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I am pleased to have the opportunity to be here on this special occasion at the first conference of its kind, organized by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

I commend the JCPA team and its leaders for their important work, and for promoting crucial issues such as these.

The impressive turnout by our friends from other countries in our region and Africa provides us with hope that, through this visit, we will be able to further advance the important perceptual changes that our region is undergoing. Welcome to Israel!

In the era of constant change in which we live, regional partnerships are an important cornerstone in shaping the policies of Middle Eastern and African countries. We still have many challenges ahead of us, and it seems that in recent years they are increasing.

Continued destabilization by Iran and its proxies, the threat of murderous terrorism, global environmental changes, and the effects of the climate on the region all pose challenges to the energy security, food security and water security of many countries in our region.

For all of us, these challenges point to the necessity to work together and take joint regional action. The effects of climate change are not limited by national borders, and they dictate the need for us to act quickly.

We must act together with our close neighbors, Jordan and Egypt, as well as with our friends in the Abraham Accords and Africa.

Our goal is to create connections and increase cooperation in order to work towards a more prosperous and sustainable environment.

Joint mobilization and the designated knowledge and tools to combat these existing challenges can ensure an environment where every child receives what so many of us take for granted: running water, food, proper shelter, quality education and, beyond that, hope and opportunities!

This year, we mark three years since the historic Abraham Accords were signed. In this short

period, we have come a long way, working together productively in many fields. The Abraham Accords are a prime example of and model for courageous partnership.

This cooperation, while working to repel common threats, also successfully identifies opportunities for real positive change. We also extend our hands to other countries in the Middle East, Africa and around the world, to come join us under Abraham's tent and together enjoy the fruits of this important process.

A recent example of this is Prosperity Green/Blue. Jordan's willingness to supply Israel with green electricity, together with Israel's intention to supply Jordan with desalinated water, in cooperation with the United States and the United Arab Emirates, is evidence of a creative regional partnership that provides value for all partners involved. It is a win-win situation for both the countries involved and the stability of the entire region.

Israel is a hub of knowledge that can be of service to many countries in the Middle East and Africa. Over the years, we have developed a great deal of expertise and many quality tools to make advancements in the fields of agriculture, innovation, and water and food technologies. This has enabled us to face many of the world's modern challenges head-on.

We share this insight with partner countries through professional training, equipment and the implementation of useful knowledge and tools.

As I expect you will see in your visit, today, Israeli expertise provides water and renewable energy even in remote villages in Africa, helps improve health, makes deserts bloom, and can produce readily available substitutes for meat and dairy to help ensure adequate food security.

In the not-too-distant past, Israel also suffered water shortages due to our dependence on limited fresh water reservoirs. Today, we have developed technologies and desalination capabilities that have dramatically changed our situation.

In the field of energy, we have improved energy security by promoting renewable energies and also gradually transitioned to the use of natural gas. This has led to a significant reduction in air pollution and a greener and safer environment.

Distinguished guests, in addition to all the challenges and threats I have mentioned, it is impossible not to refer to the largest and most significant threat, and that is the one posed by Iran and its terrorist proxies. The Iranian regime, which openly calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, views the regional connections formed between Israel and its partners in the region as a negative development. They are committed to disrupt it. They will fail, as long as

we stand together with a clear and uncompromising unity.

We are now entering a period of holidays, including Passover, Ramadan and Easter. In the holiday of Passover, which for us symbolizes spring and renewal, we celebrate the exodus of our people from slavery to freedom.

I am hopeful that in the spirit of the holidays, we will be able to expand our cooperation and create different types of freedom: nutritional freedom, energy freedom, and security freedom. By working together to fulfill this vision we will ensure a better future for the generations to come.

Thank you all!