

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2413

To expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the Negev Forum,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the
Negev Forum, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Regional Integration and Normalization Act of 2023” or
6 “RINA”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Findings.
- Sec. 4. Sense of Congress.

- Sec. 5. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 6. United States Special Presidential Envoy for the Abraham Accords, Negev Forum, and Related Normalization Agreements.
- Sec. 7. Enhanced reporting requirements under the Israel Relations Normalization Act.
- Sec. 8. Abraham Accords, Negev Forum, and Regional Integration Opportunity Fund.
- Sec. 9. United States, Abraham Accords, and Negev Forum economic partnership.
- Sec. 10. Supporting regional integration through multilaterals, scientific collaboration, and interfaith initiatives.
- Sec. 11. Supporting regional integration through a young Middle East leaders initiative program.
- Sec. 12. Supporting regional integration through educational exchange and people-to-people engagement.
- Sec. 13. Strengthening and expanding the Abraham Accords and Negev Forum through industrial and scientific research and development.
- Sec. 14. Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund.
- Sec. 15. Joint cybersecurity training activities and information sharing.
- Sec. 16. Leveraging United States economic toolkit to support regional integration and normalization efforts.
- Sec. 17. Cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and Abraham Accords countries and Negev Forum countries.
- Sec. 18. Supporting structures that expand cooperation across regions in key areas.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ABRAHAM ACCORDS.—The term “Abraham
4 Accords” means—

5 (A) the Abraham Accords Declaration,
6 done at Washington September 15, 2020;

7 (B) the Abraham Accords Peace Agree-
8 ment: Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations
9 and Full Normalization Between the United
10 Arab Emirates and Israel, done at Washington
11 September 15, 2020;

12 (C) the Abraham Accords: Declaration of
13 Peace, Cooperation, and Constructive Diplo-
14 matic and Friendly Relations, done at Wash-

1 ington September 15, 2020, between Israel and
2 the Kingdom of Bahrain; and

3 (D) the Joint Declaration of the Kingdom
4 of Morocco, the United States, and Israel, done
5 at Rabat December 22, 2020.

6 (2) ABRAHAM ACCORDS COUNTRY.—The term
7 “Abraham Accords country” means a country that is
8 a party to the Abraham Accords.

9 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
13 the Senate; and

14 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (4) EXPAND.—The term “expand”, with re-
17 spect to the Abraham Accords, means to increase
18 the number of regional, Arab, or Muslim-majority
19 countries that seek to normalize relations with the
20 State of Israel.

21 (5) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Abra-
22 ham Accords and Negev Forum Opportunity Fund
23 established under section 8.

1 (6) KEY PARTNERS IN REGIONAL INTEGRA-
2 TION.—The term “key partners in regional integra-
3 tion” means—

4 (A) any Abraham Accords country;

5 (B) Egypt;

6 (C) Jordan;

7 (D) the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and

8 (E) any other active and constructive coun-
9 try that supports cooperation—

10 (i) to normalize relations between
11 countries in the Middle East and North
12 Africa and Israel; and

13 (ii) to advance regional integration.

14 (7) NEGEV FORUM.—The term “Negev Forum”
15 means the regional grouping known as the Negev
16 Forum Regional Cooperation Framework that was
17 adopted on November 10, 2022, or any successor
18 group.

19 (8) NEGEV FORUM COUNTRY.—The term
20 “Negev Forum country” means the government of
21 any of the following countries:

22 (A) Bahrain.

23 (B) Egypt.

24 (C) Israel.

25 (D) Morocco.

1 (E) The United Arab Emirates.

2 (F) The United States.

3 (G) Any country that joins the Negev
4 Forum as a full member after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act.

6 (9) OBSERVER.—The term “observer”—

7 (A) means any country, particularly inside
8 the Middle East and North Africa region, or
9 political entity that—

10 (i) directly supports the objectives and
11 processes of the Negev Forum;

12 (ii) expresses serious interest in par-
13 ticipating in certain projects determined by
14 the Negev Forum that benefit normaliza-
15 tion with Israel and greater regional inte-
16 gration; and

17 (iii) is not an official member of the
18 Negev Forum Steering Committee or any
19 working group of the Negev Forum; and

20 (B) includes 3+1 format members Cyprus
21 and Greece.

22 (10) OTHER REGIONAL ACTORS.—The term
23 “other regional actors” means the Palestinian Au-
24 thority or a credible future political entity that
25 serves as the interlocutor for the Palestinian people.

1 (11) SPECIAL ENVOY.—The term “Special
2 Envoy” means the Special Presidential Envoy for
3 the Abraham Accords, Negev Forum, and Related
4 Normalization Agreements established under section
5 6.

6 (12) STRENGTHEN.—The term “strengthen”,
7 with respect to the Abraham Accords and the Negev
8 Forum, means to engage in efforts that improve the
9 diplomatic relations between Abraham Accords coun-
10 tries and broaden the breadth and scope of issues on
11 which Abraham Accords countries cooperate.

12 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

13 Congress finds the following:

14 (1) On March 26, 1979, Egypt signed a peace
15 treaty with Israel, becoming the first Arab country
16 to establish full, normalized, diplomatic relations
17 with Israel.

18 (2) On October 26, 1994, Jordan signed a
19 peace treaty with Israel, becoming the second Arab
20 country to normalize ties with Israel.

21 (3) On March 27, 2002, the Arab League
22 unanimously endorsed the Arab Peace Initiative,
23 which offered the possibility of normalized relations
24 between the Arab League and Israel for the first
25 time.

1 (4) On September 15, 2020, the governments of
2 the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed bilat-
3 eral agreements, known collectively as the Abraham
4 Accords, to normalize relations with Israel.

