

THE JEWISH PEOPLE POLICY PLANNING INSTITUTE  
(ESTABLISHED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL) LTD



המכון לתכנון מדיניות עם יהודי  
(מיסודה של הסוכנות היהודית לח"י) בע"מ

# POSITION PAPER

# Jewish People Global Forum

March 2005



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## THE JEWISH PEOPLE POLICY PLANNING INSTITUTE (ESTABLISHED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL) LTD

The Jewish People Policy Planning Institute was established in 2002, as an independent non-profit organization. The Institute examines the challenges, threats and opportunities facing the Jewish People, in order to guarantee continuity and prosperity, in an effort to develop a strategic process for global policy planning. Dynamics are evaluated by mapping main trends among the Jewish People. The Institute works to enhance the interface between policy planning and policy making, through agenda setting, developing and analyzing policy options.

Among the projects in process in 2005:

- The Annual Estimate of the Situation and Dynamics of the Jewish People.
- Alternative Futures of the Jewish People 2025.
- Initiative on Jewish Demography - Current and Expected Trends and Policy Implications.
- Improving the Standing of the Jewish People in Emerging Superpowers, without Biblical Tradition.
- Jewish People Crisis Management.
- A Jewish People Strategy Towards Islam.

The Institute advances Jewish leadership policy discourse by publishing policy papers and preparing background material for decision makers. In addition, the Institute cultivates policy professionals who focus on Jewish People affairs, in an effort to help build up strategic thinking and policy planning capacities among the Jewish People.

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# GLOBAL JEWISH PEOPLE FORUM

## MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Recommendation One:**

**JPPPI recommends enhancing Israeli staff work on implications of Israeli decisions on the Jewish People. Within this activity, Jewish leaders, organizations and thinkers should be consulted more often, on an informal basis, as appropriate.**

### **Recommendation Two:**

- A. A "Forum of the Heads of Organizations of the Jewish People", should be established. It should be compact so as to ensure efficiency of its operation. There should be no more than one or two leaders from each of the main organizations participating. Working groups, including other participants, can be set up alongside as decided. This forum should meet at least twice a year to discuss shared problems, exchange information and opinions, and seek avenues for better coordination.**
- B. JPPPI recommends utilizing the Government of Israel - Jewish Agency Coordinating Committee, based on its statutory standing, for consultations between Jewish Diaspora leaders with the Government of Israel. To do so, it is recommended to enlarge the Coordinating Committee and to include within it the Forum of Heads of Organizations of the Jewish People.**

### **Recommendation Three:**

**JPPPI recommends organizing a first global Jewish People Conference devoted to strengthening inter-generational continuity. It should be carefully**

prepared to assure in-depth high-quality discourse, within the plenum and working groups alike. The President of Israel together with the heads of global Jewish People organizations will sponsor this activity. Following the first conference, and after consultation and an affirmative decision to do so, additional conferences should be held, with participants adjusted in part to the subjects of the agenda. Working groups should be set up for continuous discourse between conferences. A presidium and small staff should be in charge of convening and preparing the conferences.

#### **Recommendation Four:**

JPPPI regards the initiative to set up a Global Jewish People Organization as very significant. However, JPPPI recommends not establishing at present a new organization, for it does not fit the structure of the Jewish People and may complicate the present organizational map in counterproductive ways. Also, consensus essential for establishing such an organization is lacking. Therefore, JPPPI recommends moving ahead with other options and exploring, after experience is attained with annual conferences, possibilities to move towards additional, more structured forms of global Jewish People forums/organizations to meet unfulfilled needs. Premature action however should be avoided.

#### **Recommendation Five:**

There should be a move towards setting-up of a Global Forum of Young Jewish Activists (up to 35 years old).

- A. The idea of setting up a Global Jewish Young Activist Forum should be viewed positively in principle. It should be studied urgently, elaborated, evaluated and prepared for implementation, in close cooperation with existing Jewish youth forums and grass-root leaders.
- B. The age composition of the governing bodies of main Jewish organizations should be studied and efforts made to assure that at least twenty-five to thirty-five percent of members be below the age of thirty-five.

# GLOBAL JEWISH PEOPLE FORUM

## 1. Introduction

At the meeting of the Knesset Committee on Aliyah, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs, which took place at the President's Office on December 13, 2004, President Moshe Katzav and Chairperson MK Collete Avital decided to postpone actions to further the President's initiative of a "Second House" until April 1st, 2005, following the commitment JPPPI undertook to submit a position paper on this matter.

