

IMPACT REPORT

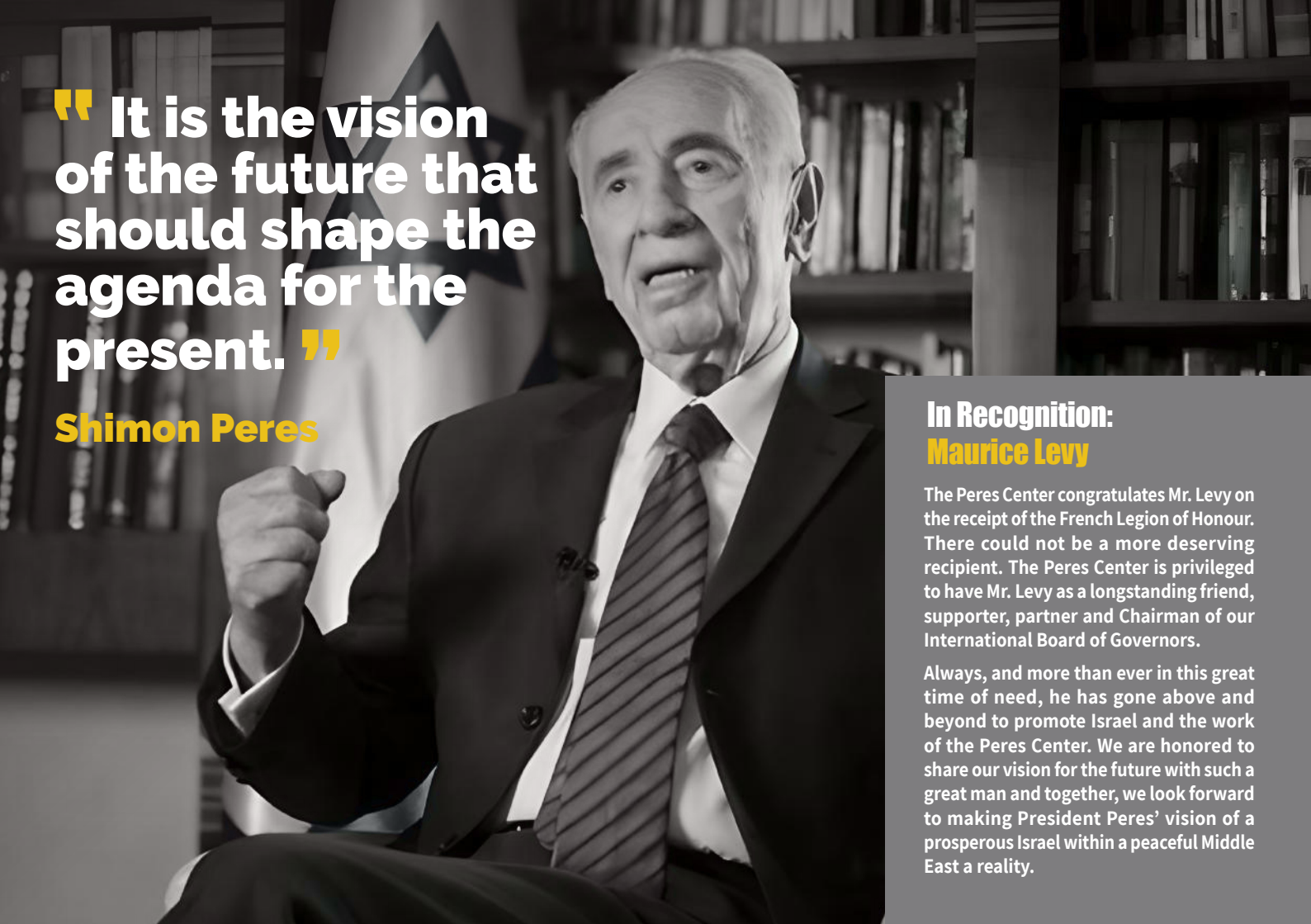
2023-2024

Rebuilding Hope, Together

מרכז פֶּרֶס
للسلام والابتكار

Peres Center
for Peace & Innovation

מרכז פרס
לשלום ולחדשנות

A black and white photograph of Shimon Peres, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. He is seated and gesturing with his right hand, which is clenched into a fist. Behind him is a bookshelf filled with books and a large, faint Star of David. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face and suit.

**" It is the vision
of the future that
should shape the
agenda for the
present. "**

Shimon Peres

In Recognition: Maurice Levy

The Peres Center congratulates Mr. Levy on the receipt of the French Legion of Honour. There could not be a more deserving recipient. The Peres Center is privileged to have Mr. Levy as a longstanding friend, supporter, partner and Chairman of our International Board of Governors.

