



Cultural Diplomacy Lifetime Achievement Award

Honoring



*Dr. Yossi Beilin for a Lifetime of Courage,
Dialogue and Dedication to Peace in the Middle East*


HOHENSCHWANGAU
FORUM

Schloss Nymphenburg, Munich

September 16th, 2026

Cultural Diplomacy Lifetime Achievement Award

BRIDGING CULTURES, SHAPING FUTURES



*September 16th, 2026 |
Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphenburg |
Schloss Nymphenburg | Munich*

The Hohenschwangau Forum Awards recognise outstanding individuals whose work and leadership have made a remarkable contribution to the advancement of prosperity, democracy and peace. The awards honour personalities whose achievements demonstrate a sustained commitment to dialogue, responsible leadership and peace. By recognising such individuals, the Hohenschwangau Forum seeks to honour their accomplishments and highlight the values and ideas that can contribute to more peaceful, democratic and prosperous societies.



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On 16 September 2026, the Hohenschwangau Forum presented its first award to Dr. Yossi Beilin at the Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphenburg in Munich. The Cultural Diplomacy Lifetime Achievement Award, presented under the theme Bridging Cultures, Shaping Futures, honoured Dr. Beilin for a Lifetime of Courage, Dialogue and Dedication to Peace in the Middle East. It recognised his decades-long engagement in diplomacy, Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and the pursuit of peaceful and negotiated solutions.



Yossi Beilin

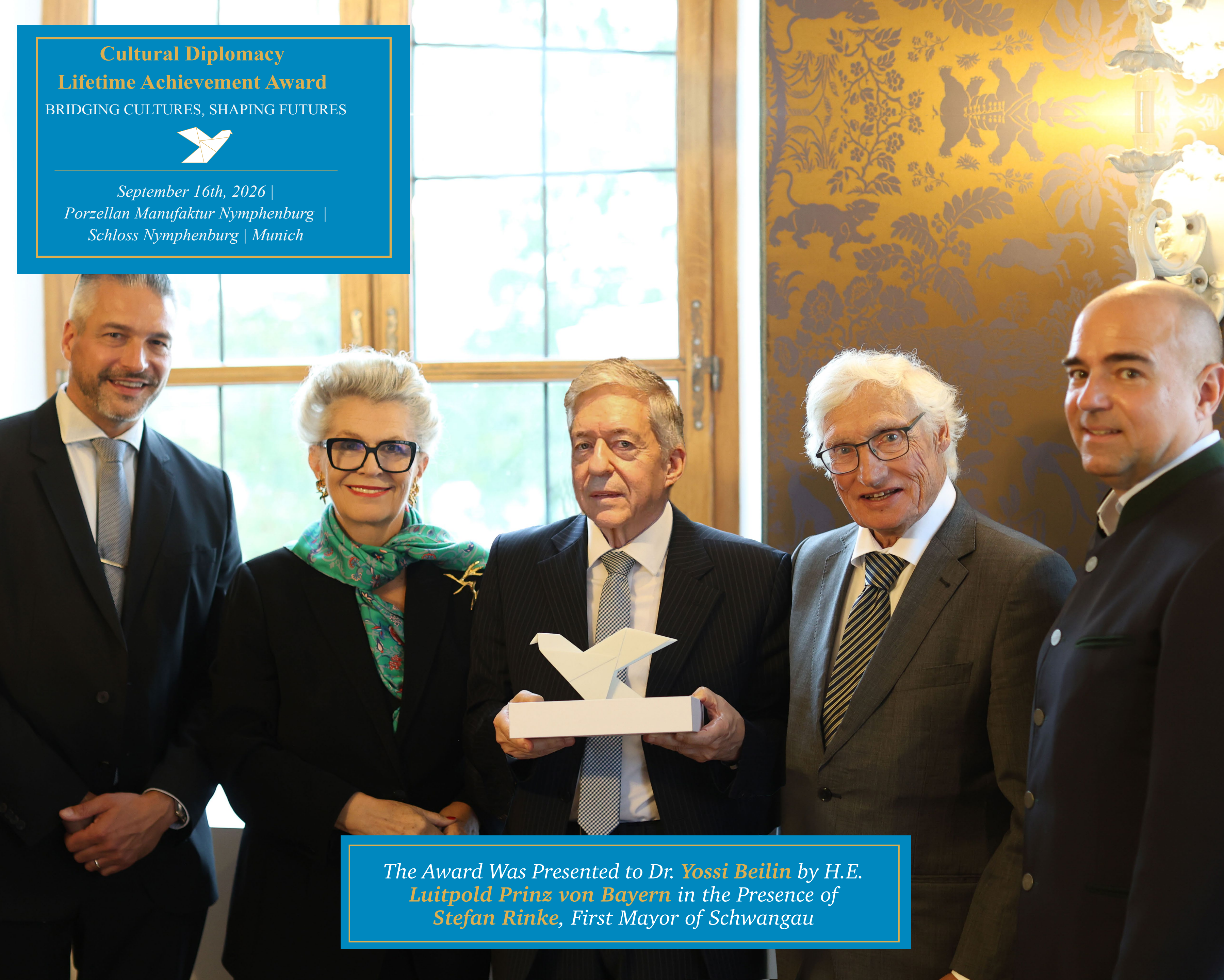
Israeli Senior Politician;
Initiator of the Oslo Accords
and the Geneva Initiative



