



The UAE and Israel: Three Years of Progress

The years on, the Abraham Accords are delivering on their promise of expanded trade and commerce, deeper people-to-people ties, and a more integrated region. 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 call with his counterparts from **Israel** as well as the **US** and **India** to form the I2U2 group. (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).

- **HH President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [met](#) with **President of Israel Isaac Herzog** (December 2022).
- **Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Jose W. Fernandez** [participated](#) in I2U2 initiative's inaugural business forum, hosted in Abu Dhabi by **UAE Minister of State HE Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh** (February 2023).
- **HH President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** [spoke](#) about “their commitment to advancing their historic peace deal” (April 2023).
- **HH President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [sent](#) a letter to **President Isaac Herzog** to officially invite Israel to attend the COP28 climate conference (May 2023).

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 (April 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).
- 35 business agreements were [signed](#) in 2022 between the **UAE** and **Israel** in areas as diverse as cooperation in the fields of health and the environment to collaboration in agriculture, security, and water (January 2023).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), reducing or removing tariffs on about 96% of goods traded between the nations (March 2023).

- **UAE and Israeli firms** [signed](#) an MOU to tackle global agriculture challenges including food security and desertification (August 2023).

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).
- A joint **UAE-Israel R&D fund** to support tech projects involving Emirati and Israeli companies was announced (December 2022).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [established](#) the **Crystal Ball Initiative**, a global platform to fight ransomware cyberattacks (June 2023).
- The UAE's **G42** [teamed](#) up with **Viola** in Israel to address the worldwide tech employee shortage (June 2023).

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).
- UAE, Jordan, and Israel [sign](#) MoU to advance Project Prosperity, at COP27. Previously at Expo 2020 Dubai, the **UAE, Jordan, and Israel** first [signed](#) an initial Declaration of Intent to explore the feasibility of the project.
- 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).
- The **UAE, Jordan, and Israel** [signed](#) a MOU to speed progress on a deal to exchange solar energy for desalinated water (November 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 **NanoScint** 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, [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** [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).
- **Abu Dhabi's Department of Health**, the United Arab Emirates' healthcare regulator and Israel's **Kahn Sagol Maccabi Research and Innovation Center** [signed](#) a MOU to increase cooperation in technological innovation and healthcare research in Abu Dhabi (February 2023).
- The **UAE** and **Israel** [signed](#) a health agreement between the UAE's largest health player, **PureHealth**, and Israeli's largest hospital, **Sheba Medical Center**, to closely collaborate on joint clinical research projects, promote the use of advanced technology in healthcare, expand genetic research initiatives and boost health tourism in both countries (June 2023).

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).
- **UAE** and **Israel** agree to [increase](#) passenger flights for the summer, bringing the weekly number of flights to Dubai to 49, second only to flights to Istanbul (March 2023).

- **Israel is Dubai's** fastest growing source of [tourism](#) year-over-year, with seven weekly flights and over 74,000 Israelis flying to the UAE last month alone (April 2023).

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).
- The **UAE** [becomes](#) the first Arab nation to teach the Holocaust in schools (January 2023).