Always, and more than ever in this great time of need, he has gone above and beyond to promote Israel and the work of the Peres Center. We are honored to share our vision for the future with such a great man and together, we look forward to making President Peres' vision of a prosperous Israel within a peaceful Middle East a reality.



Maurice Levy

**Chairman of the
International Board of Governors**

In these dark days for Israel, for the region, and for Jews across the globe, every day brings with it new challenges, but it is through collective action that we are strengthened. Strengthened in our prayers for the return of the hostages, strengthened in our hope for a better tomorrow, and strengthened in our resolve to rebuild together.

Together with its friends and partners, the Peres Center serves as a beacon of hope, lighting the path to the future. I'm privileged to be walking alongside them on this journey and I invite you to join hands with the Center's formidable leadership team as it continues its mission for peace in the region.

Maurice Levy



Chemi Peres

**Chairman of the
Board of Directors**

Though our hearts remain broken by the devastation brought upon our country by the brutal attack on October 7, 2023, its aftermath, and the ongoing hostage crisis, we remain committed to our mission of building a brighter tomorrow. We carry with us a strong belief that together, in solidarity, we can rebuild what we have lost - emerging stronger and more united than ever before.

Throughout this difficult period, we have seen it as our duty to mobilize and respond to the ongoing complex and dynamic situation across the country and the region, adapting to the changing needs of the communities we serve. Shining a light in the darkness, our vision of a better future needs not just to be imagined, but to be created – together we can make it a reality.

Chemi Peres



Efrat Duvdevani

Director General

Emerging from the unfathomable shock and tragedy that gripped Israel on that terrible morning, the Peres Center utilized its strengths and broad experience to help where help was most needed. Every day since, we have continued responding to the ongoing challenges as they arise across Israel.

In parallel, we continue to promote President Peres' vision of a prosperous and peaceful Middle East. We remain a home for thought-provoking dialogue about the future of the region and a hub for concrete planning and design for the day after. We have also joined hands with Israel's institutional stakeholders and the international community to promote humanitarian assistance to Gaza, together with the ongoing implementation of our flagship programming, with a look to continuing to build a better and brighter future for all.

Efrat Duvdevani

October 7, 2023

Since **October 7** Israel has been at war... A war started by the brutal attack by Hamas terrorists on Israel's citizens which left a horrifying toll of over **1,200 dead, 3,500 wounded** and over **230 kidnapped**. With missiles being fired at Israel daily, hundreds of thousands of Israelis forced to leave their homes, battles raging on two fronts, and the number of killed and injured continuing to rise, the horror of these attacks and their aftermath continues to affect all of Israel's citizens - Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, from the south and from the north.

The Peres Center has mobilized all its forces for action, drawing upon 27 years of impactful activity during which the Center has forged strong relations with governments, leaders, and friends of Israel worldwide as well as developed methodologies and extensive infrastructure for implementing large-scale regional projects. This is our expertise, this is our strength, and we feel it is our duty to harness it for the future of the State of Israel, **for the future we envision for our country and for our region.**



War Effort Projects



Support for the Families of the Hostages & Missing

In the immediate aftermath of the October 7 attacks, the Peres Center began working to support hostage families, doing all in our power to promote their release. From **bringing their voices to the world media, to arranging international delegations** the Peres Center utilized its immense **international network** to keep the issue at the forefront of governments' and people's minds.

The Peres Center also launched a wide-spread social media campaign highlighting the pain of all citizens of Israel: **"The Mothers of Israel Don't Sleep at Night"** campaign united mothers from all walks of life in solidarity, through late-night posts focused on restless and sleepless nights spent reflecting on the pain and plight of **mothers whose children and families are being held hostage in Gaza.**



Supporting Displaced Communities

As soon as evacuations began from the south and the north of Israel, the **Peres Center's educational teams mobilized** to provide evacuees with **relief and respite.** Our teams **visited 22 evacuation centers the length and breadth of the country** conducting over **125 in-person and online workshops for over 2,000 evacuees,** from preschool children to the elderly.

During the many weeks of bombardment on Tel Aviv-Yafo, the Peres Center also opened its doors to local educational institutions that did not have appropriate shelters in order to allow children to **safely continue their educational and extracurricular activities** during these immensely challenging times, all the while also offering free online Innovation Center tours and workshops to the general public.



Resilience in Innovation

The **Start-Up Nation** has faced significant challenges in light of the war. Many **companies found themselves in financial distress** in the months following the war due to the **large-scale mobilization** of manpower to the military and attention directed to supporting social initiatives relating to the **war effort**.