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*The Award Was Presented to Dr. **Yossi Beilin** by H.E. **Luitpold Prinz von Bayern** in the Presence of **Stefan Rinke**, First Mayor of Schwangau*



The Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphenburg Dove Award *A Symbol of Peace, Dialogue and Reconciliation*

The award took the form of a porcelain dove, prepared by the historic Porzellan Manufaktur Nymphenburg and chosen as a symbol of peace, dialogue and reconciliation. The presentation was accompanied by tributes from distinguished political leaders and colleagues, who reflected on his contribution to diplomacy and peacebuilding over several decades. In honouring Dr. Beilin, the Hohenschwangau Forum reaffirmed the broader purpose of its awards: to recognise individuals whose leadership and personal commitment demonstrate the continuing importance of dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy in advancing prosperity, democracy and peace.



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Yossi Beilin

A Lifetime of Courage, Dialogue and
Dedication to Peace in the Middle East

TRIBUTES & REMARKS



Luitpold Prinz von Bayern
Member of the House of Wittelsbach;
CEO of König Ludwig GmbH



Erkki Tuomioja
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Finland 2000-2007, 2011-2015



Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Cyprus 2007-2008; 2011-2013



Katalin Bogyay
President of the World Federation of
United Nations Associations (WFUNA)



Marc Guerrero I Tarragó
President of Ginteco;
Vice-President ALDE 2009-16



Davor Filipovic
Minister of Economy and Sustainable
Development of Croatia 2022-2023

Remarks by Hiba Hussein

To my dear and esteemed partner, Dr. Yossi Beilin, it is a profound honor to celebrate you as you receive this well-deserved prize. For decades, you have stood as a beacon of courage in a landscape too often dominated by division. Where others saw immovable barriers, You, with the combination of your political bravery and creative vision saw pathways to peace.

From the earliest days of the backchannel talks that led to the Oslo Accords to the landmark Geneva Accord, you have never shied away from the hardest questions of our shared history. Your life's work serves as a powerful reminder that true leadership requires the audacity to step into the unknown for the sake of a better future.

Yossi: you are one of the most consequential and visionary architects of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Throughout your career, your deep professional commitment to a negotiated two-state solution led you to transcend political taboos. You consistently engaged in high-stakes backchannel diplomacy with the core leadership of the Palestinian national movement.

Yossi: our collaborative journey in co-authoring the Holy Land Confederation represents, for me, the very essence of your intellectual and political brilliance. In working alongside you, I witnessed firsthand your persistence not to accept the status quo or succumb to the paralysis of despair, but it was never blind optimism. Rather you had a pragmatic approach. You understood that saving the two-state solution required a look beyond rigid and conventional boundaries. You innovated an entirely new paradigm for the settlement of this long-protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Your transformative thinking refused to accept conflict management where the two people of Palestine and Israel remain in perpetual insecurity and fear of imminent dangers.

This prize honors not just the historic agreements associated with your name, but your enduring willingness to break new ground and engage with the complex realities of both Palestinians and Israelis as equal partners in destiny.

Yossi: your legacy is etched into the very foundation of the most challenging set of circumstances involving the peace process. Your contributions serve as a blueprint for the future generations of peacemakers and a reminder to statesmen and statewomen that when official channels fail, innovative back-channels and civil society must step forward to keep the possibility of peace alive.

At a time when the path forward seems exceptionally difficult, your lifetime of dedication reminds us that peace is not an abstract ideal, but a rigorous, daily practice of empathy, negotiation, and unwavering hope. Thank you for your fierce intellect, your profound partnership, and your relentless pursuit of justice and security for our own people and those

of the region. Congratulations on this magnificent recognition.

