

Draft Memo: Potential Elements of the Isaac Accords on Israel-Latin America Relations

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Overview: The potential Isaac Accords between Israel and Latin American nations offers an important vehicle for increasing mutually beneficial alignment and cooperation. Measures to increase channels for security cooperation, diplomatic coordination in international fora, and investment and education would be politically attractive and beneficial to both Israel and Latin America, seizing on the complementary advantages and capacities that these societies can bring to the table. The Isaac Accords also stands to benefit the United States through the bolstering of its allies, support of hemispheric security and growth, combatting the global rise of antisemitism, and the advancing reform of increasingly radical and anti-American international organizations.

- **Embassy Placement in Jerusalem**

Latin American government's generally have longstanding formal diplomatic relations with Israel. However, many regional governments maintain their embassy presence in the city of Tel Aviv, rather than its political capital Jerusalem. In recent years, multiple nations such as Guatemala (2018), Honduras (2021), and Paraguay (2024) have moved their embassies to Jerusalem, following the Trump Administration's taking this action in recognition of the sovereign realities of the State of Israel. The placement of Latin American embassies in Israel presents an important symbolic and substantive element of the Isaac Accords, driving deepened diplomatic and political alignment between Israel and the Western Hemisphere.

- **Coordinated Action to Reform International Organizations**

Both Israel and Latin American democracies are affected by the hijacking of international organizations by biased political forces, presenting an opportunity to jointly confront this unacceptable reality. The obsessive bias against Israel by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the International Criminal Court, and other international entities is directly linked to their inaction against true and pervasive human rights violations in Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Indeed, a compulsive focus on Israel by these organizations offers political cover for their inaction on the Western Hemisphere's deepening human rights crisis. Thus, restoring the focus of the Human Rights Council and other international organizations should be a shared priority for both Israel and Latin American democracies. Commitments and mechanisms to do so through the Isaac Accords present a potentially core and mutually beneficial element of Israel-Latin America diplomatic cooperation.

- **Bolstered Security Cooperation**

Israel and Latin America face similar security threats, namely transnational armed groups and terrorist organizations, including some with direct links and backing from authoritarian states. For Israel, these threats include Hezbollah, Hamas, and others, while Latin America face Venezuela's Tren de Aragua, Colombian guerrilla groups like the National Liberation Army, and Mexican drug cartels. Beyond the similar nature of these threats, of these threats, there is also substantial crossover between these armed groups, with Hezbollah having established a substantial presence in Latin American criminal networks, particularly in South America's tri-border region. These shared challenges raise the value and importance of security cooperation between Israel and Latin American democracies. Specific opportunities include bolstered intelligence sharing channels,

increased training and exchanges between security forces around counterinsurgency, and coordinated actions against shared threats, such as regional designations against Hezbollah and similar organizations. Israel's technological capacities around intelligence, cybersecurity, and drone technology can also offer an important avenue of cooperation with Latin America.

- **Bolstered Educational Exchanges**

Israel's high-quality higher education system offers an important potential tool for deepened engagement with Latin America to bolster economic growth and combat rising antisemitism. Increasing opportunities for Latin America's citizens to study abroad in Israel would support the region's need to develop its workforce, including in many of the fields where Israel excels, such as technology, business, and cybersecurity. At the same time, increased engagement from Latin American students in Israel can help reverse the trend of increasing antisemitism in Latin America which has been on display in recurring protests and violence by student populations in [Mexico](#), [Colombia](#), and beyond.

- **Trade and Investment**

Investment promotion agreements and even trade deals between Israel and Latin America can ramp up what are currently limited economic ties, bringing mutual benefits to growth and stability. For example, through agreements that facilitate business investment, Israeli firms can bring valuable technological knowledge and offerings to meet Latin America's economic needs in infrastructure and the development of domestic business environments. This bolstered investment, potentially with joint ventures with U.S. firms, can even help to offset the concerning offering of Chinese investment in Latin America. At the same time, Latin America's substantial consumer base could offer benefits for Israeli exporters and manufacturers, also bolstering Latin American access to intermediate goods and technology needed for its own economic growth.