This position paper further develops JPPPI recommendation articulated in the Annual Assessment 2004, to improve the instruments available to the Jewish People for consultation and decision making. This is done with full consideration of the initiative of the President of Israel to establish a global Jewish forum to deal with the issues of the Jewish People.

This position paper evaluates the situation and needs of the Jewish People and of Israel as the core state of the Jewish People and analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of various alternatives of innovative "Global Jewish People Forums". It is based on the relevant disciplines and has benefited from discussions and written exchanges with Jewish policy makers and scholars (see Appendix). The staff of JPPPI, however, bears sole responsibility for the evaluation and recommendations put forward in this document.

JPPPI appreciates the opportunity it was given to work on this important issue and thanks all who requested and helped it to do so.

## 2. Main Considerations

The Jewish People is undergoing a period of radical change in its internal dynamics. Generational transitions, the promise of some normalization of the situation of Israel in the Middle East, a shift in Jewish identification and sense of community (increasingly a matter for

autonomous choice), are but some of the more salient of these changes. The external environment of the Jewish People is changing radically as well. Globalization, geo-strategic shifts, value transformations, the manifestation of new forms of antisemitism and scientific and technological innovations create new realities and challenges. Together these internal and external transitions provide the Jewish People with unprecedented opportunities for thriving, but also pose serious risks for decline. Strengthening Jewish People forums may help to realize the opportunities and avert the dangers and upgrade its capacity for both thought and action on local and global levels.

It is not obvious, however, that this objective is best served by setting up additional organizational structures. Therefore, careful evaluation is necessary before new forums, including organizations, are established. This is all the more necessary because of the dual structure of the Jewish People as a self-organizing and self-managing voluntary communal system in the Diaspora and as a Jewish and democratic state in Israel. This duality poses serious problems to common institutions and requires careful consideration and broad consensus before new institutions are created.

Care must be taken to avoid application of ideas and concepts stemming from the nature of Israel as a state to Jewish Diaspora communities. Thus, the very concepts of "democracy", "belonging" and "representation", as fitting a state, require significant adjustments when dealing with the Diaspora. The dual nature of Israel as the democratic state of its citizenry and as the core state of the Jewish People also has to be taken into account.

The Jewish People constitute a civilizational, cultural and religious communal entity with features of a polity, a "nation" and "peoplehood", which is united by a shared history and sense of destiny, a feeling of belonging and mission, and many common traditions. It has a strong sense of solidarity, cooperates on many matters and maintains a highly developed set of institutions functioning as overlapping networks.

However, many, and in some key Diaspora countries most, Jews are not involved in any organized Jewish activity. Lifestyles vary and a plurality of definitions of the nature of Judaism, accompanied by much of disagreement, prevail. Furthermore, as structured presently and in the foreseeable future, the Jewish People lack a clear and agreed-upon definition of "belonging", any source of authority or hierarchical structure.

It is doubtful, therefore, that establishment of an additional formal organization, as opposed to less formal forums, grass root initiatives, voluntary self-governing structures and a variety of

"kiruv" activities, will serve to improve integration or stem distancing. On the contrary, it may well increase fragmentation. When considering the institution of additional Jewish People structures much care must be taken to avoid damage to self-organizing capacities. It would be counter-productive to replace already existing, valuable synergies with quasi-hierarchical models, which probably will not work.

Because of the self-organizing nature of Jewish communities in the Diaspora, consensus by a vast majority of key Jewish organizations and leaders both in Israel and the Diaspora is a sine qua non for the success of most kinds of new global forums. Exploration by JPPPI indicates that the vast majority of Jewish Diaspora leaders, particularly in the United States and Europe, harbor grave reservations about initiating a new "strong" global Jewish People organization. These apprehensions contrast with the views of many, though not all, Israeli political leaders surveyed. However, while it is important to recognize legitimate concerns, the "tyranny of the status quo" must not be permitted to prevent vital innovation.

### **3. Comparative Efforts**

The structure of the Jewish People, including Israel-Diaspora relations, is unique in many respects. Nevertheless, attempts by a number of countries to give some kind of "representation" to ex-patriot communities and to otherwise strengthen relations between the mother country and its diaspora should be mentioned. Thus France, Italy, Hungary and Greece formalize relations with their diaspora in various ways, trying to preserve culture, language and memory, protect civil, economic and cultural rights as individuals and national minorities, and mobilize their support on political and economic issues.

