

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW,
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write to you as strong supporters of the Abraham Accords, which have facilitated unprecedented trade, cultural exchange, defense cooperation, and increased understanding among new partners in the Middle East and North Africa region. We believe it is in our national security interest, as well as in the interests of sustainability, for the Biden Administration to continue strengthening and expanding the Accords and to further promote normalization with Israel on the African continent.

As the United States faces challenges, we believe that the Biden Administration should seize the opportunity to integrate and expand the successes of the Abraham Accords into our broader Africa strategy. Recent engagements like high-level trips to Africa, and participation in the United States–Africa Leaders’ Summit, have showcased the growing role for U.S. engagement in the continent, and we believe that the Abraham Accords can be a vital tool to advance our support for long-term regional, economic, and strategic interests in Africa.

In April, the first ever Israel-Arab-Africa Summit brought together 30 representatives from Arab and African countries with Israeli delegates to address some of the region’s challenges. A promising result of this discussion was a memorandum of understanding between the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and the Ethiopian government’s Institute of Foreign Affairs to strengthen cooperation on national security, agriculture technologies, and food and water security. Milestones like these present a significant opportunity for the Accord members, including the United States, to build vital multilateral partnerships in Africa.

The Abraham Accords did not just lay the foundation for peace in the Middle East; they have already built tangible partnerships for member countries to expand travel, cultural exchanges, trade, education, scientific and medical innovation, cybersecurity cooperation, and regional security. To this end, the Abraham Accords did not just lay the foundation for peace in the Middle East, but it acts as a vital mechanism to build multilateral partnerships and networks capable of promoting cooperation among nations.

As the State Department (the “Department”) prepares for a potential Negev Forum Summit, we urge your Department to work with fellow Accord members and extend invitations to African leaders and dignitaries to present the Accords as an opportunity to address some of the continent’s most pressing challenges, including slave labor, food security, energy, education, and healthcare. Furthermore, we believe this broader framework of engagement can be vital to

American efforts to combat endeavors by China and Russia to undermine sovereignty and stability within the African continent.

The Abraham Accords can provide a new path to advance peace and stability in Africa. The successes and relationships built out from the Israel-Arab-Africa Summit reflect the tremendous potential for multilateral coordination through Israeli normalization and Accord membership. As African nations look to world powers for partnership, the United States and other Accord member countries can demonstrate the economic and political successes that the Accords have already rendered since their signing.

We welcome the opportunity to hear more about the State Department's plans on engaging with African nations through the Abraham Accords. We would request a written response outlining the department's current and future efforts to implementing a strategy that advances Israeli normalization into Africa and grows the work of the Accords there.

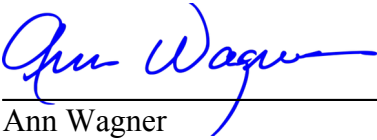
Sincerely,



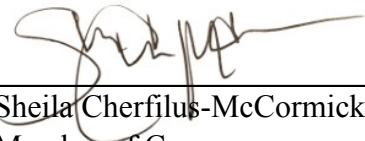
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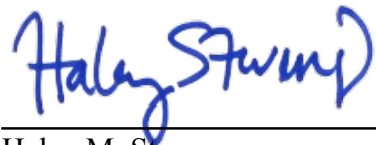
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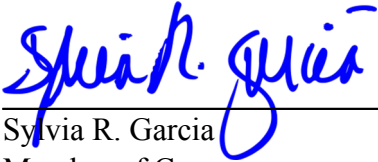
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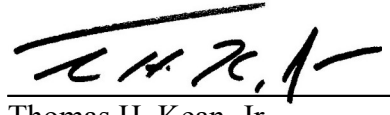
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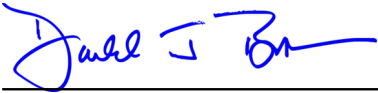
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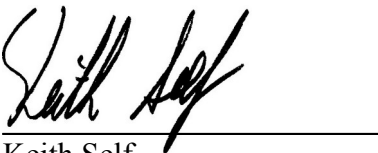
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