

**Joint Declaration
between the Government of the State of Israel
and the Government of the Republic of Austria
on the Establishment of a
Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Austria (hereinafter: "the Participants"),

BUILDING upon the strong, friendly, and long-standing relations between both countries, based on mutual respect and trust;

DETERMINED never to forget the lessons of the Shoah;

COMMITTED to common objectives and shared interests;

MINDFUL of the existing bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding resulting in a large array of joint programmes and projects;

MINDFUL of the excellent cooperation with regard to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic through joint initiatives;

ON the occasion of the official visit of H.E. Karl Nehammer, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, to the State of Israel, where he met with H.E. Yair Lapid, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel;

UPON both leaders' decision to elevate the bilateral relations between the two countries to the level of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

WITH the aim of deepening and widening existing areas of cooperation, and of developing new fields of collaboration, in particular in, but not limited to, the areas elaborated below;

The Participants hereby declare the following:

The Participants intend to focus their cooperation on the following key areas:

1. **Fight against pandemics** - COVID-19 has shown that innovation, investment in research and development as well as international cooperation are key elements in fighting pandemics. The Participants will continue and intensify their

cooperation and exchange of experience relating to pandemic crisis prevention and management, bilaterally, and through capacity building in developing countries, as well as together with partner countries, such as the “Early Movers” Group. Such cooperation may include activities with regard to development of strategies for a well-prepared and resilient health system as well as to research and development and production of vaccines and drugs and their components as well as, mutual recognition of vaccination certificates.

2. **Innovation and research** - Both Participants are at the forefront of innovation with highly dynamic science and research ecosystems, their research intensities ranking among the highest in the OECD. The Participants aim at further enhancing their cooperation in science, research, innovation, development and technology including by exploring the possibility of establishing structures to coordinate and enhance their efforts and of creating a platform for capacity building in innovation.
3. **Trade & investment** - Economic ties between the Participants are close, maintaining almost the same levels as before the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to strengthen these ties even further, the Participants will look into enhancing possibilities for deepened business-to-business contacts and cooperation.
4. **Sustainability and climate** - To counter the global challenge posed by climate change, the Participants have taken many measures to make their economies more sustainable, and have been advancing policies and technologies that aim at protecting the environment and improving sustainability. In order to further strengthen these efforts, they envisage continuing and expanding their cooperation in the areas of sustainability and climate change with a focus on the fields of energy, transport and food.
5. **Water management** - Sustainable use of water resources has high priority for both Participants. Therefore, they aim to enhance exchange on future oriented governance and innovative technology in the fields of water purification, water supply, agricultural crop irrigation and wastewater treatment.
6. **Digitalization** - Noting the leading role of both countries in, the area of digital transformation and digital governance, the Participants aim to deepen their cooperation in this field in order to be able to cope better with future challenges. In this regard, Austria welcomes Israel’s commitment to support Austria’s aim to join the group of „Digital Nations“, should the forum decide to expand itself and to accept new member states.

7. **Security cooperation** - Terrorist attacks in both Europe and the Middle East remain a threat for years to come. Increasingly, these threats also take the form of cyber or hybrid attacks. In light of the above, both Participants will explore ways to enhance and intensify their security dialogue with a focus on cyber security, hybrid threats, protection of critical infrastructure, countering incitement, including recruitment and indoctrination by terrorist organizations via social media platforms, and counter-terrorism.
8. **Public security** - Following the Declaration of Intent, signed in November 2021, the Participants express their intention to conclude a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of internal security. The Participants reiterate their willingness to cooperate in this field, especially in law enforcement areas against: organized crime, trafficking in and smuggling of persons, sexual exploitation of children, cybercrime, money laundering, fraud and economic crime, corruption, forgery and trafficking of documents, and terrorism.
9. **Development cooperation** - Both Participants have established agencies implementing development cooperation programs worldwide: ADA - the Austrian Development Agency, and MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. Both Participants envisage collaborating through capacity building in third countries and fostering an exchange of best practices around focus areas of their development cooperation with third countries.
10. **Tourism** - Cooperation between governments, in order to be truly successful, needs to be accompanied by exchanges between citizens. Both Participants strive to increase their cooperation in tourism with the aim to enhance tourism flows and intensify the exchange of know-how in this area.

