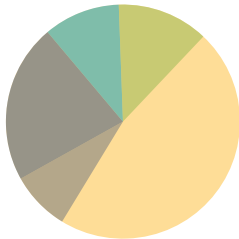




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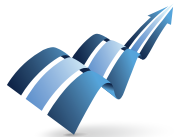
# The 2017 Israeli Foreign Policy Index of the Mitvim Institute

November 2017



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**MITVIM**  
The Israeli Institute for  
Regional Foreign Policies

**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
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# The 2017 Israeli Foreign Policy Index

## Findings of the Mitvim Institute Poll

The annual public opinion of the Mitvim Institute on Israel's foreign policy was conducted, for the fifth consecutive year in mid-September 2017. It was carried out by the Rafi Smith Institute, and in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, among a representative sample of Israel's adult population (600 men and women, Jews and Arabs, aged 18 and above). The poll's margin of error is 4%. This report includes the poll findings, grouped under five categories: The state of Israel's foreign policy, Israel among the nations, foreign policy priorities and bilateral relations, regional cooperation, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

### Key Findings

#### A. The State of Israel's Foreign Policy

- The Israeli public thinks that the **government's handling of foreign policy** is mediocre (5.05 out of 10). 20% describe it as good.
- The preferred candidate for the **position of Foreign Minister** is Yair Lapid, followed by Tzipi Livni, Benjamin Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman and Naftali Bennett.
- The public is not very satisfied with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MFA) fulfillment of its mission** (4.81 out of 10). Only 13% describe it as good.
- The public believes that in order to **strengthen the MFA**, there is a need to formulate a coherent foreign policy approach (ranked first), and to appoint a full-time Foreign Minister/restore authority to the ministry (ranked second).
- Half of the public (50% vs. 39%) thinks that Israel should take into account, to a moderate or large extent, the implications of its policies on **Diaspora Jews**.

#### B. Israel among the Nations

- The public thinks that **Israel's global standing** is mediocre (5.49 out of 10). 17% describe it as good.
- The public is divided as to whether **Israel belongs more** to Europe (28%), the Middle East (26%), or equally to both (25%).
- A majority thinks that **international criticism against Israel** stems from a basic hostility towards Israel (59%), and not from disagreement with its policies (34%).
- Most Israelis (55% vs. 31%) think that advancing **laws perceived as weakening Israeli democracy** undermines Israel's global standing to a large or moderate extent.
- The Israeli public is **interested in knowing more** about (in descending order): Israel's cooperation with Arab states, the activities of the MFA, cooperation in the Mediterranean region, international peace initiatives, and Israel-EU relations.

#### C. Policy Priorities and Bilateral Relations

- Israelis think that their country's foreign policy should prioritize improving **relations with moderate Arab states**, followed by advancing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and struggling against the BDS movement.

- A majority (52%) thinks that the **nuclear deal with Iran** did not affect the level of Iranian nuclear threat to Israel. However, more respondents think that the threat has increased following the agreement (28%) than decreased (10%).
- The Israeli public is moderately satisfied by the **state of relations between Israel and the US** (6.88 out of 10). 41% describe the relations as good.
- According to the Israeli public, **the country with highest importance** to Israel, besides the US, is Russia, followed by Germany, Great Britain, China, France, and Egypt.
- A majority thinks that **Russian President Vladimir Putin** (52%) has a bigger influence on events in the Middle East than US President Donald Trump (15%).
- The Israeli public is divided as to whether it is better for Israel that the **EU becomes stronger (38%) or weaker (37%)**.

#### D. Regional Cooperation

- A vast majority (70% vs. 23%; larger than in previous polls) thinks that **regional cooperation** between Israel and Middle Eastern countries is possible.
- 48% of the public think that Israel can achieve a **breakthrough with Arab states** even without progress in the peace process with Palestinians. 39% think that such a breakthrough will be possible only after progress is made with the Palestinians.
- The Israeli public believes that **cooperation with Middle Eastern countries** can benefit Israel the most in the fields of security and economy.
- A plurality (46% vs. 39%) thinks that Israel should seek coordination with neighboring Arab states before taking steps related to the **Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque**.
- A majority (61%) thinks that **Israel-Turkey relations** have remained unchanged since the two countries signed the reconciliation agreement in June 2016.

