

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: NEW! Talking Points: N7 Conference & Abraham Accords Expansion



Dear [REDACTED],

Ramadan Karim, chag Pesach sameach, and happy Easter. I'm delighted to share the launch of N7 Initiative newsletter, *Talking Points*. The [N7 Initiative](#) is a partnership between the Atlantic Council and the Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation seeking to broaden and deepen relations between Israel and Arab and Muslim states.

Our team will deliver monthly updates on our substantive work and regional developments right to your inbox. We have had an exciting month and we have an ambitious year ahead, with more to come.

- **Ambassador Daniel B. Shapiro**, *Director*, N7 Initiative

Based on your past interest in our publications, events, and news, we are excited to share the launch of our N7 Newsletter, Talking Points. To continue receiving our newsletter, [subscribe here](#).

N7 INITIATIVE NEWS



The N7 Conference on Agriculture, Water & Food Security convened experts, government officials, and other policymakers from all N7 countries, the U.S., Indonesia, Tunisia, and Burkina Faso, including for the first time, Palestinian participation.

From **March 14 to 16, 2023**, the [N7 Initiative](#), a partnership between the [Atlantic Council](#) and Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation, hosted the [N7 Conference on Agriculture, Water, and Food Security](#) in Abu Dhabi, with the support of the government of the United Arab Emirates. The conference took place during a time of serious tension in the region, but was still successful in bringing together more than 80 participants from a dozen countries, including all N7 countries plus

Indonesia, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, and for the first time, included Palestinian participation.

“Based on the extremely positive feedback we have received from officials responsible for the Negev Forum, the N7 Initiative has proven itself as a strong partner to the governments engaged in that effort,” said Amb. Daniel B. Shapiro, director of the N7 Initiative. **Oren Eisner, President of the Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation** affirmed, “Our goal is to produce innovative solutions to the shared regional challenges of food security, water scarcity and climate change.”

This positive feedback has been recognized by government leaders throughout the region and in the United States. The N7 Conference featured remarks from former **UK Prime Minister Tony Blair**, Co-Chairs of the Senate Abraham Accords Caucus, **Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)** and **Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)**, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman **Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX)**, Co-Chair of the House Abraham Accords Caucus **Representative Brad Schneider (D-IL)**, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs **Yael Lempert**, Israeli National Security Advisor **Tzachi Hanegbi**, Director of Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE **Abdulrahman Al Neyadi**, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency **H.E. Nawal Al-Hosany**, Israeli Ambassador to the UAE **Amir Hayek**, US Ambassador to Israel **Thomas R. Nides**, and Head of the Food System Initiative for COP28 **Kristofer Hamel**.

Writing for the Atlantic Council's New Atlanticist publication, Amb. Shapiro emphasized the importance of such initiatives, underscoring that "at a time when many official exchanges seem stalled or are moving slowly, these kinds of exchanges can have outsized value in finding areas of shared interest and forging common bonds." Read his insights about the regional implications of the conference [here](#).

Amb. Shapiro made media rounds in Abu Dhabi with primetime interviews on [Connect the World with Becky Anderson](#) on CNN International and [i24 News English](#) in Tel Aviv. The work of the N7 Conference was also featured on the front

pages of [FoxNews Digital](#), [DW News English](#) and [Arabic](#), and [The Times of Israel](#).

This conference builds on the work of the [N7 Conference on Education and Coexistence](#) held last December in Rabat, with the support of the Kingdom of Morocco. Actionable policy recommendations from the first N7 Conference were shared with the [Negev Forum Working Groups](#) that met in Abu Dhabi in January 2023.

[Read More](#)

BUILDING THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS



Abraham Accords expand to include cybersecurity. N7 Initiative will host DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans Robert Silvers to discuss the impact.

WASHINGTON POST REPORTED: DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans Robert Silvers met with President of Israel Isaac Herzog, Israel National Cyber Directorate Director General Gaby Portnoy, Head of the UAE Cyber Security Council H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, CEO of the Bahrain National Cyber Security

Center Shaikh Salman bin Mohamed bin Abdulla al-Khalifa, and Director General of Morocco's Directorate General of Information Systems Security Brig. General El Mostafa Rabii to discuss the [expansion of the Abraham Accords](#) to include shared cybersecurity priorities and enhancing regional cooperation.

