



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **AIPAC Welcomes Israel's Accession to the OECD** **Applauds Bipartisan American Support for Membership of Our Closest Ally**

AIPAC applauds Israel's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and welcomes this important recognition of Israel's place in the international community and the vibrancy and maturity of its economy. Israel was officially invited to join the OECD, the world's premier economic forum, as its 32<sup>nd</sup> member state at a meeting in Paris today.

AIPAC also applauds the efforts of the Obama administration in helping secure Israel's accession to the OECD. Building on work begun during the Bush administration, the current administration was instrumental in gaining Israel's accession to this exclusive economic body. Both administrations actively promoted Israel's admission and successfully fought attempts to politicize and derail Israel's membership.

The OECD brings together advanced democracies that work to coordinate economic, social, environmental and financial policy, and Israel's admittance to the group is an unequivocal declaration of its importance to the global economy. OECD membership will bring Israel significant economic and political benefits, including new business opportunities, increased access to international capital, a stronger credit rating, and – importantly – an exclusive forum through which to forge strong relationships.

Congress also played an important role in pushing for Israel's OECD accession. In 2005, the House of Representatives approved a resolution of support co-authored by Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and the late Tom Lantos (D-CA). A similar resolution authored by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and former Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) was unanimously approved by the Senate in 2007.

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