#### E. The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

- A majority of the public (58% vs. 10%) thinks that the current Israeli government is distancing **the two-state solution**, rather than bringing it closer to fruition.
- An **international incentive package for peace** that includes normalized relations with the Arab world, security guarantees from the US, and an upgrade of ties with the EU is considered to be the most effective incentive for peace. Among the package's components, normalized relations with the Arab world are viewed as the most attractive.
- A majority of the public (50% vs. 24%) thinks that the continued **internal Palestinian split** between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is preferable to a renewed political unification between the two.
- A majority of the public (59% vs. 26%) agrees that **Arab citizens of Israel** should play a more central role in efforts to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

### General comparisons between assessments

Average ratings on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high)

|  | 2017        | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-------------|------|------|------|
| Israel's global standing                       | <b>5.49</b> | 5.01 | 3.96 | 5.12 |
| The government's performance on foreign policy | <b>5.05</b> | 4.55 | 4.00 | 5.29 |
| The MFA's fulfillment of its mission           | <b>4.81</b> | 4.31 | 4.03 | 4.80 |
| The current state of Israel-US relations       | <b>6.88</b> | 5.56 | 5.01 | 6.09 |

## Sample Breakdown

50% **Male**; 50% **Female**

83% **Jews**; 17% **Arabs**

15% **Russian immigrants** (within the Jewish sample)

| Age   | Total |
|-------|-------|
| 18-29 | 26%   |
| 30-49 | 37%   |
| 50+   | 37%   |

| Level of Religiosity (within the Jewish sample) | Total |
|---|-------|
| Religious                                       | 20%   |
| Traditional                                     | 31%   |
| Secular   | 49%   |

| Political Point of View (within the Jewish sample) | Total |
|--|-------|
| Right & Far Right                                  | 40%   |
| Center-Right                                       | 21%   |
| Center   | 19%   |
| Center-Left  | 13%   |
| Left & Far Left                                    | 7%    |

| Level of Education   | Total |
|----------------------|-------|
| High school or below | 24%   |
| High school graduate | 25%   |
| Academic degree      | 51%   |

| Level of Income | Total |
|-----------------|-------|
| Below average   | 38%   |
| Average         | 32%   |
| Above average   | 30%   |

\* Among 94% who responded

## A. The State of Israel's Foreign Policy

### 1. To what extent are you satisfied with the Israeli government's conduct in the realm of foreign policy?

(On a scale of 1 to 10; 1 is not at all satisfied, 10 is very satisfied)

|                                   | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Not at all satisfied - 1          | 13%         |
| 2                                 | 7%          |
| 3                                 | 11%         |
| 4                                 | 10%         |
| 5                                 | 13%         |
| 6                                 | 14%         |
| 7                                 | 12%         |
| 8                                 | 11%         |
| 9                                 | 5%          |
| Very satisfied - 10               | 4%          |
| <b>Average</b>                    | <b>5.05</b> |
| Percentage of those who responded | 95%         |

|                            | Total       | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------------|-------------|------|-------|
| Not satisfied (1-3)        | <b>31%</b>  | 27%  | 56%   |
| Not very satisfied (4-5)   | <b>23%</b>  | 23%  | 24%   |
| Moderately satisfied (6-7) | <b>26%</b>  | 27%  | 18%   |
| Satisfied (8-10)           | <b>20%</b>  | 23%  | 2%    |
| <b>Average</b>             | <b>5.05</b> | 5.34 | 3.29  |

\* Among 95% who responded

### Comparisons with previous years:

|                | 2017        | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|-------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Average</b> | <b>5.05</b> | 4.55 | 4.00 | 5.29 |