In response, the Peres Center, in partnership with the Israel Innovation Authority, leveraged its successful annual Innovation Marketplace to launch the **Resilience Innovation Marketplace**, a series of online events which connected almost **100 startups** and entrepreneurs, whose operations have been negatively impacted by the current situation, with over **150 investors** and donors seeking to support the Israeli tech ecosystem.



Medal of Distinction Award Ceremony in honor of International Women's Day

The Peres Center's annual ceremony in honor of International Women's Day 2024 was dedicated to the **bravery, initiative, determination and leadership** of **21 remarkable women** on, and since, October 7.

The ceremony served to highlight the courage, ingenuity, and resilience of women who made significant impacts on the battlefield and throughout Israeli society amid the ongoing conflict.

The awards recognized contributions across sectors, including journalism, advocacy, medicine, philanthropy, and military service. A special Medal of Distinction was also awarded to **the bravest of them all**: the women who were taken captive in Gaza – those who have already returned and those who are still held hostage.



Highlighting Solidarity in Shared Tragedy

The entirety of Israeli society was affected by the events of October 7 and its aftermath underscoring the broad spectrum of our shared reality. To convey this collective Israeli story, the Peres Center exhibited the world-renowned postcard illustrations of artist **Zeev Engelmayer** ("Shoshke") which portray significant stories and moments since October 7, depicting the mood of the country and embodying the horror, fear, and sorrow felt by all in these times. This exhibition was viewed by tens of thousands of national and international visitors to the Peres Center, serving as a constant reminder of the heartbreaking situations Israelis are facing on a daily basis.



In the wake of the horrific attacks of October 7 and the devastating war that has followed, all of Israel's diverse communities have been united in sorrow. An important part of understanding and **highlighting our shared reality** is acknowledging the Israeli-Arab citizens who were among the murdered and kidnapped, as well as among first responders, police officers, and soldiers who were killed in the line of duty. Since that tragic day, there have been numerous **acts of solidarity initiated among all sectors of Israeli society**.



“October Seventh” Photo Exhibition by Ziv Koren

The Peres Center’s “**October Seventh**” exhibition of photographs by world renowned photojournalist Ziv Koren opened in May 2024 and has since drawn **over 30,000 visitors**. The exhibition, which documents events from the first moments of October 7, serves to memorialize and preserve the memory of the greatest disaster that has ever occurred in the State of Israel. These hard-hitting, powerful works serve as a startling, **unique and firsthand testimony** from the kibbutzim and the towns and cities of the Gaza Envelope - from soldiers on the battlefield to the rehabilitation of the wounded. Koren's work also accompanies the released hostages, their families and the campaign demanding the release of those still held captive. **Each photo tells a different and powerful story of memory, pain, and bereavement alongside heroism, renewal, and hope.**

The exhibition is **dedicated to the memory** of the many Israelis who have been brutally and prematurely taken, to the heroism witnessed on the battlefield and on the home front, and to the rehabilitation and recovery of those wounded both in body and mind.



Next October – From Grief to Growth

The Peres Center has partnered with the Next October initiative, established by the family of Yaron Oree Shay, an Israeli soldier who fell in battle on October 7 while defending hundreds of civilians at Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

Next October seeks to harness Israeli innovation to **honor those lost** on that day and during the subsequent war, both soldiers and civilians, by linking startup founders with the families of the victims - **fostering growth and progress** in the memory of the fallen.

The startups participating in this initiative commit to President Peres’ core value of “**innovation for good**” and pledge to honor the victims’ memory in various ways, keeping their stories alive in hearts and minds.

This commitment is not just a symbolic gesture but is integrated into the operational and ethical framework of the participating startups. In return, these startups gain credibility, enhanced investor relations, and valuable mentorship.

Over 500 startups have already joined the initiative’s network since its establishment and Next October together with the Peres Center hope to triple this figure by October 2025.

**“ We must look
to the future, and
the future will be
a future of peace.
There is no
alternative. ”**

Shimon Peres

The Peres Center is dedicated to continuing to **positively impact** the lives of those in need during these trying times. This is our calling, **this is the hour to light the way** and help all of Israel's citizens rise from the pain as we seek to rebuild **a vision of peace for the people of the region**. President Peres strongly believed in the value of unity in making us stronger, and this is the vision we continue to follow as we build a foundation of **hope for a brighter tomorrow**.



