

Signing of the U.S.-Israel Joint Statement (Pax Silica Framework)

LOCATION: The City of David, Jerusalem

SPEAKER: Jacob Helberg

Minister of Foreign Affairs Saar,

Ambassador Huckabee,

My dear friend, Erez Askal,

Distinguished guests,

We are gathered in the City of David, setting a direction for the future of our economies while standing directly on the ruins of the Ancient World—foundations laid over three thousand years ago. In most places, ruins are a reminder of what was lost. But here, they are a reminder of what refuses to die.

These stones have witnessed triumph and exile. They have seen destruction and they have seen return. They have absorbed the footsteps of a people who refused to let history be something that merely "happens" to them.

And that is why this is the right place to sign what we are signing today.

We are here to launch a joint declaration that challenges Israel and the United States to build the future together through a Pax Silica framework that recognizes a truth of our time:

The next era of prosperity—and the next era of security—will be shaped by those who build the critical technologies that power modern life.

Artificial intelligence. Space. Semiconductors. Robotics. Materials science. New energy.

These are not abstractions. They are not buzzwords. They are the foundations of national strength—and the pillars of a new kind of peace.

There is a quote I keep returning to, because it captures the moral challenge of this moment. Benjamin Disraeli said:

"Man is not the creature of circumstances. Circumstances are the creatures of men."

That sentence is not just philosophy. It is a national strategy.

The real question before us today is: Will we let circumstances shape us? Or will we shape the circumstances?

There are moments in history—moments in public life—when the challenges seem daunting and it would be easy to blame the circumstances and give up.

In recent years, two leaders in particular had plenty of reasons to do exactly that. President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu faced relentless pressure, unpredictable events, and no shortage of critics who insisted the safest move was to retreat.

But they kept fighting. They refused to be defined by the moment. And in time, they prevailed.

That instinct—the refusal to surrender to circumstance—is what resilience looks like in the real world. The world is shaped by people who decide that the obstacles do not get the final vote.

And that pattern is visible not only in Israel's security posture, but in its scientific story.

When you look at the wonders Israeli innovators have delivered—advances in water technology, breakthroughs in medicine, world-class cybersecurity, cutting-edge chip design—you see something deeper than the "startup nation" branding.

You see a society that treats constraint as fuel.

In that sense, this ceremony is not just about two governments agreeing to cooperate. It is about two cultures recognizing the same engine of progress:

Resilience produces innovation. Innovation produces strength. Strength produces peace.

That is the decision we are making today.

We are making a declaration—on top of ruins that are more than 3,000 years old—that the future belongs to those with the courage to build and rebuild.

And on that note, I want to specifically thank my friend, Erez Askal. Agreements like this often get bogged down in bureaucracy, but this one moved at the speed of necessity. Erez, thank you for your decisiveness, conviction, and speed in bringing us to this moment.

Asymmetric Power

There is a fact that gets to the heart of what Israel represents in the modern world.

Israel is a small country—smaller than many global cities. And yet, it routinely produces asymmetric outcomes.

Economically. Technologically. Militarily.

This country of under ten million people has built an economy and a security capacity that defies conventional metrics of size. Israel's nominal GDP is projected to be larger than Nigeria's—despite Nigeria being a nation approaching a quarter-billion people.

That is not a statement about Nigeria. It is a statement about what institutions, talent, and national will can do.

It is a reminder that in the 21st century, power is not measured in landmass or population.

Power is measured by technology. The ability to design and manufacture critical components. The ability to secure and scale advanced systems. The ability to turn knowledge into production.

Crucially, this power also relies on the integrity of our supply chains. During COVID, the world learned the hard way that innovation means little if we cannot rely on the components that power it.

Secure supply chains are the lifelines of economic security and sovereignty, and we are determined to hardening them.

That is what Pax Silica is about.

What We Are Building Together

So what does this joint statement actually task us to do?

It tasks us to move beyond admiration—and into production.

It tasks us with cross-pollinating the two most dynamic innovation ecosystems on Earth around the frontier: AI that accelerates science.

And because this partnership is not single-domain, we are tying AI to the other critical technologies that determine national capacity:

Semiconductors, because there is no AI without compute.

Space, because the high ground of the modern economy is orbital.

Robotics, because the future of manufacturing is automation married to precision.

Energy, because energy is the base layer of every industrial strategy.

Pax Silica is a recognition that the map of power has changed. And it is our decision to shape that map instead of being shaped by it.

Closing

Standing here, it is impossible not to feel the contrast. We are surrounded by the remnants of the ancient world. And yet we are writing the blueprint for the new world being borne out of the AI revolution.

That is resilience. That is continuity.

The story of the City of David is, at its core, a story about persistence.

And that is what Israel embodies today. And under President Trump's leadership, it is what embodies America

again—without apology.

To rebuild industry. To lead in science. To ensure our nations remain the birthplace of the technologies that redefine the circumstances. Disraeli had it right.

So let this signing be remembered as a moment we took our alliance from the battlefield to the laboratories, the factories, and the stars we are reaching for together.

Thank you.