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** to promote partnership in agricultural R&D (March 2022).

## 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).
- **Pluristem Therapeutics Inc.** and the **Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Center** [signed](#) an MOU to collaborate on activities related to advancing the treatment and research of cell therapies (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).
- Israeli **MediWound**, a maker of a pineapple-based gel to treat burn victims, [signed](#) a marketing and distribution agreement UAE conglomerate **Ghassan Aboud Group** for the commercialization of its NexoBrid drug in the UAE for the treatment of severe burns (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).
- Israel's **Illumigyn** [signed](#) an MOU with UAE-based **Digital Health Innovation (DHI) 2048** to deploy 2,500 gynoscope systems to the region by the year 2025 (August 2021).
- The **UAE and Israel** [signed](#) an MOU to collaborate on COVID-19 vaccine monitoring and verification (October 2021).
- Israel's **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center** [signed](#) an MOU with the Government of **Abu Dhabi** to establish an emergency medicine center in the Emirate (February 2022).

## Tourism & Aviation

- Israel was [invited](#) to participate in **Expo 2020 Dubai** in April 2019. The Israel Pavilion was featured at Expo from October 2021 to March 2022.
- 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 in the regional business tourism sector (February 2021).
- **Israel Aerospace Industries** [signed](#) an agreement with **Etihad Engineering** to establish a facility

in Abu Dhabi that will convert Boeing passenger planes into cargo aircraft (August 2021).

- The **UAE Space Agency** [signed](#) an MOU with the **Israel Space Agency** to enhance cooperation in scientific research and space exploration (October 2021).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) an MOU to strengthen their tourism and economic cooperation and reinforce their bilateral ties (February 2022).
- **Emirates Airline** announced plans for a second daily flight between Dubai and Tel Aviv starting in October 2022 (July 2022).

### 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 **Crossroads of Civilizations Museum** in Dubai and the Jerusalem-based **Heritage Center for Middle East and North Africa Jewry** [signed](#) an MOU to strengthen and highlight people-to-people understanding (December 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** and Israel's **Tazpit Press Service** [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).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) an MOU in educational affairs, which also aims to promote exchanges between academics and students in both countries (November 2021).