However, because of the radical uniqueness of the Jewish People and the history of Israel-Diaspora relations, the experiences of other countries, while relevant to relations between Israel and its citizen residing abroad, are not in the main relevant to global Jewish People forums.

Even less relevant are comparisons with "second houses", such as the House of Lords in the UK. These are constitutional organs of states and differ radically from what may fit the Jewish People with its radically unique duality of state and Diaspora.

#### **4. Conditions for Setting Up a New Forum**

The Jewish People are rich in forums and organizations, which take a variety of forms. A number of them are global and represent large parts of the engaged sectors of the Jewish People. The institution of additional global forums, therefore, is justified only if seven conditions are met:

- 1) The new forums address important needs not fully satisfied by any existing ones, such as engaging the large unaffiliated parts of the Jewish People or overcoming "the generation gap".
- 2) They can meet important needs more effectively than would be possible by improving existing frameworks.
- 3) Their benefit to the Jewish People outweighs possible damage to activities of existing forums.
- 4) Their establishment is supported by a majority of leaders, organizations and communities, or at least not strenuously opposed by many of them.
- 5) They do not result in increased exit from Jewish life, nor escalate debates on "who is a Jew" and similar indeterminable issues.
- 6) They do not cause significant external harm, such as precipitating in dangerous measure perceptions of the Jewish conspiracy, dual loyalty etc.
- 7) They do not cause serious divisions in Israel, which can nullify benefits.

These considerations should be applied to any proposal.

#### **5. Pressing Needs**

Prudence is required but must not inhibit essential action. JPPPI's Assessment of the Situation and Dynamics of the Jewish People identify at least one critical imperative and seven key critical challenges, which necessitate some kind of new global Jewish forum:

##### **Critical Imperative**

Long-term perspectives are essential for assuring the ability of the Jewish People to thrive in the future. Although many organizations and communities take a broad view of their tasks and try to meet long-term needs, studies by JPPPI indicate that overall long-term perspectives do not receive adequate consideration and priority in the allocation of resources, neither in Israel nor in Jewish communities worldwide. Therefore, strengthening long-term and comprehensive strategies for action is imperative for the future of the Jewish People.

## **Critical Challenges**

The following seven challenges underscore this critical imperative:

### **1) Large-scale exit from the Jewish People in the Diaspora.**

Identification and active belonging to the Jewish People is increasingly a matter of choice for most individuals and avenues for moving towards other loyalties are wide-open. This is true primarily in the Diaspora, but in other and less acute ways it is relevant in the longer run to Israel as well. Therefore, the process of socialization into Jewry must be more effective. Moreover Jewishness must become more "competitive" and more compatible with the spirit of the young generation influenced by modernity and post-modernity, confronting the latter as far as necessary.

### **2) Next-generation active belonging**

To elaborate the most important aspects of the challenge posed above, the single most important factor determining the future is the propensity of future generations to "actively belong" to the Jewish People. There is an increasing danger that the chain of generations will be broken. The large disparities in experiences and memories as well as outlooks and living environments between the middle-age and older generations born before 1970 or so, on one hand, and the younger generation born after 1970 on the other, seriously endanger continuity. Therefore, concentrated and innovative action to bridge the threatening gap between generations is imperative.

### **3) Strengthening and consolidating the nature of Israel as a Jewish State which is the core state of the Jewish People.**

The very structural trends built into Israel as a democratic Western state, together with ongoing and expected domestic and external processes, have a propensity to erode the nature of Israel as a Jewish State. Therefore, determined steps to strengthen and harden this nature are essential.

### **4) Diaspora-Israel relations.**

The vast differences in outlooks, the perception of problems, self-awareness and environment between the Jewish experience in Israel and that in Diaspora communities, in combination with radical differences in socio-economic characteristics, operate strongly in the direction of increasing the distance between the Israeli and the Diaspora segments of the Jewish People. Accordingly, concentrated, large-scale efforts to strengthen shared identity and promote integration are imperative.