5 (5) Sudan and Morocco agreed to normalize ties
6 with Israel on October 23, 2020, and December 10,
7 2020, respectively.

8 (6) Collectively, such agreements marked the
9 first normalizations of diplomatic relations with
10 Israel since the normalizations between Israel and
11 Jordan in 1994 and Israel and Egypt in 1979.

12 (7) In March 2022, the foreign ministers of
13 Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, the United Arab
14 Emirates, and the United States convened in Sde
15 Boker, Israel, for the first Negev Summit and
16 agreed to form a framework that—

17 (A) multilateralizes regional cooperation
18 that centers on countries that have normalized
19 relations with Israel; and

20 (B) is inclusive of other countries and in-
21 terested parties.

22 (8) In January 2023, in Abu Dhabi, United
23 Arab Emirates, senior officials of the Negev Forum
24 countries held the inaugural meeting of the Negev
25 Forum working groups, which are the following:

1 (A) Regional Security.

2 (B) Education.

3 (C) Food and Water Security.

4 (D) Energy.

5 (E) Tourism.

6 (F) Healthcare.

7 (9) Overall trade between Israel and Abraham
8 Accords countries increased from \$593,000,000 to
9 \$3,470,000,000 between 2019 and 2022, according
10 to the Israeli Census Bureau.

11 (10) On May 29, 2022, Egypt and Israel
12 agreed to jointly upgrade the Nitzana Border Cross-
13 ing to “promote trade relations with Egypt and cre-
14 ate quality employment in the south, alongside activ-
15 ity by Israeli companies in the Egyptian market”
16 and to boost annual bilateral trade to \$700,000,000
17 by 2025.

18 (11) On June 19, 2022, an Egyptian trade del-
19 egation and members of the Federation of Egyptian
20 Industries visited Israel for the first time in a dec-
21 ade.

22 (12) On May 31, 2022, the United Arab Emir-
23 ates and Israel signed the Comprehensive Economic
24 Partnership Agreement between the Government of
25 the United Arab Emirates and the Government of

1 the State of Israel, entered into force April 1, 2023
2 (commonly known as the “UAE-Israel CEPA”),
3 abolishing customs duties on 96 percent of the prod-
4 ucts exchanged between the two countries, including
5 food, agricultural goods, cosmetics, medical equip-
6 ment, and medicine.

7 (13) On December 11, 2022, the governments
8 of the United Arab Emirates and Israel ratified the
9 UAE-Israel CEPA.

10 (14) Tourism in the Middle East has increased
11 since the Abraham Accords were signed.

12 (15) In 2022, at least 350,000 Israelis traveled
13 to the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Bah-
14 rain.

15 (16) The Abrahamic Family House, an inter-
16 faith complex to promote the values of human soli-
17 darity, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence, was
18 officially inaugurated and opened to worshippers on
19 February 16, 2023, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab
20 Emirates.

21 (17) Joint water security and clean energy
22 projects between Negev Forum countries have deep-
23 ened as a result of normalization.

24 (18) On November 8, 2022, Jordan, Israel, and
25 the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of

1 understanding with respect to Project Prosperity, a
2 project to build a 600-megawatt solar farm in Jor-
3 dan and a water desalination plant in Israel to ex-
4 port 300,000,000 cubic meters of desalinated water
5 to Jordan annually.

6 (19) On November 17, 2022, Morocco and
7 Israel signed a memorandum of understanding to co-
8 operate on drinking water and liquid sanitation.

9 (20) Research and innovation collaboration
10 have increased between Negev Forum countries in
11 aviation, technology, and healthcare.

12 (21) On July 4, 2021, Emirati and Israeli med-
13 ical institutions partnered to create a digital health
14 platform for remote patient management in Dubai.

15 (22) On March 23, 2022, Morocco and Israel
16 signed an agreement to cooperate on civilian aero-
17 space projects.

18 (23) On June 24, 2022, the Minister of Interior
19 of Israel launched a pilot program to attract Moroc-
20 can workers to construction, programming, and
21 nursing sectors in Israel.

22 (24) On September 14, 2022, Abdelmalek
23 Essaddi University in Morocco and the University of
24 Haifa in Israel signed a memorandum of under-

1 standing to advance cooperation in marine research
2 and technologies.

3 (25) Educational and cultural ties have deep-
4 ened between Negev Forum countries through uni-
5 versity programs, media, and community activism.

6 (26) On November 18, 2021, the United Arab
7 Emirates and Israel signed a memorandum of un-
8 derstanding with respect to educational affairs, pro-
9 moting exchanges between academics and students.

10 (27) On January 11, 2022, the Association of
11 Gulf Jewish Communities launched a fundraising
12 campaign to restore a 100-year-old Jewish cemetery
13 in Bahrain.

14 (28) On March 31, 2022, the Technion-Israel
15 Institute of Technology and Mohammed VI Poly-
16 technic University in Morocco signed a document of
17 academic cooperation.

18 (29) On May 31, 2022, i24NEWS became the
19 first Israeli news network to open bureaus in Mo-
20 rocco.

21 (30) In December 2022, a delegation of Israeli
22 influencers, comprised of prominent Jewish and
23 Arab content creators in the fields of music, sports,
24 fashion, science, and comedy, visited Morocco on a

1 trip organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
2 Israel.