Yossi: you have a unique capacity. Your intellectual rigor and political foresight, allowed you to establish partnerships with key members of the Palestinian leadership. You masterfully transformed adversarial state dynamics into collaborative problem-solving.

Among these partnerships is the late Faisal Hussein who served as an essential bridge to the domestic Palestinian constituency. Before official Israeli laws permitted direct contact with the PLO, you dared to cultivate a deep dialogue with Faisal Hussein to gauge the pragmatism of the local Palestinian leadership. The two of you shared an intense intellectual focus on resolving the status of Jerusalem. Hussein taught himself fluent Hebrew to better engage with you and the Israeli peace camp. Up until Hussein's untimely death in 2001, you met continuously.

Ahmed Qurei, the head of the PLO's economic department and later Prime Minister, was your direct counterpart in building the structural reality of the Oslo Accords. You managed the political and conceptual framework from Tel Aviv, the late Abu Ala managed the complex structural position of the PLO from Tunis. The profound professional trust between YOU and Abu Ala allowed the secret Norway channel to remain secure for months. Together, you co-drafted the Declaration of Principles (DoP) in 1993. This document legally transformed decades of armed conflict into an ongoing institutionalized peace process.

Then, it was Mahmoud Abbas (now President Abbas) with whom you wrote the "Beilin-Abu Mazen Understandings of 1995. The relationship with Abu Mazen represents one of the most detailed, high-level diplomatic collaborations in the history of the conflict. Working in strict secrecy parallel to the official interim negotiations, You and Abu Mazen supervised and finalized the Beilin-Abu Mazen Document in October 1995 (right after the Interim Agreement was signed in September of 1995). This historic text was the first framework to explicitly outline a full, permanent-status treaty. It envisioned an independent state of Palestine and territorial swaps, Jerusalem being the capital of two states, among other crucial issues. This document was completed just days before the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Consequently, it was never formally adopted by either government. You continue to publicly state that Abu Mazen is a genuine, non-violent partner for peace and you warn that achieving a negotiated two-state solution would become vastly more complicated in the post-Abbas era.

Yossi: Please allow me to conclude by stressing that your enduring legacy will be forever etched in your refusal to accept political and diplomatic stalemates. Let us also remember that in this journey, you have been accompanied by the brave and dedicated Mrs. Daniela Beilin, whose enduring love and support has made the hardships of our times more bearable. To you both, I say thank you for your friendship.

Remarks by President Emil Constantinescu

I regret I cannot be present there in person to congratulate His Excellency, Dr. Yossi Beilin, on his deserved reception of this Lifetime Achievement Award. However, it is a profound privilege that I may offer these words of tribute to Yossi on the occasion of this richly deserved recognition. In an era where geopolitical landscapes are often being defined by division and atomization, Dr. Beilin's work serves as an enduring testament to the power of persistent mediation. His foundational impact on the historic architecture of mid-1990s negotiation frameworks shifted regional dynamics and, more importantly, fundamentally proved that even the most deeply entrenched adversarial divides can be bridged through empathy and dialogue.

True statesmanship is measured when diplomacy is at its most perilous. Since meeting him during my state visit to Israel in 2000, Yossi has consistently demonstrated a rare, indefatigable resilience, advancing the foundational principles of humanity, coexistence and cohabitation even in the face of immense personal risk and severe societal headwinds. Through pioneering civic initiatives, he has continually provided tangible blueprints for a shared future – the latest such proposal being the Berlin Initiative for a Diplomatic Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, to which he has imparted considerable impetus in shaping it into an equitable and feasible outcome for all parties involved. Crucially, Yossi's talent for guiding opposing factions toward a shared historical narrative is reflective of his masterful grasp of both the foundations and methods of cultural diplomacy, his efforts having successfully transformed a perilous history from a weapon of division into a tool for mutual understanding and rapprochement.

Today, we celebrate the tireless work of an active and vital force for global harmony and for our shared humanity, who is consistently reminding us that the edification of a culture of peace constitutes a continuous obligation that requires our collective and vocal advocacy. Congratulations, Dr. Beilin, on this landmark achievement. Your perspective remains, as ever, visionary.

Remarks by Ann Linde

A Lifetime of Commitment to Peace

It is a great honour for me to say a few words as Dr Yossi Beilin receives this Lifetime Achievement Award.

For decades, Dr. Yossi Beilin has been one of the most persistent and courageous advocates for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. As one of the fathers of the Oslo Accords, he helped turn the vision of a negotiated two-state solution into a concrete political process. And when hopes have faded and circumstances have become extraordinarily difficult, he has never given up on that vision.