“The expansion of the Abraham Accords into cybersecurity is advancing our defensive operational collaboration with Israel and our partners across the Middle East to protect our critical infrastructure,” said [Under Secretary Silvers](#). “Together we can harness our capabilities to address the most pressing cybersecurity challenges to drive security and resilience.”

The N7 Initiative will host a hybrid event on **April 17, 2023** to explore the regional benefits of this expansion.

[Read more](#)

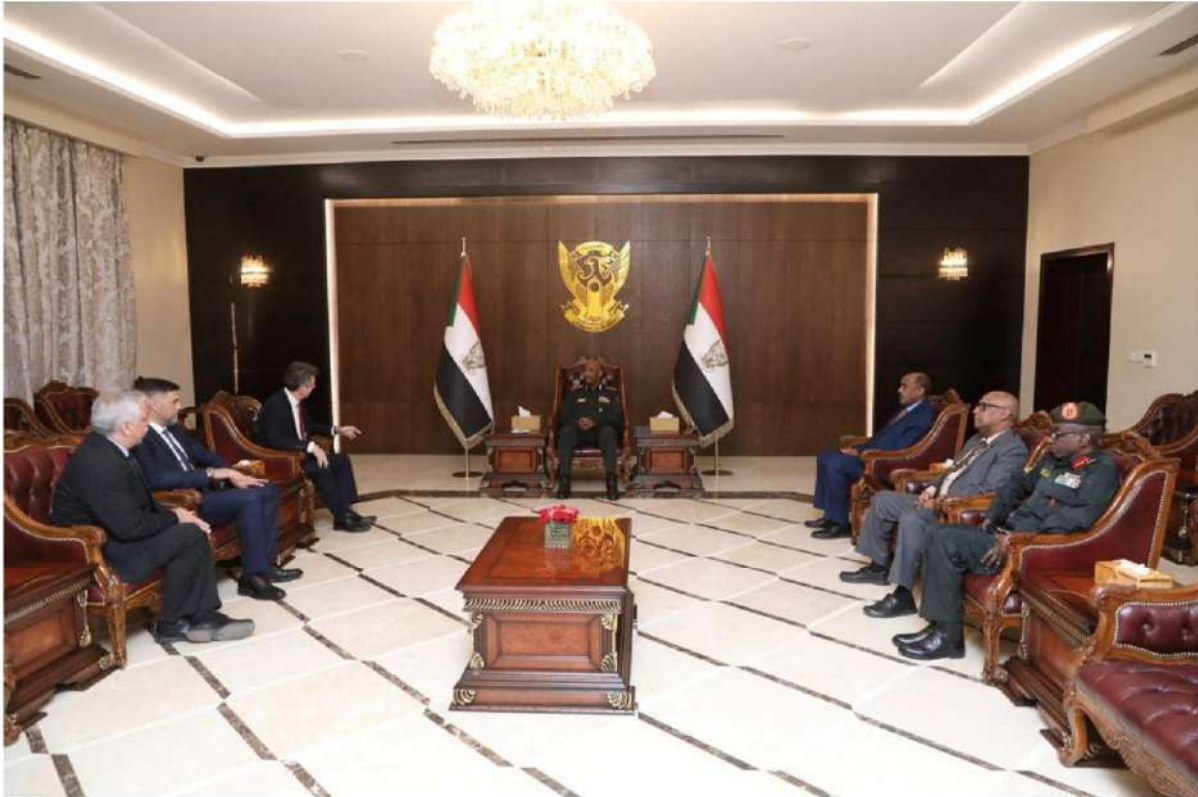


[Saudi Arabia Offers Its Price to Normalize Relations With Israel.](#)

[NYT REPORTED](#): While Saudi Arabia mends fences with Iran, the Kingdom is signaling a potential warming to normalization with Israel. Saudi Arabia is seeking security guarantees from the United States, help with developing a civilian nuclear

program, and fewer restrictions on US arms as its price for normalizing relations with Israel.

[Read more](#)



Sudan and Israel agree to normalize diplomatic relations, implementation deferred.

REUTERS REPORTED: Israel and Sudan have finalized a deal to normalize relations, with a signing ceremony expected following a transfer of power from the military to a civilian government in Khartoum, the Israeli foreign ministry said ... Sudan's foreign ministry said earlier the deal was agreed upon during a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen to "move towards normalizing relations between the two countries."