3 (31) On January 9, 2023, the United Arab
4 Emirates announced it would include Holocaust edu-
5 cation in the curriculum for primary and secondary
6 schools.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) advanced levels of economic and cultural in-
10 tegration in a region correlate with greater stability,
11 faster rates of economic growth, higher levels of eco-
12 nomic competitiveness, and overall improved pros-
13 perity for the people living in such a region;

14 (2) deeper cooperation and regional integration
15 among Abraham Accords countries, Negev Forum
16 countries, observers, other key partners in regional
17 integration, and other regional actors is fundamental
18 to the long-term stability, prosperity, competitive-
19 ness, and success of the Middle East and North Af-
20 rica;

21 (3) promoting regional integration in the Mid-
22 dle East and North Africa and formal normalization
23 between Israel, neighboring Arab countries, and non-
24 Arab countries outside of the Middle East and
25 North Africa, is in the strategic interest of the

1 United States, and should be a key pillar of United
2 States foreign policy;

3 (4) regional integration in the Middle East and
4 North Africa should remain an open and inclusive
5 process with opportunities for participants beyond
6 only those countries with formal normalization;

7 (5) civil society engagement and people-to-peo-
8 ple connections are critical to successful and sustain-
9 able regional integration among Abraham Accords
10 countries, Negev Forum countries, observers, other
11 key partners in regional integration, and other re-
12 gional actors;

13 (6) the Negev Forum, any successor group, and
14 other regional integration initiatives would benefit
15 from constructive and positive participation by the
16 Palestinian Authority, or a credible, future political
17 entity that serves as the interlocutor for the Pales-
18 tinian people, while also strengthening the Pales-
19 tinian economy and improving the quality of life for
20 Palestinian people through United States support in
21 compliance with the Taylor Force Act (Title X of di-
22 vision S of Public Law 115–141) and other applica-
23 ble Federal laws;

24 (7) constructive Palestinian participation in the
25 Negev Forum, or a successor group, should remain

1 a priority for current and future structures, as
2 inclusivity will build stronger support for normaliza-
3 tion with Israel and create momentum towards a
4 comprehensive and sustainable peace; and

5 (8) efforts to deepen and expand the Abraham
6 Accords, the Negev Forum, and future regional or-
7 ganizations can reduce the likelihood of conflict, im-
8 prove ties between Israel and neighboring countries,
9 and advance the goal of achieving lasting peace in
10 the Middle East, which serves the longstanding goal
11 of United States policy which has been to support a
12 comprehensive and sustainable peace that includes
13 mutual recognition, dignity, and peaceful neighborly
14 relations between Israelis and Palestinians towards
15 two states for two peoples.

16 **SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 It is the policy of the United States—

18 (1) to strengthen and expand the Abraham Ac-
19 cords and the Negev Forum within the Middle East
20 and North Africa and beyond;

21 (2) to institutionalize regional integration as a
22 key pillar of policies of the United States with re-
23 spect to the Middle East and North Africa;

1 (3) to maintain the leadership of and facilita-
2 tion by the United States with respect to integration
3 efforts in the Middle East and North Africa;

4 (4) to facilitate efforts to normalize relations
5 formally between Israel and neighboring Arab and
6 Muslim-majority countries to achieve shared regional
7 integration, cooperation, and development objectives,
8 consistent with the national security, economic, and
9 development interests of the United States;

10 (5) to engage in active diplomacy to expand the
11 number of participants in formal normalization
12 frameworks, as well as in non-formal integration
13 structures in the Middle East and North Africa;

14 (6) to strengthen collective security by con-
15 tinuing and expanding efforts on regional defense
16 cooperation, as required by strategic interests of the
17 United States;

18 (7) to develop and implement an integrated re-
19 gional security strategy in the Middle East and
20 North Africa that—

21 (A) recognizes the shared threat posed by
22 the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies and
23 violent extremism and terrorism;

24 (B) ensures sufficient United States deter-
25 rence in the region;

1 (C) builds partner capacity to address
2 shared threats; and

3 (D) reinforces the importance of multilat-
4 eral security arrangements;

5 (8) to encourage deeper trade, business, com-
6 mercial, and investment relationships between Negev
7 Forum countries, observers, and key partners in re-
8 gional integration, in line with the economic and de-
9 velopment interests of the people of the United
10 States and United States partners and allies in the
11 region;

12 (9) to support the work of the Negev Forum
13 and the Negev Forum working groups on food secu-
14 rity and water technology, energy, tourism,
15 healthcare, education and coexistence, and regional
16 security;

17 (10) to expand the Negev Forum working
18 groups as necessary and appropriate, including by
19 modifying the framework as future needs and oppor-
20 tunities arise;

21 (11) to support integration initiatives in the
22 Middle East and North Africa that strengthen the
23 Palestinian economy and improve the quality of life
24 for Palestinians;

1 (12) to urge Negev Forum countries and Abra-
2 ham Accords countries to oppose efforts to isolate,
3 delegitimize, or diplomatically boycott Israel in inter-
4 national or regional bodies, including the United Na-
5 tions General Assembly, United Nations Security
6 Council, United Nations Human Rights Council, and
7 other entities of the United Nations;

8 (13) to foster religious freedom, coexistence,
9 and tolerance throughout the Middle East through
10 interfaith and intercultural dialogue between Israel
11 and Arab and Muslim-majority countries; and

12 (14) to develop a comprehensive interagency ef-
13 fort to support the policy described in paragraphs
14 (1) through (13).

15 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY**
16 **FOR THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS, NEGEV**
17 **FORUM, AND RELATED NORMALIZATION**
18 **AGREEMENTS.**

19 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within
20 the Department of State the Office of the Special Presi-
21 dential Envoy for the Abraham Accords, Negev Forum,
22 and Related Integration and Normalization Fora and
23 Agreements (referred to in this section as the “Regional
24 Integration Office”).

25 (b) **LEADERSHIP.**—

1 (1) SPECIAL ENVOY.—The Regional Integration
2 Office shall be headed by the Special Presidential
3 Envoy for the Abraham Accords, Negev Forum, and
4 Related Normalization Agreements, who shall—

5 (A) be appointed by the President, by and
6 with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

7 (B) report directly to the Secretary of
8 State.

