



The first I2U2 virtual leaders’ summit hosted by Israel Prime Minister Yair Lapid together with US President Joe Biden, President of the United Arab Emirates, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi will take place during President Biden’s visit to Israel. The name I2U2 symbolizes the four countries taking part; I2 = Israel, India; U2 = United States, United Arab Emirates. During the summit, the leaders will hold a dialogue on various challenges and opportunities relevant to the greater region, including food security, energy, connectivity, health, technology, innovation, and more. The I2U2 is an important forum for innovation and problem-solving for global challenges that is set to continue as a regular forum between the countries.

The I2U2 Summit originates from October 18, 2021, when a meeting was held at the level of Foreign Ministers at the initiative of then-Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. The foreign ministers of the four nations agreed on the establishment of an international forum for economic cooperation, today known as the I2U2 Forum. This meeting will be the first time the I2U2 is convening at the heads of state level.

Then-Minister of Foreign Affairs Lapid stated during this initial meeting that these four nations bring together “a unique set of capabilities, knowledge, and experience that can be used to create the network that we all want to see created.” Prime Minister Lapid has identified the need to create “synergy” between the nations and leverage their unique capabilities while working together on joint projects in infrastructure, water, energy, transportation, space, health, & food security. He

also emphasized the key to the Forum's success as quickly moving from "G2G" to "B2B": "putting boots on the ground, changing infrastructure around the world."

Significant progress has already been made in a number of fields between the participating nations since the October meeting, both multilaterally and bilaterally. Frequent working meetings have been held at the professional level between representatives of the four countries and projects are underway in fields of food security and clean energy, harnessing the strengths of each partner country with the aim of creating tangible solutions to acute challenges. The partner countries are also working towards identifying additional joint projects. On the bilateral level, on May 1, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the UAE came into force. On May 31, Israel and the UAE signed a free trade agreement, the first-of-its-kind between Israel and an Arab state.

The I2U2 Forum and the Negev Forum are both examples of Prime Minister Lapid's vision for Israeli - "Bridge-Building Diplomacy" - which is rooted in the notion that in an era of increasing global challenges such as the pandemic, international terrorism, and climate change: "countries who cooperate will thrive, while countries who isolate will fall behind."