[Read more](#)



Azerbaijan becomes first Shi'ite country to open embassy in Israel.

JNS REPORTED: Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen **welcomed** Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov to Jerusalem ahead of the inauguration of the **Azerbaijani embassy in Jerusalem**. H.E. **Mukhtar Mammadov** was appointed Azerbaijan's **first ambassador** to Israel in January 2023 amid escalating tensions with Iran. Azerbaijan now becomes the first Shi'ite Muslim country to open an embassy in Israel. Azerbaijan's parliament approved the establishment of the embassy in Tel Aviv last November, but the two countries have enjoyed a decades-long relationship prior to the establishment of official diplomatic relations. This move represents an important step toward increased regional cooperation and engagement, particularly in countering Iranian threats.

On the impact of new diplomatic relations, Amb. Daniel B. Shapiro said, "Israel's relations with Muslim nations continue to expand. Israel has long had relations with Azerbaijan and an embassy in Baku, but Azerbaijan will, for the first time, open an embassy in Israel. It's another sign of the taboo against relations with Israel coming

down, as nations of the region internalize the security and economic benefits that derive from an open partnership with Israel."

[Read more](#)

FEATURED EVENTS

Upcoming Event | April 17, 2023

[Cybersecurity creates new horizons for the Abraham Accords](#)

The N7 Initiative will host [DHS Under Secretary Robert Silvers](#), regional and Congressional officials and experts on **April 17, 2023**, for a hybrid event on the expansion of the Abraham Accords into cybersecurity. Speakers will recognize the shared cybersecurity challenges faced in the region, and the economic and political benefits this expansion provides.



Past Event | March 14-16, 2023

[N7 Conference on Agriculture, Food, and Water Security](#)

The N7 Initiative hosted its second expert-level conference working to develop actionable policy recommendations for regional food and water security challenges....

[Read about it](#)



TWITTER HIGHLIGHTS

You Retweeted

Arsen Ostrovsky @Ostrov_A

How great when the #UAE invites Arab & Islamic countries that don't have diplomatic relations with #Israel to discuss food security, energy & water technologies and how to deepen the collaboration? This is the @N7_Initiative and its living proof how #AbrahamAccords are thriving!



1:22 AM · Mar 16, 2023 · 27.5K Views

N7 Initiative @N7_Initiative

!! The #N7Initiative is hosting the #N7Conference on Agriculture, Water, and Food Security this week in Abu Dhabi.

A star-studded lineup of speakers will address conference attendees working to further regional cooperation. #TogetherN7 @BarakRavid @axios



axios.com

Experts from Israel, Arab nations to meet in UAE to discuss water, food securi... Relations between Israel and the Arab world are at one of their lowest points since the signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020.

12:14 PM · Mar 13, 2023 · 17.9K Views

Ambassador Amir Hayek @HayekAmir

@N7_Initiative Thank you for the opportunity to tell about the development of relations between the United Arab Emirates and Israel and the future challenges. 🇦🇪 🇮🇱 @DanielBShapiro @AtlanticCouncil @IsraelMFA @israelintheUAE



1:22 AM · Mar 16, 2023 · 27.5K Views

You Retweeted

Maria Maalouf @bilarakib

مبادرة #N7Initiative هي من ثمرات الاتفاق الإبراهيمي بين الإمارات وإسرائيل تعنى بتطوير التعاون في مجال المياه والغذاء والطاقة وغيرها من القضايا التنموية، كون البلدين يتمتعان برؤية مشتركة لتلك القضايا وتعاونهما بالتأكيد سيؤثر على المنطقة بأكملها. #ماريا_معلوف

Translated from Arabic by Google

The #N7Initiative initiative is one of the fruits of the Abraham agreement between the UAE and Israel. It is concerned with developing cooperation in the field of water, food, energy and other development issues, since the two countries have a common vision for these issues and their cooperation will certainly cast a shadow over the region and its impact. #ماريا_معلوف

N7 Initiative @N7_Initiative · Mar 13

!! The #N7Initiative is hosting the #N7Conference on Agriculture, Water, and Food Security this week in Abu Dhabi.

A star-studded lineup of speakers will address conference attendees working to further regional cooperation. #TogetherN7 @BarakRavid @axios axios.com/2023/03/13/Isr...