9 (2) RANK.—The Special Envoy shall have the
10 rank and status of ambassador.

11 (c) LIMITATION.—The Special Envoy shall not be a
12 dual-hatted official with other responsibilities within the
13 Department of State or the executive branch.

14 (d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special
15 Envoy shall—

16 (1) lead diplomatic engagement—

17 (A) to strengthen and expand the Negev
18 Forum, the Abraham Accords, and related nor-
19 malization agreements with Israel, including
20 promoting initiatives that benefit the people of
21 key partners in regional integration or other re-
22 gional actors in order to encourage such expan-
23 sion; and

24 (B) to support the work of regional inte-
25 gration;

1 (2) implement the policy of the United States
2 to expand normalization and support greater re-
3 gional integration—

4 (A) within the Middle East and North Af-
5 rica; and

6 (B) between the Middle East and North
7 Africa and other key regions, including sub-Sa-
8 haran Africa, the Indo-Pacific region, and be-
9 yond;

10 (3) work to deliver tangible economic and secu-
11 rity benefits for the citizens of Abraham Accords
12 countries, Negev Forum countries, and countries
13 that are members of other related normalization
14 agreements;

15 (4) serve as the ministerial liaison for the
16 United States to the Negev Forum, and other
17 emerging normalization and integration fora, as nec-
18 essary, and provide senior representation at events,
19 steering committee meetings, and other relevant dip-
20 lomatic engagements relating to the Negev Forum or
21 other regional integration bodies;

22 (5) coordinate all cross-agency engagements
23 and strategies in support of normalization efforts
24 with other relevant officials and agencies;

1 (6) ensure that the appropriate congressional
2 committees are regularly informed about the work of
3 the Regional Integration Office;

4 (7) initiate and advance negotiations on a
5 framework for an economic and security partnership
6 with the Negev Forum countries, other key partners
7 in regional integration, and other regional actors;
8 and

9 (8) oppose efforts to delegitimize Israel and
10 legal barriers to normalization with Israel.

11 (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that whole-of-government resources should be har-
13 nessed to ensure the successful performance by the Special
14 Envoy of the duties described in subsection (d).

15 (f) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
17 thereafter, the Special Envoy shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-
19 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
20 a report on actions taken by all relevant Federal agen-
21 cies—

22 (1) to strengthen and expand the Abraham Ac-
23 cords and the work of the Negev Forum and future
24 structures and organizations; and

1 (2) towards the objectives of regional integra-
2 tion.

3 (g) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
4 the date that is 6 years after date of the enactment of
5 this Act.

6 (h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—If, on the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, an individual has already been des-
8 ignated, consistent with the requirements and responsibil-
9 ities described in subsections (b), (c), and (d) and section
10 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956
11 (22 U.S.C. 2651a), the requirements under subsection (b)
12 shall be considered to be satisfied with respect to such in-
13 dividual until the date on which such individual no longer
14 serves as the Special Envoy.

15 **SEC. 7. ENHANCED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER**
16 **THE ISRAEL RELATIONS NORMALIZATION**
17 **ACT.**

18 Section 105(b) of the Israel Relations Normalization
19 Act (division Z of Public Law 117–103; 136 Stat. 1061)
20 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
21 graphs:

22 “(12) An assessment of ongoing and future
23 United States Government efforts to support the
24 Negev Forum and its component working groups.

1 “(13) An assessment of ongoing and future
2 United States Government efforts to encourage
3 Israel and key partners in regional integration to—

4 “(A) use efficient and innovative energy
5 technologies;

6 “(B) ensure equitable access to quality and
7 relevant education and healthcare;

8 “(C) foster cooperation between Israel,
9 Abraham Accords countries, Negev Forum
10 countries, and other key partners in regional in-
11 tegration in the fields of maritime security and
12 integration, and integrated air and missile de-
13 fense;

14 “(D) develop and harness technologies to
15 mitigate food and water insecurity; and

16 “(E) foster equal measures of freedom, se-
17 curity, prosperity, and stability for all citizens
18 of the region.

19 “(14) Recommendations on how to support eco-
20 nomic conditions that promote commercial engage-
21 ment, innovation, competitiveness, new businesses,
22 inclusive economic growth, and the education of fu-
23 ture innovators, entrepreneurs, and business leaders
24 in the region.

1 “(15) An assessment of the policy and regu-
2 latory environment for tourism, trade, innovation,
3 and investment in Negev Forum countries and rec-
4 ommendations on how to improve regional integra-
5 tion for such sectors.

6 “(16) Recommendations on how to forge part-
7 nerships with non-Negev Forum states, observers,
8 and other key partners in regional integration that
9 share the vision of the Negev Forum for regional in-
10 tegration.”

11 “(17) A detailed description of efforts to nor-
12 malize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia
13 and associated impacts on the region, including re-
14 gional security, Arab-Israeli dynamics, trade, and
15 development.

16 “(18) An assessment of the structure, fre-
17 quency of meeting, and format of working groups of
18 the Negev Forum and recommendations to maximize
19 economic and security benefits for Abraham Accords
20 countries and Negev Forum countries.”.

21 **SEC. 8. ABRAHAM ACCORDS, NEGEV FORUM, AND RE-**
22 **GIONAL INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITY FUND.**

23 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
24 United States—

1 (1) to advance regional economic integration
2 and provide tangible economic benefits to Abraham
3 Accords countries and Negev Forum countries;

4 (2) to promote the economic security of allies
5 and partners of the United States by encouraging
6 the development of accessible, transparent, and com-
7 petitive markets; and

8 (3) to encourage public and private sector in-
9 vestment in projects in Abraham Accords countries,
10 Negev Forum countries, and other key partner coun-
11 tries to expand inclusive economic development in a
12 way that is consistent with the absorptive capacity
13 of the Middle East and North Africa.