Further, they envisage expanding and promoting the Working Holiday Program through measures including increased publicity efforts and mechanisms for the targeted matching between participants and companies.

11. **Youth exchange and people to people cooperation** - The Governments note with satisfaction the signing of the program of cooperation on youth exchange between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and the Austrian Federal Chancellery, Department for Family and Youth signed on May 24th, 2022. The Governments emphasize the significance of direct cooperation between non-governmental youth organizations.

Building on a number of successful initiatives, both Participants express their wish to explore ways of establishing and promoting youth exchanges, including through the expansion of school exchange programs, student and academic exchanges, artistic and cultural cooperation projects and exchanges between young professionals.

12. **Combating antisemitism** - The participants recognize the importance of the IHRA non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism as the internationally agreed and most relevant instrument for assessing the phenomenon and will jointly strengthen its role.

Both Participants are deeply concerned regarding the rise in antisemitism in both the virtual and real world, and they are united in their commitment to strengthen the collaboration in the fight against it. The Participants envisage increased activities in the area of education and awareness raising, including the continuation of training seminars for teachers and law enforcement officers as well as, exploring possibilities to provide workshops for other professional groups.

The participants decide to hold an annual dialogue with the participation of experts from both sides for an effective exchange on relevant developments and for the promotion of Holocaust remembrance and the fight against antisemitism.

13. **Cooperation in the field of Holocaust remembrance** - Both Participants acknowledge the importance of Holocaust remembrance and education, of honouring the victims and reflecting upon the perpetrators, and aim to further deepen their cooperation in this field.

14. **Dialogue** - In order to deepen the bilateral ties between the countries, the respective Embassies envisage creating an Austria – Israel Dialogue Forum to foster an open platform for discussion by civil society, government, business, think tanks, media and academia to exchange ideas on issues of common interest.

For the achievement of the above, the Participants declare their intention to establish a **Steering Board**, which will be co-chaired by the Secretary General of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria and the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, or any other person authorized on their behalf. The Steering Board will facilitate the establishment of consultations between the Foreign Ministries on topics of mutual interest, and between other government bodies, as appropriate and desired, with the aim of fostering cooperation in the fields elaborated above.

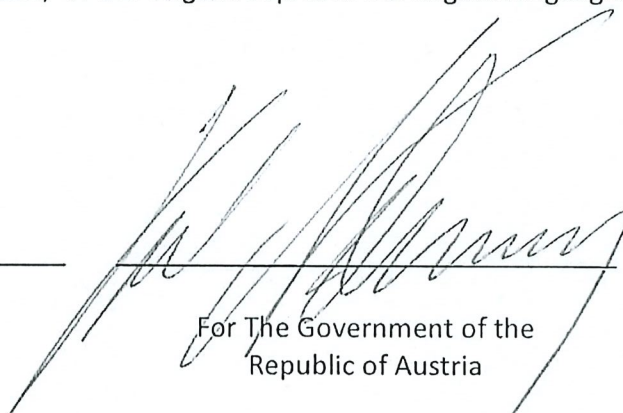
This Joint Declaration is solely an expression of the Participants' intention and is not designed to create any rights or obligations for the Participants under national or international law, nor does it impose any financial obligations for the Participants.

Signed in Tel Aviv, on the 12th day of July, 2022, which corresponds to the 13th day of Tamuz, 5782, in the Hebrew Calendar, in two original copies in the English language.



For the Government of
the State of Israel

(Yair LAPID)



For The Government of the
Republic of Austria

(Karl NEHAMMER)