

Government Resolution No. 184 of July 5, 2020

184: The Government Framework for Safeguarding the Future of the Jewish People in the Diaspora

It is hereby resolved, in accordance with Articles 6(B) and 6(C) of the Basic Law: Israel as the Nation State of the Jewish People, regarding maintaining the bond between Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora and preserving the heritage of the Jewish people in Diaspora communities; in light of the government's policy that attaches supreme importance to strengthening the Jewish Diaspora, a policy which stems from the State of Israel's fundamental convictions and is an inseparable part of the Zionist vision; and further to the report of the public advisory committee which was appointed by the director general of the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs to examine channels for governmental actions to safeguard the future of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, (hereinafter—the Committee):

- A) To adopt the framework of principles and fields of action for government investment in safeguarding the future of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, as formulated by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs, in the spirit of the Committee's report and its recommendations, which are presented in the attached appendix.
- B) To charge the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs with coordinating with the relevant government parties, in consultation with the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization and other relevant bodies, to act to implement all aspects of the aforementioned framework of principles, with a long-term strategic view.

The contents of this Resolution in no way detract from or impinge on the authorities of other government offices.

(A copy of the Committee's full report in Hebrew can be found in the files of the Cabinet Secretariat.)

## **Appendix: Framework of Principles and Fields of Action for Government Investment in Safeguarding the Future of the Jewish People in the Diaspora**

Subsequent to the public committee's report and in the spirit of its recommendations, and given its experience in the field and the staff work that has been conducted, the ministry has formulated a framework of principles and fields of action as follows:

### **Fundamental Principles Guiding the Government in its Involvement**

As part of the cooperation between the Government of Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora to strengthen Jewish identity and the bond of Jews in the Diaspora with the State of Israel, two fundamental principles, which have the power to ensure the success of this joint action, must be upheld:

1. **Honest and genuine partnership**—State actions in the field must be conducted in full partnership with our partners, the Jews in the Diaspora. It is tremendously important to match expectations and stress the desire for full and respectful cooperation with as many Jewish bodies as possible, from formulating the vision, through planning the strategy, all the way to implementation in the field—all to benefit the shared goal of strengthening Jewish identity and the connection to Israel.
2. **The importance of stable government policy for this effort**—The connection with Diaspora Jews is extremely sensitive and based on trust that is continually being built. To avoid harming this process, the government's policy must be stable in a manner that ensures that actions and projects that have been launched and proven themselves effective and influential will be approved for long periods of time. One of the mechanisms that could assist in this stability is the establishment of a joint steering committee for each project (in cases where a steering committee does not already exist). The committees' power will be drawn from government representatives and various philanthropic representatives, which serve as a professional steering committee. This could create the stability needed for significant shared long-term moves, in cooperation with and for Jews in the Diaspora.

### **Added Governmental Value**

After a years-long examination, it seems that the government beginning to act in the field of strengthening Jewish identity and the connection of Jews in the Diaspora to Israel has added value that is the result of two unique components that the government can bring to this partnership:

1. **Global point of view**—The eight million Jewish people in the Diaspora are a diverse population with great variance, spread out over dozens of

countries. Therefore, each population has characteristics different from those of communities in other countries. In addition, there are various streams of Judaism in the Diaspora, and even variances inside the various streams, which creates fertile ground for even more differences between the communities.

The government's involvement could help gather everyone around a single table, as happens through projects such as Mosaic, Taglit and UNIT.ED.

2. **Systemic thinking**—Governmental thinking is characterized by a systemic viewpoint. Much like the way the government looks at the challenges faced by the Jewish world at a macro level, and not just at how these challenges are uniquely translated at the local level, so too does government thinking in terms of projects take a wider view. The government tries to systemically examine the entirety of the Jewish journey that each Jew takes during the formative periods of their lives that shape their identity, and in conjunction with local, community thinking, we can maximize the effect of the various projects on the participants' developing Jewish identity.

Another aspect of systemic thinking is the government's understanding of where the relative advantages and added value that lead to productivity is significant and unique, as opposed to where the government's strength and ability are not consequential. In order to maximize the activity's success, the government must try to avoid focusing its attention in these places. Formulating a comprehensive strategy and integrating joint staff work with the Diaspora on large, significant initiatives are a clear relative advantage for the government and it must focus on that, while in terms of implementation in the field in the Diaspora, the government is at a disadvantage, and therefore, in order to prevent an activity from failing and wasting the large investment of resources, the government must allow the communities and professional organizations, that are well acquainted with the area, to implement these activities, except for *shlibim* and teachers sent by the government, whose actions will be guided by Israel.