### 2. Who would you like to see as Israel's foreign minister?

(This was an open question. The table only includes those receiving 5% and more)

|                    | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--------------------|------------|------|-------|
| Yair Lapid         | <b>13%</b> | 14%  | 8%    |
| Tzipi Livni        | <b>7%</b>  | 7%   | 8%    |
| Benjamin Netanyahu | <b>6%</b>  | 7%   | 2%    |
| Avigdor Lieberman  | <b>6%</b>  | 7%   | 4%    |
| Naftali Bennett    | <b>5%</b>  | 6%   | 0%    |
| No opinion         | <b>39%</b> | 37%  | 51%   |

### 3. To what extent are you satisfied with the way in which the Israeli MFA is currently fulfilling its mission?

(On a scale of 1 to 10; 1 is not at all satisfied, 10 is very satisfied)

|                                   | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Not at all satisfied - 1          | 13%         |
| 2                                 | 6%          |
| 3                                 | 11%         |
| 4                                 | 12%         |
| 5                                 | 18%         |
| 6                                 | 14%         |
| 7                                 | 13%         |
| 8                                 | 8%          |
| 9                                 | 3%          |
| Very satisfied - 10               | 2%          |
| <b>Average</b>                    | <b>4.81</b> |
| Percentage of those who responded | 92%         |

|                            | Total       | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------------|-------------|------|-------|
| Not satisfied (1-3)        | <b>30%</b>  | 27%  | 44%   |
| Not very satisfied (4-5)   | <b>30%</b>  | 30%  | 34%   |
| Moderately satisfied (6-7) | <b>27%</b>  | 28%  | 22%   |
| Satisfied (8-10)           | <b>13%</b>  | 15%  | 0%    |
| <b>Average</b>             | <b>4.81</b> | 4.97 | 3.76  |

#### Comparisons with previous years:

|                | 2017        | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|-------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Average</b> | <b>4.81</b> | 4.31 | 4.03 | 4.80 |

#### 4. Which move would most significantly strengthen the Israeli MFA?

(Respondents were allowed to provide two answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

|   | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|---|------------|------|-------|
| Appointing a full-time foreign minister, and restoring authorities to the MFA from other ministries | <b>54%</b> | 53%  | 55%   |
| Formulating clear objectives, goals, and guiding principles for Israeli foreign policy              | <b>47%</b> | 51%  | 22%   |
| Sharing more information with the public about the MFA's activities and achievements                | <b>25%</b> | 24%  | 31%   |
| Increasing the MFA's influence and involvement in decision-making process                           | <b>23%</b> | 24%  | 12%   |
| Legislating a bill regulating the status of the MFA, similar to the National Security Council Bill  | <b>19%</b> | 20%  | 14%   |
| No opinion  | <b>14%</b> | 12%  | 29%   |

#### 5. To what extent should the Israeli government take into account the implications of its decisions on Diaspora Jewry?

|                      | Total      |     | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------|------------|-----|------|-------|
| To a large extent    | <b>16%</b> | 50% | 18%  | 6%    |
| To a moderate extent | <b>34%</b> |     | 36%  | 18%   |
| To a small extent    | <b>35%</b> | 39% | 36%  | 33%   |
| Not at all           | <b>4%</b>  |     | 3%   | 8%    |
| No opinion           | <b>11%</b> | 11% | 7%   | 35%   |

## B. Israel among the Nations

### 6. What is your general feeling about Israel's standing in the world today?

(On a scale of 1 to 10; 1 is bad, 10 is very good)

|                                   | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Bad - 1                           | 6%          |
| 2                                 | 4%          |
| 3                                 | 9%          |
| 4                                 | 12%         |
| 5                                 | 16%         |
| 6                                 | 18%         |
| 7                                 | 18%         |
| 8                                 | 11%         |
| 9                                 | 4%          |
| Very good - 10                    | 2%          |
| <b>Average</b>                    | <b>5.49</b> |
| Percentage of those who responded | 98%         |

|                   | Total       | Jews | Arabs |
|-------------------|-------------|------|-------|
| Poor (1-3)        | <b>19%</b>  | 16%  | 32%   |
| Rather poor (4-5) | <b>28%</b>  | 27%  | 33%   |
| Rather good (6-7) | <b>36%</b>  | 38%  | 26%   |
| Good (8-10)       | <b>17%</b>  | 19%  | 9%    |
| <b>Average</b>    | <b>5.49</b> | 5.71 | 4.19  |

\* Among 98% who responded

### Comparisons with previous years:

|                | 2017        | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|-------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Average</b> | <b>5.49</b> | 5.01 | 3.96 | 5.12 |

### 7. Where do you think Israel belongs?

|  | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--|------------|------|-------|
| More in the Middle East                    | <b>26%</b> | 26%  | 27%   |
| More in Europe                             | <b>28%</b> | 29%  | 27%   |
| Equally in both Europe and the Middle East | <b>25%</b> | 26%  | 18%   |
| Neither in Europe nor in the Middle East   | <b>12%</b> | 12%  | 10%   |
| No opinion                                 | <b>9%</b>  | 7%   | 18%   |



**Comparisons with previous years:**

|  | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| More in the Middle East                    | 26%  | 29%  | 27%  | 28%  |
| More in Europe                             | 28%  | 26%  | 31%  | 25%  |
| Equally in both Europe and the Middle East | 25%  | 23%  | 26%  | 28%  |
| Neither in Europe nor in the Middle East   | 12%  | 15%  | 10%  | 16%  |
| No opinion                                 | 9%   | 7%   | 6%   | 3%   |

**8. Do you think that the criticism voiced in the world towards Israel stems primarily from:**

|   | Total | Jews | Arabs |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| Basic hostility towards the State of Israel                           | 59%   | 66%  | 14%   |
| Disagreement with specific policies of the current Israeli government | 34%   | 30%  | 59%   |
| No opinion  | 7%    | 4%   | 27%   |

**9. To what extent do you think the promotion of Knesset laws that are perceived as weakening democracy undermines Israel's global standing?**

|                      | Total |     | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| To a large extent    | 26%   | 55% | 23%  | 44%   |
| To a moderate extent | 29%   |     | 31%  | 20%   |
| To a limited extent  | 18%   | 31% | 19%  | 10%   |
| Not at all           | 13%   |     | 14%  | 8%    |
| No opinion           | 14%   | 14% | 13%  | 18%   |

**10. What areas of Israeli foreign relations would you like to learn more about?**

(Respondents were allowed to provide two answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

|  | Total | Jews | Arabs |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| Cooperation between Israel and Arab countries  | 47%   | 46%  | 53%   |
| International initiatives to promote peace   | 34%   | 38%  | 14%   |
| Cooperation in the Mediterranean- for example, on issues related to natural gas findings | 32%   | 32%  | 33%   |
| The status of Israel-EU relations  | 27%   | 25%  | 41%   |
| The work of the Israeli MFA  | 18%   | 20%  | 4%    |
| None of the above  | 9%    | 9%   | 8%    |
| No opinion   | 10%   | 9%   | 18%   |

## C. Foreign policy priorities and bilateral relations

### 11. Which of the following foreign policy issues should the State of Israel prioritize in the coming year?

(Respondents were allowed to provide two answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

|   | Total      | Jews | Arabs | 2016 |
|---|------------|------|-------|------|
| Relations with moderate Arab states               | <b>35%</b> | 36%  | 31%   | 31%  |
| The Israeli-Palestinian peace process             | <b>31%</b> | 27%  | 55%   | 31%  |
| Countering de-legitimization and the BDS movement | <b>24%</b> | 27%  | 2%    | 22%  |
| The threats from Iran                             | <b>20%</b> | 22%  | 10%   | 12%* |
| Relations with the US                             | <b>19%</b> | 21%  | 8%    | 37%  |
| Relations with Asian countries                    | <b>18%</b> | 20%  | 8%    | 14%  |
| Relations with the EU                             | <b>17%</b> | 17%  | 16%   | 22%  |
| Relations with Russia                             | <b>15%</b> | 16%  | 10%   | 14%  |
| Relations with African countries                  | <b>3%</b>  | 2%   | 8%    | 3%   |
| None of the above / No opinion                    | <b>2%</b>  | 0%   | 8%    | 6%   |

\* The answer in 2016 was "Dealing with the Iranian nuclear threat"

### 12. About two years after the signing of the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers (the P5+1), do you think that the nuclear threat to Israel has:

|                    | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--------------------|------------|------|-------|
| Decreased          | <b>10%</b> | 7%   | 24%   |
| Increased          | <b>28%</b> | 30%  | 14%   |
| Remained unchanged | <b>52%</b> | 53%  | 46%   |
| No opinion         | <b>10%</b> | 10%  | 16%   |

### 13. What is your assessment of the current relations between Israel and the US?

(On a scale of 1-10; 1 is bad, 10 is very good)

|                                   | Total       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Bad - 1                           | 0%          |
| 2                                 | 1%          |
| 3                                 | 3%          |
| 4                                 | 5%          |
| 5                                 | 15%         |
| 6                                 | 15%         |
| 7                                 | 20%         |
| 8                                 | 20%         |
| 9                                 | 14%         |
| Very good - 10                    | 7%          |
| <b>Average</b>                    | <b>6.88</b> |
| Percentage of those who responded | 97%         |

|                   | Total       | Jews | Arabs |
|-------------------|-------------|------|-------|
| Poor (1-3)        | <b>4%</b>   | 4%   | 7%    |
| Rather poor (4-5) | <b>20%</b>  | 17%  | 36%   |
| Rather good (6-7) | <b>35%</b>  | 36%  | 27%   |
| Good (8-10)       | <b>41%</b>  | 43%  | 30%   |
| <b>Average</b>    | <b>6.88</b> | 6.96 | 6.38  |

\* Among 97% who responded

#### Comparisons with previous years:

|                | 2017        | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|-------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Average</b> | <b>6.88</b> | 5.56 | 5.01 | 6.09 |

**14. The relations with which countries (except for the US) are the most important to Israel today?**

(Respondents were asked to provide three answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%. The table only includes countries receiving 5% and more)

|         | <b>Total</b> | Jews | Arabs | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------|--------------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Russia  | <b>51%</b>   | 52%  | 43%   | 45%  | 41%  | 33%  |
| Germany | <b>34%</b>   | 37%  | 16%   | 32%  | 31%  | 32%  |
| Britain | <b>26%</b>   | 26%  | 20%   | 30%  | 19%  | 27%  |
| China   | <b>25%</b>   | 28%  | 8%    | 21%  | 20%  | 20%  |
| France  | <b>20%</b>   | 21%  | 14%   | 25%  | 14%  | 16%  |
| Egypt   | <b>12%</b>   | 13%  | 8%    | 18%  | 21%  | 27%  |
| India   | <b>8%</b>    | 9%   | 2%    | 2%   | 5%   | 2%   |
| Jordan  | <b>7%</b>    | 7%   | 12%   | 5%   | 10%  | 3%   |

Regarding the Palestinian Authority there was a large gap between Jews and Arabs:

|                       | <b>Total</b> | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|-------|
| Palestinian Authority | <b>1.5%</b>  | 0%   | 10%   |

**15. Who has more influence on current developments in the Middle East, US President Donald Trump or Russian President Vladimir Putin?**

|                                  | <b>Total</b> | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------|-------|
| Russian President Vladimir Putin | <b>52%</b>   | 56%  | 31%   |
| US President Donald Trump        | <b>15%</b>   | 14%  | 18%   |
| Both equally                     | <b>21%</b>   | 20%  | 24%   |
| None of them                     | <b>5%</b>    | 4%   | 8%    |
| No opinion                       | <b>7%</b>    | 6%   | 19%   |

**16. What in your opinion will better serve the interests of Israel: That the EU becomes stronger or that the EU becomes weaker?**

|                              | <b>Total</b> | Jews | Arabs | 2016 |
|------------------------------|--------------|------|-------|------|
| That the EU becomes stronger | <b>38%</b>   | 36%  | 47%   | 41%  |
| That the EU becomes weaker   | <b>37%</b>   | 39%  | 22%   | 34%  |
| No opinion                   | <b>25%</b>   | 25%  | 31%   | --   |

\* In 2016, another option was provided: "That there will be no change in the power of the EU". It was chosen by 25% of the respondents.