## **5) Systematic taking into account of Jewish People considerations in Israeli decision-making**

Israel's key decision makers recognize in principle their responsibility for and towards the Jewish People as a whole. An empirical study being conducted by JPPPI, however, demonstrates that, despite recent improvements, overall the possible impact of Israeli decisions on Jewish communities worldwide does not receive adequate consideration. This is all the more important in light of the fact that Israeli governmental choices do have significant short and long- term implications for Jewish communities in the Diaspora and for the future of the Jewish People and Jewry as a whole. Therefore, measures to assure deeper consideration of the impact of Israeli decisions on the Jewish People in the Diaspora are urgent.

## **6) Profound shared discourse on fundamental Jewish People issues**

There are many intellectual, political, religious, professional and academic forums dealing with fundamental issues facing the Jewish People. However, most of the discourse and resulting action is compartmentalized, fragmented, often unnecessarily politicized and frequently devoid of action implications. Comprehensive discourse is either lacking or superficial on many crucial issues, such as Jewish education. Deepening the discourse that focuses on issues affecting the Jewish People overall within action-oriented settings is, therefore, essential.

## **7) Better coordination of major policies**

Many Jewish People issues are best handled by independent organizations specializing in specific issues. However, a number of critical issues require coordinated and also integrated action. Some existing structures and forums do achieve adequate coordination and synergism on particular issues. Essential coordination on many crucial matters, however, is lacking. Mutual learning among key communities and organizations does not take place, on a number of areas competition and conflict extend beyond desirable levels. Therefore, there is a need for better coordination and integration on critical issues.

## **6. General Conclusion**

To summarize, the overall conclusion is that there is a need to greatly improve strategic and creative thinking and action to cope successfully with existential challenges facing the Jewish People in both the short and long run. However, as previously noted, it is not obvious

that setting up additional formal organizations is the best way to meet this objective. Indeed, the danger of prematurely establishing ineffective organizations so as "to do something" is well documented. Instead, we must seek more effective ways to cope with opportunities and risks. JPPPI has concluded that some new global Jewish People forums can perform important functions not adequately filled at present on condition that adequate professional preparation takes place and the forums convene after significant agendas have been widely agreed upon.

## **7. Taking Jewish People Considerations More into Account in Israeli Decision Making**

One clear need, distinct from the initiation of new global Jewish People forums, is for the Israeli government to radically improve its consideration of implications of decisions on the Jewish People. This requires, first of all, that the professional staff working at the centers of Israeli decision-making be both charged and qualified to take into account the consequences for the Jewish People, either as a whole or in specific communities. This should be accompanied by consultations between the staff and Jewish leaders, organizations and thinkers, as may be necessary and on specific subjects.

Significant improvement in understanding implications for the Jewish People in Israeli governmental staff work and giving of more weight to such implications of decision making is the first essential and most urgent measure. This is not difficult to implement if the will to do so exists. If discretion is preserved, consultation with willing and relevant individuals and organizations can be developed.

Therefore:

**RECOMMENDATION ONE**  
**JPPPI recommends enhancing Israeli staff work on implications of Israeli decisions on the Jewish People. Within this activity, Jewish leaders, organizations and thinkers should be consulted more often, on an informal basis, as appropriate.**

It should be mentioned that a number of Jewish leaders in Europe expressed doubts concerning the appropriateness of the Government of Israel considering the implications of its actions for the Jewish People. JPPPI is of the opinion that those views contradict the nature of Israel as the core state of the Jewish People.

For consultations on global issues of the Jewish People, its future and strategic choices, attention should be given to Recommendation Two.

## **8. Global Jewish People Forums: Options, Evaluation, and Recommendations.**

Taking into account the above analysis, JPPPI crafted and evaluated five major options:

### **Option One: Do Nothing.**

JPPPI rejects this option. There are important needs, some critical, which are not being met. The initiative put forward by the President of Israel provides a welcome opportunity to move ahead with meeting them which should not be wasted.

### **Option Two: Setting up a forum of leaders of major global Jewish organizations for internal consultation and coordination. This forum will be involved in consultations with the Government of Israel on appropriate subjects within the Government of Israel - Jewish Agency Coordinating Committee which will be enlarged for this purpose.**

**Elaboration:** There are between five to ten major global Jewish organizations dealing with primary issues affecting the Jewish People overall. There is a considerable amount of informal contact and overlapping memberships. Systematic discourse, mutual learning and coordination, however, are lacking.