### **Principles for Governmental Action and the Desired Effect**

The government's activities in the fields of strengthening Jewish identity and the connection of Jews in the Diaspora to Israel must be implemented using three specific methods of action that make use of the government's advantages and have the effect the government desires to achieve:

1. **Creating a field of action and platforms, not a targeted project**— Alongside its integrative, systemic outlook, the government's size advantage allows it to create new fields of action together with its partners from the Diaspora, or to transform a successful targeted project into an entire field of action, to which it can mobilize partners for planning and

funding, as well as operators from a range of communities and organizations. The goal of creating a field of action is to take advantage of the gravitational force of the government and its partners in order to attract a range of suppliers to run projects and influence the entire market, and not just a single organization/project. In each new field of action, in cooperation with its partners in the initiative from the Diaspora, the government on the one hand wishes to create high-level content principles, alongside educational and technical standards that will ensure the quality of the project on the one hand, while on the other it will allow the broadest range of operators from different organizations and communities to offer the project diverse viewpoints on Jewish identity so that they can attract the maximal number of participants to the project. As part of this, the government would like to unify various non-governmental platforms that are involved in similar fields of action in order to utilize its size advantage and increase the efficiency and efficacy of the projects they run.

## **2. Investment in integrating quality content alongside large numbers—**

The government, together with Jews in the Diaspora, wishes to exert genuine and considerable influence over the young Jews who will participate in the various projects. Therefore, the government highly prioritizes investing in quality content in each of the fields of action into which it seeks to enter, in order to ensure that the participants have transformative experiences with content that is profound, significant and formative for their identity, and that as a result of these significant experiences, to create a real influence on the Jewish lives of the participants and the way they wish to express this identity in their life choices and those of their families.

Alongside the supreme importance of the content, the governmental also wishes to utilize its size advantage and the unique force of gravity that is the result of governmental intervention in the Jewish world to attract financial partners and operators in order to profoundly influence content for the largest possible number of participants, in a manner that will maximize the broad ripple of influence that the participants who undergo these-identity shaping experiences will have on their direct and indirect environments.

**Proper financial intervention—**The partnership between the government and its philanthropic partners must deepen and investigate its joint investment in the field of action: How will success be measured? Where can investments yield the best results in the short- and long-terms? And where are investments less effective and therefore should no longer be made? Some of the rules of action are because support and grants should not be distributed (which is very common in the Jewish world of the Diaspora), and because, in general, results should be rewarded, not good will or attempts by Jewish organizations to get results. Therefore, it is

important to point out that the partnership with the Diaspora is also expressed through joint planning and funding.

### **Fields of Action**

In accordance with the recommendations in the public Committee's report, governmental work should focus on activity in the Diaspora in the following six fields:

1. **Formal education**—Most Jewish children and teens in the Diaspora between the ages of 6 and 18 do not attend Jewish schools. Because of this, to date most of the Government of Israel's activity in the fields of Jewish identity and the connection of the Jews of the Diaspora to Israel has focused on projects in the field of informal education (Masa, Taglit, Mosaic, etc.), through which a broader audience can be reached at lower investment. At the same time, alongside this focus, the government, as a rule, has not yet invested in the tens of thousands of Jewish children who do study in Jewish schools, which, in turn, find it difficult in many cases to inspire the students to develop a feeling of communal involvement, a deep connection with the State of Israel and a strong and significant Jewish identity, in everything this broad definition entails. However, for years, the Government of Israel has invested and continues to invest in formal education, but this needs to be significantly enhanced.

Following the change in the concept formulated by the ministry over the past several years, the existing infrastructure of Jewish schools is perceived as being ripe for cooperation, which will enable Jewish institutions of learning around the world to express the full range of Jewish experience and make Jewish education more effective. Cooperation could expand the influence schools have on their alumni, their students' families and their communities. Alongside the specific work with each school, a network of action and support for global Jewish education must also be created and expanded.