Inspiring & Accelerating Towards a more Innovative Tomorrow



President Shimon Peres firmly believed that Israel, as the Start-Up Nation, should serve as a positive example and **a beacon of hope to the world**, harnessing the power of innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology to **promote global social advancement and solidarity**. The Peres Center's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives aim to **ignite the creative spark of human ingenuity in each and every person** – by telling the inspiring story of Israel's rise to the **forefront of global innovation** and hi-tech, expanding access to **innovation education** and **pre-acceleration programming**

for aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs of all ages and backgrounds, promoting **municipal innovation** for the benefit of millions of residents across the country, and by connecting both emerging and established innovators through local and international **ecosystem networking** and development. These programs prioritize **diversity and inclusion**, embodying a vision of mutual **progress and prosperity** and equal access to the knowledge and resources necessary to enable the development and realization of **creative and impactful solutions to today's most pressing societal issues**.



Over **6,000 tours** for nearly
120,000 visitors to the Innovation Center

Over **140** high-level and diplomatic visits from
representatives of **38 countries**



20 Israeli cities participated in "**Hazira**" and **8** more in
a unique **Thematic Track**, both led by **Civix**, brining
innovative methodologies to municipal challenges that
impact nearly **3 million residents**



Over **75 participants** from **10 MENA** region
countries participated in online and in-person
entrepreneurship programs



6,900 schoolchildren toured the
Israeli Innovation Center

1,500* schoolchildren from **50** schools
took part in an entrepreneurship and sustainability
program in partnership with the Ministry of Education

*35% Arab, 65% Jewish



105* Israeli ventures given access to
exclusive events and 1:1 mentoring from
65 leaders in the tech ecosystem in cycle 2 of
ImpACT 365 Marketplace

*48% led by women

3rd cohort of Israel's **Innovation Dream Team**
launched with **45 cutting edge startups** selected
from 300 applicants and now exhibited at the
Israeli Innovation Center

Building Bridges of Hope and Solidarity



At this most critical juncture in our region, the Peres Center remains committed to realizing the vision of a prosperous Israel within a peaceful Middle East through **comprehensive multi-sector programming** which aims to promote the value of shared living and fully engage all sectors of Israel's multi-cultural social fabric. Our ongoing grassroots peacebuilding initiatives continue to serve as a beacon of hope, exemplifying how **constructive dialogue, respect for diversity, and joint progress and prosperity** can lead us together towards a brighter future for the entire region.

We believe in **harnessing the momentum of people-to-people relationships** for affecting social change, and in

addressing the needs of the communities we serve through institutional partnership. Whether by bringing together Arab and Jewish children and youth leaders for **football-based educational work, by training Palestinian doctors and facilitating lifesaving medical treatment, by promoting equity and equality in Israel's startup ecosystem, or by bringing together young people from across the MENA-region for skill building and joint dialogue** - the Peres Center remains steadfast and focused on promoting inclusivity in all facets of Israeli society as well as a shared vision for regional peace. In Israel and across the region, our strength comes from solidarity and only together can we achieve a secure and peaceful future for all.

Over **1,000*** Jewish and Arab children and youth from **19** communities participated in peace education activities

*Over 50% girls



74 participants from **10 MENA** region countries took part in the **"YaLa Young Leaders"** online Citizen Journalism course

Over **175 sport-based** peace education activities implemented



18 Palestinian medical professionals received long-term and short-term training in Israel

2 community soccer pitches renovated with environmentally-friendly improvements in partnership with Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality



61 Palestinian children received **115** surgical and non-surgical treatments and consultations through Peres Center medical programming

"After everything I have seen in my life, I have earned the right to believe that peace is attainable...With our resolve and your support, it will happen."

Shimon Peres



Steve Koppel

**Member of the
International
Board of Governors**

"

I have long seen the Peres Center as my home away from home, and especially during these trying times I have found strength and optimism in the incredibly impactful work they do every day to change lives for the better, in Israel and across the region. It is my privilege to be part of the Peres Center family and sit on its International Board of Governors, supporting, sharing and reaffirming the passion and dedication of the Peres Center team. Even in these dark days, the Peres Center is able to shine the much-needed light of hope and optimism.

"

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Bloomberg Philanthropies
The Sandra & Leo Kolber Foundation
Daniel Abraham
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In Recognition: Andre Azoulay

”

In September 2023 the Peres Center's dear friend, partner and member of our International Board of Governors, Andre Azoulay, was awarded the prestigious Presidential Medal of Honor by President Herzog in recognition of his lifelong commitment to promoting peace between Israel and its neighbors and his enduring dedication to fostering dialogue and understanding between Jewish and Muslim communities around the world.

Mr. Azoulay was a cherished friend and dear confidant of President Peres, and the Peres Center is honored to have had Mr. Azoulay's partnership since its inception. It is a privilege to share a mission with such an inspirational person and an honor to see him awarded such well-deserved recognition.

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אף אי לסדעים
הפיקוח על הוראת מדע וטכנולוגיה





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