



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

H.E. Pekka Haavisto
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Helsinki, Finland

21 October 2020

Your Excellency,

It is my pleasure to send you, and all the people of Finland, greetings as we celebrate 70 years of bilateral relations between our countries. Although formal relations were only declared on 14th November 1950, the Finnish government announced de facto recognition just a month after our establishment, in June 1948.

Israel and Finland have much in common, from our small size and sharing the same colors on our flags, to our innovative and advanced economies, as well as our national resilience. In addition, Finland serves as an example of gender equality at the highest levels of government.

I attach great importance to the ties between our countries and peoples. Over the years our relationship has blossomed, and what started with the export of oranges has today developed into cooperation in digital health, smart transportation, high tech, and security. I look forward to working with you to expand our collaboration in these fields and also to further develop our work in the areas of ecological sustainability, culture, education and tourism.

Over the next 70 years and beyond, I hope we will continue to strengthen and develop the friendship between us, our people to people ties and an open and close dialogue.

Finally, I wish you and the Finnish people prosperity, success and good health.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabi Ashkenazi', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gabi Ashkenazi