



Presentation by H.E. Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi UAE Ambassador to ROK

Today, I am going to outline the UAE and Israeli peace agreements. I will first introduce the considerations behind the peace agreements, then move onto its outcomes and existing UAE-Israel cooperation, which are the main issues we will talk about. Finally I will wind it up by introducing the UAE's other efforts towards peace.

The UAE-Israel Peace Agreements

First of all, in August 2020, the UAE and Israel reached a joint statement, the Abraham Accords. In September in Washington D.C., it was signed by the prime minister of Israel, the presidents of the UAE and of the USA, recognizing the importance of Abraham Accords. The name "Abraham" is in recognition of the common ancestor of Arab and Jewish.

Considerations behind the Peace Agreements

The agreement was signed not only as a symbol of peace between the two countries, but also for the promising potentialities. The agreement is expected to produce jobs for the young generation. In the UAE, the young account for more than 65% among the entire population. Without stability, the rising generation would face such disastrous situations as military collisions, instead of an economy where all can flourish. Furthermore, it is an aspiration that the Abraham Accords between the UAE and Israel become a role model for other countries therein to follow.

Outcomes of the Peace Agreements

Outcomes of the agreements should be discussed in order to evaluate its effectiveness. As a result of the agreements, peaceful diplomatic relations are established, creating full normalization of bilateral ties between the UAE and Israel. The UAE ambassador has already been sent to Israel, while Israel government appointed the ambassador to the UAE. The UAE's step towards peace encouraged other countries in the region to join the Abraham Accords, including Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan.

Existing UAE–Israel Cooperation

Enhancement of cooperation is another expectation regarding the agreement. The bilateral cooperation, notably in trade, finance, investment, civil aviation, science, innovation, healthcare and tourism, are expected to have significant growth. Recently the UAE announced to create an investment fund of ten billion dollars to Israel, which is one of the conspicuous outcomes. Political stability is the most fundamental factor in order to create economic and social prosperities. The agreements lead to creation of immediate and meaningful economic, and social benefits in the region. One of the noticeable progress would be the expanding and intensifying collaborations in research and treatment of COVID-19 between the UAE and Israel.

Other UAE Efforts toward Peace

Along with the Abraham Accords, the UAE has undertaken other initiatives toward peace in the Arab region. First of all, the UAE hosted His Holiness Pope Francis of the Vatican in his first visit to the Arabian Peninsula in February 2019. The UAE announced that year, 2019 as the Year of Tolerance, during which not only Pope Francis, but also the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb visited the UAE. This leadership of the UAE brought a crucial concurrence: two religious figures issued "The Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together." This initiative opened the new age of religious tolerance around the world.

The UAE mission to Mars is also one of the prominent efforts. In July 2020, the UAE launched a spacecraft to Mars, called Hope Mission. It reached Mars and started orbiting on 9 February 2021. The purpose of this mission is to study the weather and atmosphere of Mars. With the success of Hope Mission, the UAE has become the first Arab country and fifth entity to visit Mars.

Upcoming Events in UAE

Expo 2020 Dubai is rescheduled to hold from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, expecting 25 million visitors and 227 thousand jobs. Currently the ROK's pavilion is under construction. In addition, on 2 December this year, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UAE foundation. The UAE was founded in 1971 by the late Sheikh Zayed and his fellow members of the Supreme Council of the Union. In the 50th Anniversary, the UAE is preparing for the next 50 years with the slogan called "Toward the Next Fifty."

Insights for Peace in the Korean Peninsula

I am here in Korea, the only country still divided in the world. I long for the possibilities that the Abraham Accords have opened up to give insight for ROK achieving peace and common prosperity with the DPRK.

Thank you for listening to my presentation.

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