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
15 Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the
16 “Abraham Accords, Negev Forum, and Regional Integra-
17 tion Opportunity Fund”, which shall consist of amounts
18 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-
19 tions under subsection (d).

20 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of State and the
21 Special Envoy, in consultation with other relevant Federal
22 agencies, shall administer the Fund to advance regional
23 economic integration and provide tangible security and
24 economic benefits to Abraham Accords countries and
25 Negev Forum countries.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the
3 Treasury \$105,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 through
4 2030.

5 (e) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State,
6 in coordination with the Special Envoy, may transfer any
7 amount of the funds authorized under subsection (d) to
8 any account of the Department of State or any other Fed-
9 eral agency to effectively implement the policy described
10 in subsection (a).

11 (f) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—None of the
12 funds authorized under subsection (d) may be obligated
13 or expended under this section until the Secretary of State
14 notifies the appropriate congressional committees and the
15 Committee on Appropriations of each House of the Con-
16 gress of the amount and nature of the proposed obligation
17 or expenditure not fewer than 15 days in advance of the
18 date of the proposed obligation or expenditure, in accord-
19 ance with the procedures applicable to notifications re-
20 garding reprogrammings pursuant to 634A of the Foreign
21 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1).

22 (g) STRATEGY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Spe-
25 cial Envoy, in consultation with other relevant Fed-

1 eral agencies as determined by the Special Envoy,
2 shall develop and submit to the appropriate congress-
3 sional committees a strategy that includes the fol-
4 lowing elements:

5 (A) An estimate of the spend rate of the
6 Fund for fiscal years 2024 through 2030.

7 (B) An estimate of the amounts to be
8 transferred from the Treasury to other Federal
9 agencies in the first 3 years of the Fund.

10 (C) An analysis of how the Fund can be
11 used to strengthen and expand bilateral and
12 multilateral cooperation between Israel, Abra-
13 ham Accords countries, Negev Forum countries,
14 and key partners in regional integration.

15 (2) FORM.—The strategy required by para-
16 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
17 but may include a classified annex.

18 (h) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
21 thereafter for the next 6 years, the Secretary of
22 State, in coordination with the relevant Federal
23 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congress-
24 sional committees a report on the activities and use
25 of funds under this section, including any amounts

1 transferred to other Federal agencies from the
2 Treasury.

3 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
4 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
5 include a classified annex.

6 **SEC. 9. UNITED STATES, ABRAHAM ACCORDS, AND NEGEV**
7 **FORUM ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) the United States should seek to develop
10 and negotiate a comprehensive framework for eco-
11 nomic engagement with Abraham Accords countries,
12 Negev Forum countries, and key partners in re-
13 gional integration to deepen regulatory alignment,
14 expand regional economic growth, attract invest-
15 ment, increase competitiveness, and strengthen and
16 secure supply chains;

17 (2) the Special Envoy should initiate negotia-
18 tions with Abraham Accords countries and Negev
19 Forum countries, observers, and key partners in re-
20 gional integration on an economic framework that
21 includes—

22 (A) improving supply chain security and
23 resiliency;

24 (B) aligning common regulatory and finan-
25 cial standards;

1 (C) attracting foreign investment;

2 (D) diversification of energy resources, in-
3 cluding renewable sources of energy, and the
4 development and deployment of emerging and
5 advanced technologies that promote energy se-
6 curity; and

7 (E) digital economy, cybersecurity, and
8 cross-border data flow;

9 (3) the Special Envoy, in consultation with all
10 other relevant Federal agencies, should lead inter-
11 agency efforts to reach an international agreement
12 on the comprehensive economic framework described
13 by paragraph (2); and

14 (4) the Special Envoy should endeavor to embed
15 already established standards on countering money
16 laundering and terrorist financing into the regional
17 economic framework described by paragraph (2).

18 **SEC. 10. SUPPORTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH**
19 **MULTILATERALS, SCIENTIFIC COLLABORA-**
20 **TION, AND INTERFAITH INITIATIVES.**

21 (a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
23 \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028,
24 of which—

1 (1) \$500,000 shall be made available in the
2 Fund to provide support for expanding participation
3 by Negev Forum countries in the Middle East De-
4 salination Research Center;

5 (2) \$1,000,000 shall be made available for the
6 Middle East Multilaterals program of the Depart-
7 ment of State to provide support for the work of the
8 Negev Forum and its corresponding working groups;
9 and

10 (3) \$1,000,000 shall be made available for
11 interfaith dialogue programming between Abraham
12 Accords countries, Negev Forum countries, observ-
13 ers, other regional actors, and key partners in re-
14 gional integration, and the United States for the
15 purpose of fostering mutual trust, reducing harmful
16 perceptions, and promoting sustainable peace and
17 cooperation in the region, through projects that—

18 (A) support programming centered on co-
19 existence and interfaith education; and

20 (B) seek to restore and preserve Jewish
21 sites in Arab countries both in and outside the
22 Abraham Accords and Negev Forum.

23 (b) UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
24 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
3 ministrators of the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development \$6,000,000 for fiscal year
5 2024, for the Middle East Regional Cooperation
6 (MERC) program.

7 (2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Administrator shall
8 prioritize the awarding of funding authorized under
9 paragraph (1) for proposals submitted by Abraham
10 Accords countries, Negev Forum countries, other re-
11 gional actors, or key partners in regional integration
12 that support Negev Forum objectives.

13 (c) BURDEN SHARING.—Assistance agreements en-
14 tered into by the Secretary of State or the Administrator
15 of the United States Agency for International Develop-
16 ment under this section shall include provisions to promote
17 domestic resource mobilization and cost-sharing, as deter-
18 mined necessary and appropriate by the Secretary or the
19 Administrator, as the case may be.

