

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 773

Commemorating the second anniversary of the signing of the Abraham
Accords Declaration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the second anniversary of the signing of
the Abraham Accords Declaration.

Whereas, on September 15, 2020, the United States, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain signed the historic Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on December 22, 2020, Morocco signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on January 6, 2021, Sudan signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas the Abraham Accords created formal diplomatic ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco increasing the number of Arab states with formal diplomatic ties with Israel to six;

Whereas the Abraham Accords marked the first instance of normalized relations between Israel and Arab countries in more than two decades;

Whereas the leadership and success of prior normalization agreements between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and between Israel and Jordan in 1994 paved the way for creating formal diplomatic ties with other Arab and Muslim-majority countries;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have reduced the likelihood of armed conflict, improved ties between Israel and neighboring countries, and advanced the cause of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East, including through a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that ensures mutual recognition and guarantees that Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side with freedom, security, and prosperity;

Whereas the Abraham Accords provide an opportunity to make tangible improvements in the lives of Palestinians, including increased multilateral investment in the Palestinian economy among signatory countries of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas continued political, economic, and security cooperation between the United States, Israel, and Arab states remains vital to the prosperity and security of the Middle East;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Israel is rooted in shared values and interests;

Whereas the Abraham Accords demonstrably have advanced religious freedom in the Middle East, including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain;

Whereas new opportunities for multilateral cooperation generated by the Abraham Accords may improve the ability of the United States to meet nascent threats and emerging challenges;

Whereas the Embassy of Israel in Abu Dhabi was opened on January 24, 2021, and the United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to open an embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, on May 30, 2021;

Whereas Israel opened a resident embassy in Manama, Bahrain, in September 2021, and the first ambassador to Israel from Bahrain assumed his post in August 2021;

Whereas the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and the United States convened at the Negev Summit in Sde Boker, Israel, resulting in the establishment of the Negev Forum and six working groups tasked with furthering multilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, education and coexistence, food and water security, health, regional security, and tourism;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have catalyzed increases in trade, tourism, and investment in the Middle East, benefiting the people of those countries;

Whereas, at the 2022 World Economic Forum, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates indicated that bilateral trade with Israel has surpassed \$2,500,000,000 since the signing of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on May 31, 2022, Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a comprehensive free-trade agreement to cover 96 percent of bilateral trade, amounting to approximately \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas trade between the United Arab Emirates and Israel is expected to surpass \$10,000,000,000 within 5 years, economic conditions that were made possible by the Abraham Accords;

Whereas trade between Israel and Bahrain increased to \$1,200,000 in May 2022, up from \$0 in May 2021;

Whereas trade between Israel and Morocco increased to \$3,100,000 in May 2022, an increase of 94 percent since May 2021;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have facilitated direct commercial airline flights, improving people-to-people ties in spite of obstacles created by the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas, on July 14, 2022, the United States and Israel signed the Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration, which calls for a deepening and broadening of the Abraham Accords; and

Whereas destabilizing developments in the Middle East continue to demonstrate the importance of the Abraham Accords: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the second anniversary of
3 the signing of the Abraham Accords;

4 (2) reaffirms the enduring and ironclad alliance
5 between the United States and Israel;

6 (3) believes that the United States should—

7 (A) prioritize the expansion and strength-
8 ening of the Abraham Accords to encourage
9 other countries to normalize relations with

1 Israel and ensure that existing agreements reap
2 tangible security and economic benefits for the
3 citizens of those countries;

4 (B) with other signatory countries of the
5 Abraham Accords, promote and develop new
6 areas of regional collaboration including mari-
7 time security, defense cooperation, clean energy
8 initiatives, water security initiatives, and direct
9 flights; and

10 (C) build on the Abraham Accords to help
11 advance prospects for peace between Israel and
12 the Palestinians, make tangible improvements
13 in the lives of the Palestinian people, and make
14 progress toward a negotiated solution that en-
15 sures mutual recognition;

16 (4) supports efforts to increase security and
17 prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa via
18 continued security and defense cooperation in fur-
19 therance of the Abraham Accords;

20 (5) encourages the expansion of the Abraham
21 Accords to include countries that do not have diplo-
22 matic relations with Israel, and urges the President
23 to take the necessary steps to secure comparable
24 agreements with other Arab and Muslim-majority
25 countries; and

1 (6) supports opportunities to expand economic
2 ties between the United States, Israel, and Arab
3 states through comprehensive economic partnerships
4 and other trade initiatives.

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