



## THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, May 6, 2019

Iyar 1, 5779

### **To our fellow Jews throughout the world**

Dear friends,

As we prepare to celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, I am writing to send my greetings to your community from here in Jerusalem, the capital city of the State of Israel and of all the Jewish People.

Following our recent Knesset elections, which once again illustrated the strength of our very vibrant democracy, efforts are underway to form our new government. The unity and strength of the Jewish People, wherever they live, is an important mission of any Israeli government and whatever the final composition of the new government I am confident it too will strive to ensure this goal.

The achievements of the State of Israel are also the achievements of all of our people throughout the world. Each year brings new challenges but also opportunities for new achievements.

You too play a role and have a share in these achievements. We are all part of this people and our nation is strong. Our people and our land began with the words "בראשית ברא" – "In the beginning . . ." and has continued now with the journey of the spaceship Beresheet. The sky is the limit for the success and the prosperity of our country.

I want to assure you that together with the joy we feel as we celebrate our Independence Day, we also share with you the pain, the sorrow and the sad consequences of anti-Semitic attacks that have hurt far too many Jewish communities around the world. Our hearts are with the grieving families and communities. We all share a destiny and a fate; we are together both in sadness and in the joy we share as we look back over the past seventy one years since the establishment of our Jewish and democratic state.

Please join with your brothers and sisters in Israel and throughout the world as we celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut together.

Happy Independence Day! יום העצמאות שמח!

Yours sincerely,

Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin