



Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel

Isaac Herzog is the 11th President of the State of Israel.

Isaac Herzog was born in Tel Aviv in 1960, the son of Israel's sixth president, Chaim Herzog, and Aura Herzog (née Ambache), the founder of the Council for a Beautiful Israel. His paternal grandfather was Israel's first chief rabbi, Rabbi Yitzhak Isaac HaLevi Herzog. Herzog spent his adolescent years in New York when his father served as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. He later served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces' elite 8200 Unit, concluding his service at the rank of major. After graduating from Tel Aviv University, Herzog was admitted to the Israeli Bar Association and worked as a senior partner in one of Israel's leading law firms.

Before his election in July 2021 as the 11th President of Israel, Herzog served for fifteen years in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, during which he held several ministerial and parliamentary posts, including Leader of the Opposition.

Herzog served as Government Secretary under Prime Minister Ehud Barak from 1999-2001. In 2003 he was elected to the 16th Knesset on the Labor Party slate and entered the Government as the Minister of Construction and Housing, in 2005. He was re-elected to the 17th Knesset in 2006 and served as Minister of Tourism and later Minister of Diaspora, Society, and the Fight Against Antisemitism in addition to Minister of Welfare and Social Services, a position that he retained when he was re-elected to the 18th Knesset in 2009, until Labor left the coalition in 2011.

During the 19th Knesset, in 2013, Herzog was elected Chairman of the Israeli Labor Party, becoming the Leader of the Opposition. Two years later, he led the alliance between Labor and HaTnuah to form Israel's largest center-left political party, the Zionist

Union, making him a leading candidate for prime minister during the 2015 elections. He served as Leader of the Opposition in the 20th Knesset until 2018.

In June 2018, Herzog was elected Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the largest Jewish non-profit in the world and the historic organization that laid the foundations of the State of Israel. In this capacity, he led the process of restructuring the organization, which reinvigorated it, reaffirmed its prominence within world Jewry, and solidified the Jewish Agency's status as a bridge between Jewish communities worldwide and the State of Israel.

Isaac Herzog was sworn in as the 11th President of the State of Israel on 7 July 2021, succeeding President Reuven Rivlin, following an overwhelming and historic majority vote in the Knesset. In his inaugural speech, he pledged to be a "president for all" and to embark on a "journey between the fault lines of Israeli society" in an effort to unite Israel's diverse communities and encourage civil political discourse. Since entering the presidency, Herzog has visited dozens of diverse communities around Israel, from all religious and ethnic backgrounds, in a bid to foster national unity.

As president, Isaac Herzog has taken on a prominent role in Israel's international diplomacy, maintaining a close relationship with global leaders. In this context, he has conducted a number of major international engagements, including historic visits to Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, and a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Herzog has named the battle against climate change as one of his priorities as president, and in his "Renewable Middle East" speech, he spelled out his vision for regional cooperation against the climate emergency, with an emphasis on the export of clean energy. Herzog also established the Israeli Climate Forum, under the auspices of his office, to bring together private and public sector actors to define concrete proposals for Israel to take a lead on environmental policies.

President Herzog is married to Michal, also a lawyer by profession with many years' experience in the world of philanthropy; they have three sons.