## D. Regional Cooperation

### 17. Do you believe that regional cooperation between Israel and other countries in the Middle East is possible?

|                        | Total      | Jews | Arabs | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|------------------------|------------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Yes, it is possible    | <b>70%</b> | 69%  | 74%   | 64%  | 59%  | 69%  |
| No, it is not possible | <b>23%</b> | 24%  | 14%   | 26%  | 36%  | 28%  |
| No opinion             | <b>7%</b>  | 7%   | 12%   | 10%  | 5%   | 3%   |

### 18. Do you think that a breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations can be achieved only after progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process or regardless of such progress?

|  | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--|------------|------|-------|
| Only after progress has been made in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process | <b>39%</b> | 36%  | 58%   |
| Regardless of whether there is progress in the peace process               | <b>48%</b> | 52%  | 24%   |
| No opinion   | <b>13%</b> | 12%  | 18%   |

### 19. On which issues can Israel benefit most from cooperation with other countries in the Middle East?

(Respondents could mention 2 answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

|   | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|---|------------|------|-------|
| Addressing shared threats, including those posed by the Islamic state and Iran  | <b>56%</b> | 58%  | 43%   |
| Political-diplomatic cooperation, promoting agreements with countries in the region Israeli-Palestinian peace process | <b>56%</b> | 57%  | 47%   |
| Business ventures, tourism, and gas exports   | <b>35%</b> | 35%  | 35%   |
| Water and Climate   | <b>18%</b> | 19%  | 14%   |
| Sports, culture, research, and education  | <b>11%</b> | 8%   | 27%   |
| None of the above   | <b>3%</b>  | 3%   | 2%    |

### 20. Do you agree with the view that Israel should seek coordination with neighboring Arab states before taking steps related to the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque?

|            | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|------------|------------|------|-------|
| Agree      | <b>46%</b> | 44%  | 60%   |
| Disagree   | <b>39%</b> | 43%  | 18%   |
| No opinion | <b>15%</b> | 13%  | 22%   |

### 21. In June 2016, Israel and Turkey reached an agreement to mend their relations. Since then, do you think that Israel-Turkey relations have:

|                    | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--------------------|------------|------|-------|
| Improved           | <b>10%</b> | 10%  | 8%    |
| Deteriorated       | <b>19%</b> | 20%  | 16%   |
| Remained unchanged | <b>61%</b> | 61%  | 56%   |
| No opinion         | <b>10%</b> | 9%   | 20%   |

## E. The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

### 22. In your opinion, do the policies of the current Israeli government:

|   | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|---|------------|------|-------|
| Distance a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians | <b>58%</b> | 55%  | 70%   |
| Advance a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinian   | <b>10%</b> | 10%  | 10%   |
| No opinion  | <b>32%</b> | 35%  | 20%   |

### 23. In recent years, Israel has been offered various incentives to advance the peace process. Which of the following will most likely increase your support for the peace process?

(Respondents were asked to provide two answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

|   | Total      | Jews | Arabs | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Normalization of relations with the Arab world      | <b>29%</b> | 26%  | 45%   | 25%  | 35%  |
| Security guarantees and arms supplies from the US   | <b>15%</b> | 14%  | 20%   | 19%  | 23%  |
| A significant upgrade in ties with the EU           | <b>14%</b> | 14%  | 18%   | 18%  | 19%  |
| An incentive package that includes all of the above | <b>57%</b> | 60%  | 39%   | 42%  | 20%  |
| None of the above                                   | <b>17%</b> | 17%  | 24%   | 23%  | 29%  |

The incentive which was ranked as 1st priority:

|   | 2017       | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|------------|------|------|
| Normalization of relations with the Arab world      | <b>26%</b> | 22%  | 27%  |
| Security guarantees and arms supplies from the US   | <b>6%</b>  | 5%   | 15%  |
| A significant upgrade in ties with the EU           | <b>5%</b>  | 8%   | 11%  |
| An incentive package that includes all of the above | <b>46%</b> | 42%  | 20%  |
| None of the above                                   | <b>17%</b> | 23%  | 27%  |