**Evaluation:** JPPPI is of the opinion that a division of labor, differences of perspectives and views, and stimulating competition are not only unavoidable, but contribute to better performance overall. Also, as mentioned above, frequent interaction and some cooperation does take place. However, nearly all persons interviewed expressed the view that frequent meetings, mutual learning and greater coordination between the leaders of main global Jewish organizations is sorely needed, but does not take place because of unnecessary conflicts. This is a clear weakness that should be overcome.

In this connection the covenant between the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency of 1971 should be mentioned, which set up a Coordinating Committee composed of an equal number of representatives of the Government and the Jewish Agency. This agreement authorizes the committee to make recommendations to the Government of Israel on matters within the broad domain of activities of the Jewish Agency.

The Coordinating Committee is a mechanism which is an asset hard to duplicate nowadays. To give as full an answer as possible to coordination and consultation needs between the State of Israel and the Jewish People worldwide, it is recommended to include in the deliberations of the Coordinating Committee the Forum of Heads of Organizations of the Jewish People, as deemed appropriate.

Therefore:

### **RECOMMENDATION TWO**

- A. A "Forum of the Heads of Organizations of the Jewish People", should be established. It should be compact so as to ensure efficiency of its operation. There should be no more than one or two leaders from each of the main organizations participating. Working groups, including other participants, can be set up alongside as decided. This forum should meet at least twice a year to discuss shared problems, exchange information and opinions, and seek avenues for better coordination.**
- B. JPPPI recommends utilizing the Government of Israel - Jewish Agency Coordinating Committee, based on its statutory standing, for consultations between Jewish Diaspora leaders with the Government of Israel. To do so, it is recommended to enlarge the Coordinating Committee and to include within it the Forum of Heads of Organizations of the Jewish People.**

### **Option Three: Annual Global Conferences.**

**Elaboration:** A set of annual global conferences will be organized, with the participation of leaders, organizations, community representatives, select thinkers and a sizable segment of young participants, below the age of 35. The composition of the conference should be devoid of political parties and similar bodies. Between two-hundred to three-hundred participants will be invited so as to reflect key segments of the Jewish People, however without presumption of "representation". The plenary sessions will be open, but most of the work carried out in small groups with limited invited participants, on the basis of well prepared background material and detailed, thorough position papers. Some, of the annual conferences will discuss global issues

affecting the Jewish People as a whole, while others will be devoted to specific subjects. Symbolic declarations and empty resolutions should be avoided. Instead, in-depth operational recommendations will be aimed at based on shared understanding of key issues. On-going discourse on select subjects by working groups will enable continuous work between conferences.

The success of this option requires a presidium together with a compact core staff in charge of convening the conferences, agenda-setting, invitation of background material etc.

**Evaluation:** At present, no global agenda-oriented and non-political meetings as proposed in this option take adequately place. While over-expectations should be avoided, the convening of annual conferences coupled with the on-going endeavors of conference working groups may provide significant discourse and meaningful recommendations with practical impact on important Jewish People issues. A sub-forum of young participants may help to cope with inter-generational gaps. The global conferences can also strengthen global self-awareness of the Jewish People.

This option was supported by nearly all of the leaders and scholars interviewed, many of whom referred to the conference favorably as a "Jewish Davos". Another advantage of this option is that it engenders no significant risks. Apprehensions concerning the escalation of a "Jewish conspiracy" or other negative images are in JPPPI's view negligible.

Therefore:

### **RECOMMENDATION THREE**

**JPPPI recommends organizing a first global Jewish People Conference devoted to strengthening inter-generational continuity. It should be carefully prepared to assure in-depth high-quality discourse, within the plenum and working groups alike. The President of Israel together with the heads of global Jewish People organizations will sponsor this activity. Following the first conference, and after consultation and an affirmative decision to do so, additional conferences should be held, with participants adjusted in part to the subjects of the agenda. Working groups should be set up for continuous discourse between conferences. A presidium and small staff should be in charge of convening and preparing the conferences.**

## **Option Four: A New Global Jewish People Organization**

**Elaboration:** The following is a detailed specification that illustrates the form and nature of the proposed organization:

