Israel and the US sign operative cyber defense cooperation agreement 21 June 2016

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(Communicated by the Prime Minister's Media Adviser)

Israel National Cyber Bureau (INCB) Head Dr. Eviatar Matania and National Cyber Security Authority, Head Buky Carmeli have signed a joint declaration on operative cyber defense cooperation between Israel and the US, in the presence of Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Under Secretary of Homeland Security (National Protection and Programs Directorate) Suzanne Spaulding.

The declaration expresses the vital nature of an international integration of forces in order to more effectively deal with joint threats in the cyber sphere, especially given the commitment of the US and Israeli governments to expand and deepen bilateral cooperation in cyber defense, which has grown in recent years.

The declaration refers to main efforts by the two countries regarding aspects of managing cyber events, the cyber defense of critical infrastructures, building partnerships with the private sector and research and development vis-à-vis innovative technologies and solutions. The declaration places special emphasis on the establishment of networks and procedures between the National Cyber Security Authority and its US counterpart in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in order to facilitate the sharing of operative information regarding cyber defense in real time. As such and in keeping with its place as a global leader in the field, Israel will be among the first countries in the world to join the DHS Automated Indicator Sharing initiative, which is designed to create an automated platform between governments and companies for the efficient and rapid sharing of information in order to thwart or deal with cyberattacks.

The senior DHS delegation participated in the 6th Annual International Cybersecurity Conference at Tel Aviv University, which is being attended by government, industry and academic representatives from around the world.

At the opening of the conference yesterday (Monday, 20 June 2016), INCB Head Dr. Eviatar Matania described how five years ago there was a turning point in the view of the cyber threat and the readiness necessary to meet it, and how since then additional countries have joined in dealing with complex questions of strategy and policy stemming from this complicated and changing challenge. He explained that currently, and looking at the next five years, it has become apparent how ideas and concepts that have been developed up until now are gradually becoming tangible and providing practical solutions, and that the State of Israel is at the forefront of this effort regarding both innovation and defense.

National Cyber Security Authority Head Buky Carmeli, this morning (Tuesday, 21 June 2016), presented the authority's overall concept regarding national defense in the cyber sphere, which is considered among the most advanced in the world. He explained the goal is to maintain the free use of technology without concern regarding cyber threats by means of providing a credible and complete defensive response for the privacy of citizens and the business of companies.