

## Dear Friends,

After three months of demonstrations and protests that erupted out of genuine concern for Israel's democratic character, and after a half-day general labor strike across the entire Israeli economy, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced last night the delay of the judicial overhaul legislation. Following his statement, the strike ended, and The Jewish Agency also returned to a full work routine.

As of now, the focus of the process is now centered around the Israeli President Isaac Herzog, with the aspiration to reach as broad an agreement as possible.

These days continue to be tense and distressing, but alongside them there is hope. Our guiding principle since the establishment of the State of Israel, as set out in the Declaration of Independence, is the shared destiny of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world. It is the basis for the success of the State of Israel. The essence of our shared destiny, which is our thriving future as a people and nation, is before us. It is essential that world Jewry is given a voice in this conversation, as we are all responsible to the resilience and strength of the Israeli society. This is the time more than ever to ensure the involvement of the Jewish people in determining the renewed vision for our future.

In marking our 75 years of independence, we must all work to ensure that **the State of Israel will continue to be a Jewish, democratic, free and liberal state.** Israel's national days are ahead of us which center on the remembering the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, those who have fallen in Israel's wars and as victims of terror in Israel and around the world - all of whom remind us of the great responsibility we have for the continued existence of the Jewish people and the State of Israel .

During these days, hundreds of delegations representing all the full diversity of the Jewish people will pass through the gates of Israel with our partners - the Jewish Federations of North America, the World Zionist Organization and Keren Hayesod. Our duty is to maintain unity even when opinions are different. The Jewish Agency has a historic and important role as the bridge between Israeli society and the entire Jewish people, with the aim of ensuring that we are a free and resilient people in our country. This is our calling and the place where we stand in times of trial.

Next week we will all return to the Seder table to celebrate Passover, the holiday of freedom. We wish you and your friends and families a joyous, peaceful, and connected Pesach. On this Passover, our hope is for unity without uniformity: we respect our differences, and celebrate knowing that every one of us has a seat at the table, together.

Chag Sameach,

Mark Wilf

Chairman of the Board

Mark Wilf

Doron Almog

Chairman of the Executive

Amira Ahronoviz

CEO & Director General