20 (d) INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RE-
21 PORT.—In the Annual Report on International Religious
22 Freedom submitted by the Secretary of State in accord-
23 ance with section 102(b) of the International Religious
24 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)), the Secretary
25 of State shall, for each Abraham Accords country and

1 Negev Forum country, include information on progress
2 and challenges relating to the Negev Working Group on
3 Education and Tolerance and advancing religious toler-
4 ance and interfaith understanding among and within the
5 Abraham Accords countries.

6 (e) REPORT ON FUNDING.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Rela-
9 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
10 of the House of Representatives a report on the use of
11 the funds appropriated in accordance with subsection (a),
12 which shall include—

13 (1) a description of any programs funded; and

14 (2) a list of countries in which such programs
15 were executed to support the purposes described by
16 subsection (a)(3).

17 **SEC. 11. SUPPORTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH**
18 **A YOUNG MIDDLE EAST LEADERS INITIATIVE**
19 **PROGRAM.**

20 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
21 United States—

22 (1) to provide educational and professional op-
23 portunities to Middle Eastern youth through scholar-
24 ships, leadership programs, and cultural exchanges
25 that create and sustain mutual understanding with

1 other countries and cultivate people-to-people ties;
2 and

3 (2) to support the long-term prosperity and sta-
4 bility of Negev Forum countries, key partners in re-
5 gional integration, and other regional actors by im-
6 proving educational and professional opportunities
7 for young people in the Middle East and North Afri-
8 ca and to promote youth participation in civil soci-
9 ety, governance, and politics.

10 (b) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-
11 partment of State the Young Middle East Leaders Initia-
12 tive (referred to in this section as the “YMELI program”).

13 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The YMELI program shall
14 be jointly administered by the Bureau of Educational and
15 Cultural Affairs and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

16 (d) PURPOSE.—The YMELI program shall seek to
17 build the capacity of young leaders in Negev Forum coun-
18 tries, key partners in regional integration, and other re-
19 gional actors to address issues in the areas of energy di-
20 versification, education and coexistence, business develop-
21 ment and investment promotion, food and water security,
22 health, regional security, and tourism, including through
23 efforts—

24 (1) to support young leaders by offering profes-
25 sional development, training, and networking oppor-

1 tunities to increase the educational capacity of youth
2 in the Middle East and North Africa in such areas;
3 and

4 (2) to provide increased economic and technical
5 assistance to young leaders in Negev Forum coun-
6 tries, key partners in regional integration, and other
7 regional actors to promote economic growth and
8 strengthen ties between the United States and such
9 groups.

10 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of fis-
12 cal years 2024 through 2028 to support the creation of
13 the YMELI program and other people-to-people exchange
14 programs.

15 (f) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YMELI program shall
16 award fellowships through the Youth Exchange and Study
17 (YES) program to eligible young leaders.

18 (g) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YMELI
19 program may establish regional leadership centers in
20 Negev Forum countries and key partners in regional inte-
21 gration to offer training to eligible young leaders.

22 (h) ACTIVITIES.—

23 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
24 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Admin-
25 istrator of the United States Agency for Inter-

1 national Development and the heads of other rel-
2 evant Federal agencies, shall oversee all United
3 States-based activities carried out under the YMELI
4 program.

5 (2) MENA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
6 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
7 the United States Agency for International Develop-
8 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-
9 cies, shall support activities carried out under the
10 YMELI program in Negev Forum countries, key
11 partners in regional integration, and other regional
12 actors, including by providing—

13 (A) access to continued leadership training
14 and other professional development opportuni-
15 ties, including online courses, technical assist-
16 ance, and access to funding, for alumni of the
17 YMELI program upon the return of such alum-
18 ni to their home countries;

19 (B) training to eligible young leaders at re-
20 gional leadership centers established in accord-
21 ance with subsection (g) and through online
22 and in-person courses offered by such centers;
23 and

24 (C) opportunities for networking and en-
25 gagement with—

1 (i) alumni of the YMELI program at
2 regional leadership centers established in
3 accordance with subsection (g); and

4 (ii) United States organizations, busi-
5 ness leaders, and others, as appropriate.

6 (i) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, in
7 coordination with the Administrator of the United States
8 Agency for International Development and the heads of
9 other relevant Federal agencies, shall seek to partner with
10 the private sector to pursue public-private partnerships,
11 leverage private sector expertise, expand networking op-
12 portunities, and identify funding opportunities and fellow-
13 ship and employment opportunities for participants in the
14 YMELI program.

15 (j) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
18 the United States Agency for International Development
19 and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall
20 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan
21 for implementing the YMELI program, which shall in-
22 clude—

23 (1) a description of clearly defined program
24 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
25 and for the duration of the YMELI program;

1 (2) a strategy to monitor and evaluate the
2 YMELI program and progress made toward achiev-
3 ing such goals, targets, and planned outcomes; and

4 (3) a strategy to ensure that the YMELI pro-
5 gram is promoting United States foreign policy goals
6 in the Middle East and North Africa, including en-
7 suring that the YMELI program is clearly branded
8 and paired with robust public diplomacy efforts.

9 (k) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
12 thereafter for the next 5 years, the Secretary of
13 State, in coordination with the Administrator of the
14 United States Agency for International Develop-
15 ment, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
16 committees a report that includes—

17 (A) a description of the progress made to-
18 ward achieving the goals, targets, and planned
19 outcomes described in subsection (j)(1), includ-
20 ing an overview of the implementation of the
21 YEMLI program during the previous year and
22 an estimated number of YMELI program bene-
23 ficiaries during such year;

24 (B) an assessment of how the YMELI pro-
25 gram is contributing to and promoting relations

1 between the United States and Negev Forum
2 countries, particularly in areas of increased pri-
3 vate sector investment, trade promotion, sup-
4 port to civil society, improved public adminis-
5 tration, and fostering entrepreneurship and
6 youth empowerment; and

7 (C) recommendations for improvements or
8 changes to the YMELI program, if any, that
9 would improve the ongoing effectiveness of the
10 YMELI program.

