



Israel 2028: Vision & Strategy for Economy and Society in a Global World

The U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Foundation and Commission embarked on an ambitious project to originate the first ever plan for Israel's economic future, known as "Israel 2028: Vision & Strategy for Economy and Society in a Global World". By commissioning this comprehensive study, our aim is to map the path for a strong and prosperous Israel within the dynamic global economy. Economic strength is crucial to Israel's long-term survival as a market economy and democratic society, in addition to buttressing the unique strategic relationship between Israel and the United States.

The Plan promotes the vision of Israel placing among the top fifteen leading countries in the world in terms of GDP per capita, with an open, progressive society based on excellence, scientific-technological capabilities, and the wealth of its human capital, innovativeness and entrepreneurship. The ever-changing environment created by globalization is the chief element to which Israel, as a small nation and economy, must adapt. The friction Israel is experiencing between national priorities and the global reality is not unusual, though it is unique in that it must tackle these issues under intense security and geopolitical considerations

The economic strategy to be outlined in the "Israel 2028: Vision & Strategy" Plan takes a wide-ranging scope and an evolutionary approach, one that requires profound changes in several fundamental areas. The methodology for the study has been endorsed at the highest levels of government, with an ear to the central voice of industry. A high-level steering committee of leading industrialists and academics worked diligently to present a plan with policy tools to take Israel from the status quo to one of the world's leading economies.

The plan addresses the following topics, examined in depth by groups of Israeli and U.S. experts:

- Scientific/Technological R&D
- Labor Policy
- Macro-Economics
- Higher Education & Scientific Research
- Environment
- Globalization
- Leveraging Traditional Industries & Service Sectors
- Physical Infrastructures
- Public Service Institutional Change

Israel 2028 was presented to the Prime Minister of Israel in March 2008 and to the Directors General Forum in late April 2008. Another milestone was reached in May 2008 when the Prime Minister introduced the Plan to the Government, expressing his belief that the time had come for Israel to take a

long-term perspective. Mr. Olmert expressed his appreciation for the initiative of the Commission and Foundation, and the leadership of its chairman, Chief Scientist Eli Opper and particularly Eli Hurvitz, Sami Friedreich and David Brodet of the project's Steering Committee.

In parallel to the process of adoption of the Plan by the Government of Israel and initiation of its implementation, the USISTF will undertake an informational campaign to inform government, industry and academia in the U.S. about the Plan. The Foundation intends to leverage the Plan to promote a variety of investment and collaborative opportunities that will further cement U.S. and Israeli economic ties.