5:08 PM · Mar 15, 2023 · 3,287 Views

N7 INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHT



“The N7 Initiative, a partnership between the Atlantic Council and Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation, is making a significant contribution to the normalisation of Arab-Israeli ties following the signing of the Abraham Accords. The region has a huge opportunity, through working together to solve some of their countries’ biggest challenges, to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.”

— **The Right Honorable Tony Blair, *Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Executive Chairman, Institute for Global Change***

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Israeli-Arab cooperation on agriculture, water, and food security starts with building on existing innovations

By [Amb. Daniel B. Shapiro](#)

The N7 Conference on Agriculture, Water, and Food Security—which I helped organize..... [Continue reading](#)



I was part of the Israeli National Security Council. Climate change has been an important Israeli national security challenge for years.

By [Efrat Minivitzki Thein](#)

The global climate continues to warm—with implications that touch every facet of governance..... [Continue reading](#)



The UAE and Israel have a history of strong female leadership. Women must take substantial roles in the next phase of the Abraham Accords.

By [Amb. Marcy Grossman](#)

It has been more than two years since the Abraham Accords normalized relations between Israel and.... [Continue reading](#)



What did Blinken accomplish in Israel? More stealth progress on Israeli-Arab normalization.

By [Amb. Daniel B. Shapiro](#)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel at the end of January was planned in one.... [Continue reading](#)

N7 IN THE NEWS

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

[As Israel-Arab ties chill, one regional cooperation confab avoids chopping block](#)



[Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs jointly tackle climate change](#)



[N7 spotlights projects that could provide resources for Middle East](#)



[Water scarcity in the Middle East brings Israel and Arab neighbors together](#)



[Fmr. US Amb. to Israel Dan Shapiro on Middle East peace](#)



[Amb. Shapiro on i24English at N7 Conference on Agriculture, Water & Food Security](#)



[Daily Kickoff: March 14, 2023](#)



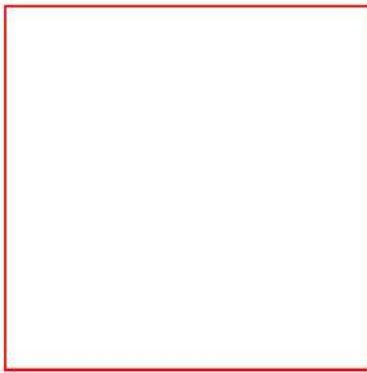
[First look: Experts from Israel, Arab nations to meet to discuss water, food security](#)

N7 TEAM UPDATES

In line with our growing scope of work, the N7 team has grown rapidly in 2023. We are pleased to welcome new Nonresident Senior Fellows [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] to the N7 Initiative team. For more information on the N7 Initiative, visit [our website](#) or connect with [#N7Initiative](#) by following us on [Twitter](#).

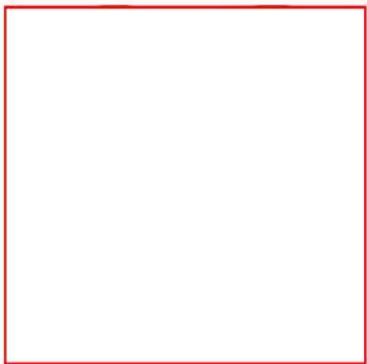


“It’s a privilege to continue working for the Atlantic Council in this new role, with an incredible team, focusing on one of the most important national security problem sets,” [REDACTED] said. “I have spent two decades in national security and private business in operations and sensitive activities. I hope to be able to leverage that experience to help build cohesion and contribute to operational success.”



████████████████████

"The signing of the Abraham Accords provided a unique opportunity for countries in the region to work together. While at the National Security Council, we worked to build on that momentum and expand agreements further into the region, most recently with Morocco," said ██████████. "I look forward to contributing to the important work being done by the N7 Initiative."



████████████████████

"Throughout my career, in both business and academia, I have worked to creatively address challenges that provide opportunities not previously available in the MENA region. In the wake of the Abraham Accords, there is an opportunity to transform the region, as long as we continue to find common ground together," ██████████ said. "I am excited to join the N7 Initiative whose work to broaden and deepen relations in the MENA region has proven to be effective in providing actionable policy recommendations to the Negev Forum and the governments of the MENA region."

MEDIA & OUTREACH

For media inquiries, please reach out to ██████████. Connect on [Twitter](#) with [@N7_Initiative](#) or join the conversation with [#TogetherN7](#).