11 (2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of State
12 shall publish the report submitted pursuant to para-
13 graph (1) on a publicly accessible website of the De-
14 partment of State.

15 (1) ELIGIBLE YOUNG LEADER DEFINED.—In this
16 section, the term “eligible young leader” means an indi-
17 vidual who—

18 (1) is between 18 and 35 years of age;

19 (2) has demonstrated strong capabilities in en-
20 trepreneurship, innovation, public service, and lead-
21 ership; and

22 (3) has positively impacted a community, orga-
23 nization, or institution.

1 **SEC. 12. SUPPORTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH**
2 **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AND PEOPLE-TO-**
3 **PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT.**

4 (a) **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE.**—There is authorized
5 to be appropriated to the Department of State for the
6 Middle East Partnership Initiative \$1,000,000 for fiscal
7 years 2024 through 2028 to support educational and cul-
8 tural exchange programs to allow—

9 (1) Israeli students to study in Abraham Ac-
10 cords countries, Negev Forum countries, and key
11 partners in regional integration that maintain rela-
12 tions with Israel; and

13 (2) students from such countries that maintain
14 relations with Israel to study in Israel.

15 (b) **PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY EN-**
16 **GAGEMENT.**—The Middle East Partnership Initiative may
17 support grants and projects that seek to build better co-
18 operation and understanding to foster the exchange of
19 ideas among Israelis, Palestinians, and other citizens from
20 Abraham Accords countries, Negev Forum countries, key
21 partners in regional integration, and other regional actors.

22 (c) **BURDEN SHARING.**—Assistance agreements en-
23 tered into by the Secretary of State under this section may
24 include provisions to promote cost-sharing with partners,
25 as determined necessary and appropriate by the Secretary,
26 as the case may be.

1 **SEC. 13. STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE ABRAHAM**
2 **ACCORDS AND NEGEV FORUM THROUGH IN-**
3 **DUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND**
4 **DEVELOPMENT.**

5 (a) ISRAEL-UNITED STATES BINATIONAL INDUS-
6 TRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.—To
7 facilitate multilateral cooperation between the United
8 States, Israel, Abraham Accords countries, and Negev
9 Forum countries, the Israel-United States Binational In-
10 dustrial Research and Development Foundation, under the
11 arrangement as entered into in 1977, may provide grants
12 to initiatives that involve institutions from Abraham Ac-
13 cords countries and Negev Forum countries.

14 (b) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL BINATIONAL SCIENCE
15 FOUNDATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate multilateral co-
17 operation between the United States, Israel, and the
18 Abraham Accords countries and Negev Forum coun-
19 tries, the United States-Israel Binational Science
20 Foundation, under the arrangement as entered into
21 in 1972, may provide grants to initiatives that in-
22 volve scientists and researchers from Abraham Ac-
23 cords countries and Negev Forum countries, con-
24 sistent with the national security, economic, and de-
25 velopment interests of the United States.

1 (2) LIMITATIONS.—The Foundation may not
 2 provide grants for projects or initiatives that collabo-
 3 rate with or receive funding from entities located in
 4 a country of concern, and shall not engage in life
 5 sciences research of dual-use concern.

6 (c) COUNTRY OF CONCERN DEFINED.—In this sec-
 7 tion, the term “country of concern” means any of the fol-
 8 lowing:

- 9 (1) The People’s Republic of China.
- 10 (2) The Russian Federation.
- 11 (3) The Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 12 (4) The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
- 13 (5) The Republic of Cuba.
- 14 (6) The Syrian Arab Republic.

15 **SEC. 14. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DE-**
 16 **VELOPMENT FUND.**

17 (a) Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
 18 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 19 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

- 20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into”
 21 and inserting “as entered into in 1977”; and
- 22 (2) in paragraph (2)—
 23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
 24 and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(C) when appropriate, facilitate the in-
5 volvement of Abraham Accords countries and
6 Negev Forum countries (as those terms are de-
7 fined in the Regional Integration and Normal-
8 ization Act of 2023) in cooperative projects
9 with the United States and Israel that further
10 economic cooperation among the countries in-
11 volved in such projects, consistent with the na-
12 tional security, economic, and development in-
13 terests of the United States.”.

14 **SEC. 15. JOINT CYBERSECURITY TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND**
15 **INFORMATION SHARING.**

16 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that the United States should—

18 (1) build on the formal expansion of the Abra-
19 ham Accords and other regional integration fora, as
20 appropriate, into cybersecurity, which was an-
21 nounced by the Department of Homeland Security
22 on February 2, 2023; and

23 (2) seek to increase collective cybersecurity and
24 resilience, address shared cybersecurity threats, and

1 promote normalization and regional integration ef-
2 forts.

3 (b) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of State,
4 the Secretary of Homeland Security, and other relevant
5 Federal agencies, as appropriate, may engage in joint cy-
6 bersecurity training activities and other information-shar-
7 ing activities relating to cybersecurity, as appropriate,
8 with Abraham Accords countries, Negev Forum countries,
9 and key partners in regional integration, including by en-
10 couraging participation by such countries in the National
11 Cyber Exercise Program established under section 2220B
12 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 665h).

13 (c) REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
16 of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security
17 shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of
18 Congress a report that contains a description of any
19 potential benefits and impacts to the United States
20 of an annual tabletop cybersecurity exercise carried
21 out in conjunction with Abraham Accords countries
22 and Negev Forum countries.