### 24. In your opinion, what will serve Israel's interests better:

|  | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|--|------------|------|-------|
| The continued intra-Palestinian split between the West Bank and Gaza | <b>50%</b> | 55%  | 29%   |
| Renewed unification between the West Bank and Gaza                   | <b>24%</b> | 20%  | 45%   |
| No opinion   | <b>26%</b> | 25%  | 26%   |

### 25. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Arabs citizens of Israel should have a more central role in efforts to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians"

|            | Total      | Jews | Arabs |
|------------|------------|------|-------|
| Agree      | <b>59%</b> | 60%  | 51%   |
| Disagree   | <b>26%</b> | 26%  | 22%   |
| No opinion | <b>15%</b> | 14%  | 27%   |

## **For Further Information:**

**Mitvim - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies**

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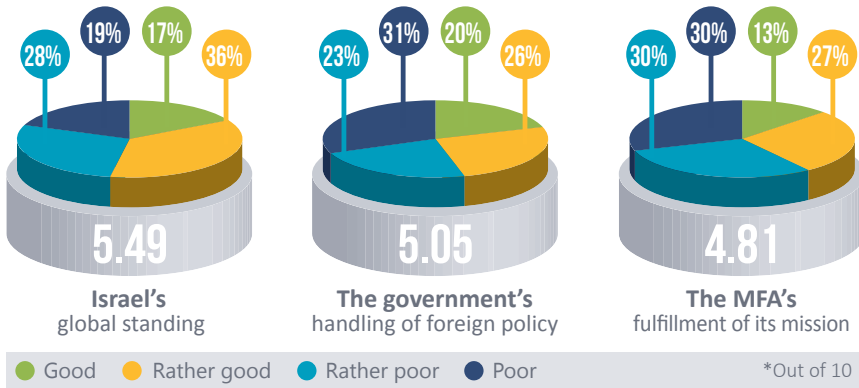
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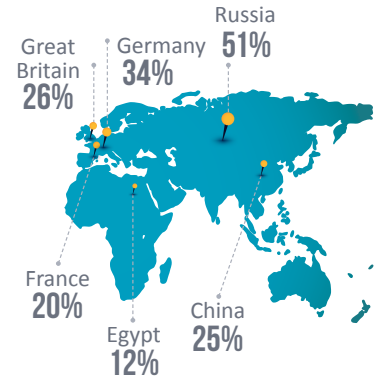
# The 2017 Israeli Foreign Policy Index - Key Findings

## General Assessments

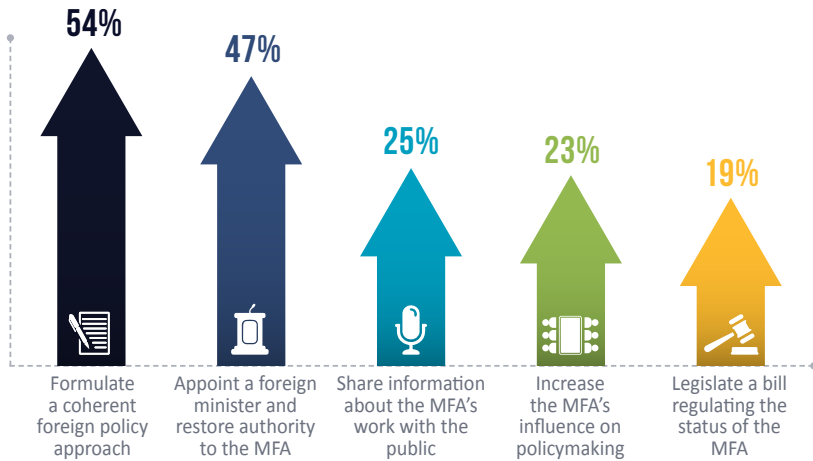
Average ratings on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high)



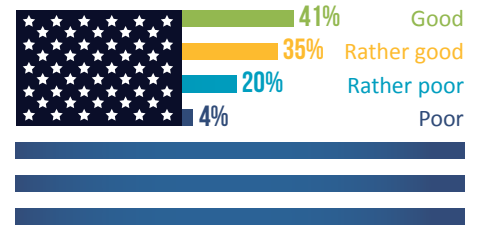
## The most important countries for Israel in the world (except for the US):