1. The primary mission of the organization is to examine in depth issues of cardinal importance to the future of the Jewish People and to formulate recommendations regarding these issues to major Jewish People institutions and to the Jewish public as a whole.
2. These recommendations will have some kind of "strong" standing, based on the composition of the Forum and its legitimacy, but no hierarchical authority.
3. The organization will have approximately 120 to 240 members, composed of a proportional mix that will be determined by representatives of the major global Jewish People bodies, Jewish communities outside Israel, the Jewish People in Israel and outstanding Jewish thinkers. Members will include at least twenty percent born after 1970, at least one third women and one third men.
4. The organization will convene once a year. Most of the work will be performed in working groups and on a continual basis by teams and committees, with a presidium to be appointed by the plenum and supported by a small staff.
5. The budget for the first three years of operation of the Global Jewish People Forum should be guaranteed in advance, or, at the latest, subsequent to the first plenary meeting.
6. A preparatory committee should be established, to be responsible for setting composition and other details pertaining to the Forum, for convening the first plenum and for mobilizing consensus, support and resources. Its composition should be agreed upon with major Jewish organizations and major Jewish communities and suitable bodies in Israel and its government.

JPPPI welcomes preparing more detailed recommendations in case a decision to proceed with the Global Jewish People Organization option is made. JPPPI recommends, however, that details should not be discussed before a decision in principle is made.

**Evaluation:** This is an important option, which in some views might significantly upgrade the capacity of the Jewish People for collective action. Given the structure of the Jewish People as a primarily self-organizing system, however, this organization will most probably find it difficult obtaining authoritative standing or to assure serious consideration of its recommendations. Unavoidable, there will be much overlap between the proposed organization and existing ones. JPPPI estimates that the vast majority of Jewish leadership in the Diaspora opposes the establishment of such an organization and that its establishment will face serious discord in Israel.

These factors jeopardize chances for success and makes it likely that efforts to establish this organization will, given prevailing circumstances, cause greater damage than benefit.

Therefore:

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR**

**JPPPI regards the initiative to set up a Global Jewish People Organization as very significant. However, JPPPI recommends not establishing at present a new organization, for it does not fits the structure of the Jewish People and may complicate the present organizational map in counterproductive ways. Also, consensus essential for establishing such an organization is lacking. Therefore, JPPPI recommends moving ahead with other options and exploring, after experience is attained with annual conferences, possibilities to move towards additional, more structured forms of global Jewish People forums/organizations to meet unfulfilled needs. Premature action however should be avoided.**

#### **Option Five: Global Forum of Young Jewish Activists.**

**Elaboration:** The idea is to organize or at least facilitate self-organization of a global forum of Jewish young adults (approximately up to age 35). This forum would be based in part on existing initiatives and organizations, but will include extensive outreach to unengaged youth and young adults.

**Evaluation:** This is an attractive and in part radically novel option, all the more so as preliminary surveys indicates that at present ages under 35 are not adequately represented in the governing bodies of most global Jewish organizations.

It may be the best option for reaching out to the many younger Jews at present not taking part in Jewish activities of any kind. However, it may increase rather than mitigate gaps between generations. Moreover, this idea may in fact be better suited to grass-root initiatives rather than decisions from above. JPPPI was unable to adequately examine this innovative proposal within available time but is of the opinion that it should be further.

Therefore:

### **RECOMMENDATION FIVE**

**There should be a move towards setting-up of a Global Forum of Young Jewish Activists (up to 35 years old).**

- A. The idea of setting up a Global Jewish Young Activist Forum should be viewed positively in principle. It should be studied urgently, elaborated, evaluated and prepared for implementation, in close cooperation with existing Jewish youth forums and grass-root leaders.**
- B. The age composition of the governing bodies of main Jewish organizations should be studied and efforts made to assure that at least twenty-five to thirty-five percent of members be below the age of thirty-five.**

JPPPI regards working on this option within its core mission. A proposal to prepare a detailed evaluation of options and formulate recommendations will be put before JPPPI Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

JPPPI would like also to mention the need to augment meetings of scholars, researchers, thinkers and planners dealing with Jewish People issues. JPPPI is acting in this direction in other contexts. This, however, is a different, more "contemplative", matter, which does not fit the action frame of the initiative put forward by the President of Israel and discussed in this position paper.

## **9. Reaching a Decision**

JPPPI recommends that a decision in principle should be made on the above options. If a decision is made to move ahead, a steering group should be established to handle additional details and subsequent implementation. Its composition raises quite a number of problems, but these are beyond the scope of the position paper that JPPPI was asked to prepare.

JPPPI will be glad to be of further assistance in whatever means possible.

## **APPENDIX: PERSONS INTERVIEWED AND/OR RESPONDING IN WRITING**

JPPPI acknowledges with thanks the important ideas provided by interviews and written responses by the following persons:

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