2. **Informal education**—It is well known that the Government of Israel's two most significant projects to strengthen Jewish identity and the connection with the State of Israel in the field of informal education are Taglit and Masa. These projects bring teens and students to Israel for experiences that help shape their identity and are considered projects that are deeply influential on the participants' Jewish identities. The Mosaic project, run by the Government of Israel, together with Jewish people in the Diaspora (initially called the Joint Initiative of the Government of Israel and the Jewish People) seeks to use Taglit and Masa as an anchor to be integrated into a continuum of projects that will create a Jewish journey for young Jews in the Diaspora during the period of their lives in which their identities are most significantly shaped, between the ages 12 and 35.

Mosaic's concept is rooted in the understanding that between the ages of 12 to 35, most of an individual's identity is shaped, as is the role Judaism will play in the lives of Jews of the Diaspora moving forward—beginning with their bar or bat mitzvahs, through their high school years and on college campuses, through the start of their careers, when building their families and when choosing education systems for the next generation. In order to generate the most significant influence possible in terms of Jewish identity during this formative period, Mosaic takes a comprehensive view of the entire journey, identifies the connections between the various projects, takes care to preserve the knowledge of the projects and their partners, maximizes the influence on the participants and creates an ability to design a follow-up program that is relevant for each participant in each project in their Jewish journey. Mosaic confirms the existence of a series of opportunities for each young Jew to create a significant bond with Jewish life, with an emphasis on efforts to connect individuals who do not relate to their Jewish identities, by creating a comprehensive and consistent educational vision that has the power to enrich and inspire the young generation and encourage it to investigate its identity.

3. **Activity in Israel**—Over the past several years, the government has invested in a deeper thinking and planning process, together with the Jews in the Diaspora, regarding the manner in which the government can act vis-a-vis the challenges Jews face in the Diaspora. At the same time, the public dialogue in Israel almost never takes account of the Jewish people in the Diaspora. The only exceptions are crises, disasters, terrorist attacks and expressions of antisemitism, which receive media attention.

As part of the bidirectional and mutual perception of Israel's relations with the Jewish world, it is of supreme importance to influence Israeli awareness and instill in the Israeli public the understanding that the Jewish people in the Diaspora are an inseparable part of the existence of the Jewish collective, at the center of which stands Israel. The goal of dealing with this field of action is to deepen the Israeli people's knowledge of Jewish life in the Diaspora, expose Israelis to the diverse communities, their geographic dispersion around the world, and the challenges they face, increase the sense of belonging between Israelis in Israel to the Jews in the Diaspora and motivate Israelis to be more involved and work on issues connected to Jews in the Diaspora.

4. ***Tikkun Olam***—*Tikkun Olam*, the aspiration to behave and act constructively and beneficially, is a central tenet of Judaism and Zionism, and many young Jews relate to this value. Connecting young Jews from the Diaspora with missions to improve the lives of people around the world in a Jewish framework, while using technological, social and commercial innovations, could be an exciting and unifying tool. Many young Jews feel the need to help more disadvantaged parts of the world through advanced

capabilities and technologies. The State of Israel could be an appropriate place to consolidate such actions.

5. **Innovation and technology**—Beyond the aforementioned investments in the fields under examination, one of the ways to advance activity in the field of the Diaspora is through cooperating with innovative and groundbreaking projects in this field for limited periods, in order to significantly advance them in a short period of time and in a way that will provide considerable benefits to the government's activity with the Jews of the Diaspora. In this context, projects must meet a number of criteria. They must be significant and effective; they must contribute to realizing the vision of one of the other fields under the ministry's jurisdiction; they must be groundbreaking; they must have an effective partner with high executive capabilities; they must contribute to establishing the field of the Diaspora and the activities of the government and the ministry in the field.
6. **Evaluation and measuring**—It is critically important that there be professional and regular examination of demographic trends among the Jewish people, as well as oversight and evaluation of the different plans, using uniform methodologies to measure the overarching and mid-point goals, in order to provide current information on whether or not the goals are being met. This is to ensure that investments in this area will be efficient and effective.

In addition, in accordance with the recommendations in the report, a joint, designated charter for the Jewish people should be drafted, which will have broad consensus and emphasize the importance of the existence of the Jewish people at this time and in the future, and its role in the world, in order to serve as a broad ideological basis for all activity.