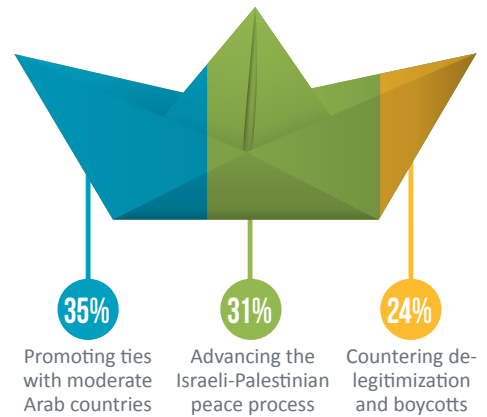
## How can the Israeli MFA be strengthened?



## The state of Israel-US relations: 6.88 (Out of 10)



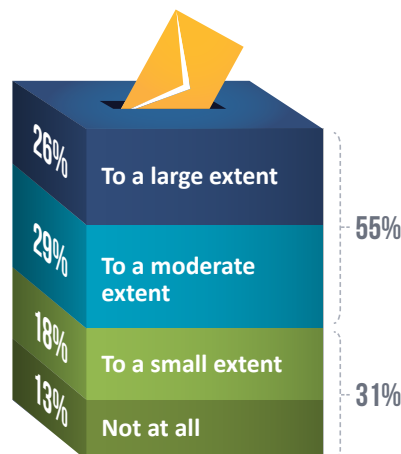
## Israel's top foreign policy priorities:



## The policy of the current Israeli government:



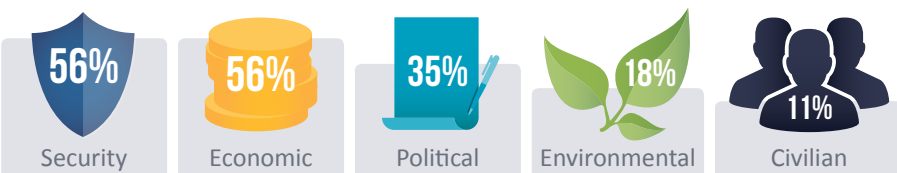
## The advancement of laws perceived as weakening Israel's democracy undermines Israel's global standing:



## Regional cooperation between Israel and Middle Eastern countries is:



## From which type of cooperation with Middle Eastern countries Israel can benefit the most?



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# The 2017 Israeli Foreign Policy Index - Key Findings

**59%**

think that the Arabs in Israel should play a more central role in advancing the peace process

A breakthrough in Israel's ties with Arab states will be possible:

Also without progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process

Only following progress in the peace process

**48%**

**39%**

Should Israel seek coordination with neighboring Arab states before taking steps related to the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque?

**46%**  
Yes

**39%**  
No

When making decisions, Israel should take into account their impact of Diaspora Jews:

**16%** To a large extent

**34%** To a moderate extent

**35%** To a small extent

**4%** Not at all

**50%**

**39%**

The most effective incentive for increasing Israeli support of the peace process is:

**29%**

Normalization of relations with the Arab world

**15%**

Security guarantees and weapons from the US

**14%**

A significant upgrade of ties with the EU

**57%**

An incentive package that includes these three incentives

**17%**

None of the above

Since the Israel-Turkey reconciliation agreement signed in 2016, relations between the two countries:

**10%**

Improved

**19%**

Deteriorated

**61%**

Remained unchanged

Where does Israel belong?

**26%**

More to the Middle East

**25%**

Equally to both Europe and the Middle East

**28%**

More to Europe

**12%**

Neither to Europe nor the Middle East

What serves Israel's interests better?

**50%**

The continued split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

**24%**

Renewed unification of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

What is the main reason for criticism of Israel in the world?

Disagreement with Israel's policies

**34%**

Hostility toward the State of Israel

**59%**

**52%**  
Russian President Vladimir Putin

Who currently has a bigger influence on the developments in the Middle East?

**15%**  
US President Donald Trump

Both equally **21%**

None of them **5%**



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