23 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
24 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
25 include a classified annex.

1 (d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
3 tees of Congress” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
5 the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
6 mental Affairs of the Senate; and

7 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security and
8 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
9 Representatives.

10 **SEC. 16. LEVERAGING UNITED STATES ECONOMIC TOOLKIT**
11 **TO SUPPORT REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND**
12 **NORMALIZATION EFFORTS.**

13 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.— It is the policy of the
14 United States to promote regional integration and broader
15 interconnectivity among the Abraham Accords countries,
16 Negev Forum countries, observers, key partners in re-
17 gional integration, and other regional actors by promoting
18 and supporting targeted investment in regional infrastruc-
19 ture and other critical sectors that broaden and deepen
20 interconnectivity, increase economic growth and resilience,
21 create benefits for citizens of Abraham Accords countries
22 and Negev Forum countries, and advance the national se-
23 curity, economic, and development interests of the United
24 States.

1 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
3 in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
4 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
5 committees an interagency strategy to use the economic
6 tools of the Federal Government to promote regional inte-
7 gration through targeted investment as described in sub-
8 section (a).

9 **SEC. 17. COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AMONG THE UNITED**
10 **STATES, ISRAEL, AND ABRAHAM ACCORDS**
11 **COUNTRIES AND NEGEV FORUM COUNTRIES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106(e) of the Foreign As-
13 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151d(e)) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 “(e) There is authorized to be appropriated
16 \$4,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to finance
17 cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and
18 Abraham Accords countries, Negev Forum countries, and
19 key partners in regional integration (as those terms are
20 defined in the Regional Integration and Normalization Act
21 of 2023) that identify and support local solutions that ad-
22 dress sustainability challenges relating to water resources,
23 agriculture, and energy storage, including for the following
24 activities:

25 “(1) Establishing public-private partnerships.

1 “(2) Supporting the identification, research, de-
2 velopment testing, and scaling of innovations that
3 focus on populations that are vulnerable to environ-
4 mental and resource-scarcity crises, such as subsist-
5 ence farming communities.

6 “(3) Seed or transition-to-scale funding.

7 “(4) Clear and appropriate marking, branding,
8 and marketing of United States-funded assistance.

9 “(5) Accelerating demonstration or application
10 of local solutions to sustainability challenges, or the
11 further refinement, testing, or implementation of in-
12 novations that have previously effectively addressed
13 sustainability challenges.”.

14 (b) REPORT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
18 the United States Agency for International Develop-
19 ment shall submit to the appropriate congressional
20 committees a report on the feasibility and advis-
21 ability of expanding to Abraham Accords countries,
22 Negev Forum countries, and key partners in re-
23 gional integration the projects described in section
24 106(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
25 U.S.C. 2151d(e)), as amended by subsection (a), in-

1 including projects involving multilateral cooperation
2 among the United States, Israel, and Negev Forum
3 countries, observers, and key partners in regional in-
4 tegration to promote development in Africa.

5 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
6 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
7 include a classified annex.

8 **SEC. 18. SUPPORTING STRUCTURES THAT EXPAND CO-**
9 **OPERATION ACROSS REGIONS IN KEY AREAS.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11 (1) The United States has a strategic interest
12 in fostering cross-regional cooperation and economic
13 integration between partners in the Indo-Pacific re-
14 gion and partners in the Middle East and North Af-
15 rica.

16 (2) Consistent with the strategic interest de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1), the regional grouping
18 known as the I2U2 comprising the governments of
19 India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the
20 United States was formally established in October
21 2021.

22 (3) The I2U2 aligns like-minded countries in
23 the Indo-Pacific region and the Middle East and
24 North Africa on key mutual areas of cooperation, in-

1 including water, energy, transportation, space, health,
2 and food security.

3 (4) The I2U2 complements other multilateral
4 initiatives, including the Abraham Accords and the
5 Negev Forum, by bringing together Israel and re-
6 gional partners to address regional challenges and
7 advance economic integration.

8 (5) By convening 4 major economies with ad-
9 vanced technology sectors, the I2U2 provides a
10 forum to increase cooperation on the development
11 and deployment of advanced energy technologies and
12 promote energy security.

13 (6) In May 2023, senior officials from the
14 United States, the United Arab Emirates, the King-
15 dom of Saudi Arabia, and India met in Riyadh,
16 Saudi Arabia, to discuss cross-regional infrastruc-
17 ture development, rail transportation, and
18 connectivity.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that—

21 (1) the United States should—

22 (A) build on the initiatives outlined at the
23 inaugural I2U2 leaders' summit on July 14,
24 2022, to address food security and energy secu-

1 rity needs in North Africa, the Middle East,
2 and South Asia;

3 (B) work through the I2U2 framework to
4 promote resilience in the Indo-Pacific region to
5 bolster energy security;

6 (C) encourage private sector investment
7 and business-to-business cooperation through
8 initiatives like the I2U2 Business Forum;

9 (D) encourage academic cooperation and
10 exchanges among scholars working in India, the
11 United Arab Emirates, and Israel to develop
12 advanced energy technologies; and

13 (E) encourage further regional initiatives,
14 such as Project Prosperity, to promote regional
15 integration and resilience in the face of increas-
16 ing water and energy shortages; and

17 (2) the Secretary of State should—

18 (A) explore additional areas of cooperation
19 between United States partners in the Middle
20 East and North Africa and United States part-
21 ners in the Indo-Pacific region to broaden stra-
22 tegic alignment across a range of important se-
23 curity, economic, and other issues; and

- 1 (B) consider expansion of the I2U2 to in-
- 2 clude other key partners in regional integration,
- 3 including Saudi Arabia.

○