

# **Declaration of Friendship Between the Governments of the Republic of Albania and the State of Israel**

The Government of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides");

**Acknowledging** the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries which will occur in 2016,

**Emphasizing** their continued commitment to peace, security and stability but also cooperation and understanding as a concrete contribution to development and prosperity for their countries, their regions and beyond;

**Resolved** to continue to contribute to counter violent extremism and fight all forms of terrorist acts everywhere in the world;

**Recalling** the extraordinary story of Albanians who saved the Jews during Holocaust,

**Reaffirming** the joint principles of freedom and religious tolerance to which both Sides attach great importance, as well as to the protection of human rights;

**Positively noting** the close ties that exist between their two democracies and peoples, and their mutual friendship;

**Further noting** the progress made in advancing bilateral relations in the course of the last years and welcoming the increased dialogue between the two countries;

**The Sides hereby declare:**

Their intention to further enhance their relations and cooperation in the future, in all areas of mutual interest, especially in the fields of security including energy security, combating terrorism, cyber crime, as well as energy, agriculture, tourism, culture and education;

The Sides express their particular intention to further expand their economic and trade cooperation and declare their mutual satisfaction on beginning negotiations on an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation.

The Sides express their mutual satisfaction on the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Cooperation in the Fields of Health and Medicine and commit to explore possibilities of enhanced cooperation between the countries in the related fields.

The Sides also welcome the signing of the Agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Member of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post.

The Israeli Side commends Albania on its European integration process, and recognizes its contribution as an anchor of peace and stability in the Western Balkans area, and its continued positive efforts towards stability in the framework of NATO.

The Israeli Side reiterates its gratitude to the Albanian Nation for its historically recognized contribution to protect and save Jews during the Holocaust, especially to the 73 Righteous Among the Nations that have been recognized by Israel, and highlights the significant facts that no Jews were handed over to the Nazis in Albania and that following the Second World War there were more Jews living in Albania than before the War.

The Sides express willingness to explore every opportunity for interaction in the future to the benefit of the further development of bilateral friendship and cooperation ties.

Signed in \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2015, which corresponds to the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 5776, in the Hebrew Calendar, in duplicate in the English language.

**FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT OF  
THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

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