



YOSSI ABADI

Honorary Consul of El Salvador in Israel



Queridos Amigos. Dear Friends

It is an honor and tremendous pleasure to be here with you today. This event is the expression of the friendship between two peoples. Of our desire to reach out, to get closer, to exchange ideas and generate alliances - in the fields of culture and traditions, economics, innovation and so much more.



This event combines two of my greatest passions: On the one hand, being Israeli and Jewish - the essence of who I am as a human being. On the other hand, the great appreciation, admiration, and strong identification, I have with the Republic of El Salvador.

The title bestowed upon me today is "Honorary Consul". But honoris not something just given lightly. It is earned. I stand before you to commit to be worthy of this title, knowing the honor is for the country I am privileged to represent.

We live in a new world where the influence of countries extends much beyond their geographical limitations. They are as big as their ideas, values, technological advances.

The strength of a State is no longer merely defined by the size of its army. In that sense, Israel and El Salvador have much in common.

In less than 3 years, El Salvador has experienced one of the most historic transformations we have seen in recent decades. El Salvador went from being the most violent country in the world, to being a country of great opportunities; from being a country of fear, to being a country of hope.

El Salvador is recognized as the country in Latin America and the Caribbean in which the greatest decline in inequality has taken place - an example to the rest of the continent and the world.

This is coupled with the development of enterprising youth and advances in education. El Salvador not only promised to give a free computer to each of its students, BUT also delivered, giving away more than 1.3 million tablets and computers, connected to the web, recognizing the importance of information for the advancement of the country.

Today, El Salvador is one of the leaders of the entire Latin American continent in the management and administration of COVID-19. We can evidence their efficiency. Productivity. Planning. Results.

And, in terms of development, the country is busily strengthening its foundations with new infrastructure, a solid industrial base, quality job creation and investment in human capital.

From being unnotable in foreign markets, El Salvador made headlines by becoming the first country in the world to recognize Bitcoin, a crypto-currency, as legal tender. Your country, Maddam Ambassador, broke paradigms by announcing the creation of a city that will be inaugurated under the name "Bitcoin City", attracting thousands and thousands of international investors from all over the world.



El Salvador has become an important force within the Latin American region... and in this aspect, I recognize an opportunity for Israel and El Salvador to generate an extraordinary alliance - an alliance between the Bitcoin Nation and the Start-Up Nation.

Since its creation, Israel has become a symbol of patriotism, unifying in times of crisis and being able to rise-up against dark forces, threatening its very existence. Israel is a symbol of creativity, progress and endless determination.

The extraordinary dynamism of Israel's incredible young people has translated the existential challenges of our nation into innovative solutions impacting the world in so many fields.

There is nothing that makes me prouder than being able to define myself as an Israeli.

As your Honorary Consul, I will work with my fellow Israelis to reach out to our brothers and sisters in El Salvador, to help your country become the center of entrepreneurship in Latin America. Beyond sharing a similar space in our geographical territories, we will share the story of small countries that have become globally impactful, thanks to our vision and ingenuity.

I would like to thank everyone present here with us today. To the embassy of El Salvador in Israel, led by the magnificent Ambassador, to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their entire team. And obviously, to my beloved family. To my parents, my brothers, and the person who without her I would not have the courage to run the extra mile and take risks, my beloved wife. My family is the root of the values that today determine my path. Thank you for believing in me.

Dear Friends, If we are all here today, it is because God wanted us to shake hands and unite wills. As your loyal representative in Israel, I can only say the Biblical reply of our forefathers, ready to assume their special tasks on behalf of the nation: יִנְנֶה ("Hineni") "I am present". I am looking forward to being a meaningful partner - your partner - in El Salvador's progress.

Muchas gracias. Thank you very much!