A Personal Friendship Across Decades

I first met Dr. Beilin at the beginning of this century, when he was Israel's Minister of Justice and came to Stockholm to meet one of my predecessors as Swedish Foreign Minister, Anna Lindh. Anna was delayed, and I, at that time the international secretary of the Social Democratic party, had the privilege of sharing lunch with Yossi while we waited for her. It was the beginning of a relationship that has continued ever since, also during my time as Foreign Minister. Over the years, we have met many times — in Israel, in Palestine and in different parts of the world.

Respect, Dignity and Dialogue

One thing has always struck me: as an Israeli politician and peace advocate, Yossi has consistently treated his Palestinian counterparts with the utmost respect. He has understood that peace cannot be built without recognising the dignity, rights and aspirations of the people on the other side. His relentless commitment to dialogue and to a two-state solution has been a true inspiration to me and to many others.

A Beacon of Hope

Today, when Israelis and Palestinians are living through some of the darkest times in their history, we need people who refuse to accept that peace is impossible. We need people who continue to believe in dialogue, coexistence and a political solution even when the circumstances seem to argue against them. We need beacons of hope. Dr. Yossi Beilin has been such a beacon for decades. I can think of few people more deserving of a lifetime award for the cause of peace.

My warmest congratulations, Yossi — and thank you for never giving up.



Remarks by Erkki Tuomioja

A Well-Earned Lifetime Achievement Award

My heartfelt congratulations to Yossi Beilin for this well-earned Lifetime Achievement Award. Yossi Beilin has had a central role in the process leading to the Oslo Accords in 1993 and 1995. These accords are the closest we have ever come to a sustainable end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

More Than 40 Years as a Peacemaker

Yossi Beilin's role as a peacemaker began over 40 years ago as Cabinet Secretary to Shimon Peres and as Deputy Foreign Minister in 1992.

The Oslo Accords created the Palestinian Authority as the legitimate Palestinian partner in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state.

The Personal Price of Working for Peace

Yossi Beilin's role in this process has not been without personal danger, as the many death threats Yossi Beilin has also received attest to. That these were not merely empty attempts at intimidation was demonstrated in 1995 by the tragic assassination of Yitzhak Rabin by Israeli fanatics for signing the accords.

When the Peace Process Stagnated

But as the peace process first stagnated and then ended, Yossi did not give up. If those in government were unable or unwilling to continue the process, Yossi Beilin, after leaving the government, and his counterparts on the Palestinian side set up the Geneva process, which presented a detailed plan on how the accords and the two-state solution could be implemented in a realistic and sustainable manner.

The Geneva Process

It was then that I first met Yossi and quickly came to appreciate and admire his perseverance and abilities in the search for a just peace. The Nordic governments supported the Geneva process, but to no avail, as developments since then have shown. The unchecked expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank and the total destruction of Gaza have made it almost impossible to envisage a workable two-state solution.

The Berlin Initiative: Keeping the Two-State Solution Alive

But Yossi and his Palestinian partners have not given up. They have now worked on and published the so-called Berlin Initiative, presenting a detailed paper on how the two-state solution could still be made to work with the creation of a Holy Land Confederation.

As Chair of Historians without Borders, an organization which seeks to remove the malign use of history in fostering conflicts and preventing conflict resolution, I commend Yossi and his colleagues that the Berlin Initiative is the first document where Israelis and Palestinians have also been able to agree on a short history of the conflict.

The Work Is Far from Finished

While Yossi Beilin's work and his achievements are by no means limited to keeping the Israeli-Palestinian peace process alive – I am referring to Yossi's many roles and achievements in academic and business life – it is, of course, this ongoing endeavour which we are commemorating today. But he must not be left alone, for the work is far from finished. I call on all of us to actively, and if I may say so, also noisily support his efforts. We should not stay silent about what is going on in the Middle East. It is not only about bringing justice to the Palestinians; it is also about saving Israel from itself.

Remarks by Ambassador Katalin Bogyay

Building Peace One Brick at a Time

When I think about Yossi Beilin, I think about the ideal that we, as human beings, have the capacity to rise above our divisions, our differences, our fiercest conflicts, in order to build, one brick at a time, a house of lasting peace for the future generations, for his beloved grandchildren.

Every human being in the world has the right to access to education, science, culture, and free flow of information.

Dialogue Diversity and Opportunity

Yossi Beilin believes in the power of dialogue and regards diversity in thoughts, attitudes or cultures as an inspiration for cooperation rather than a burden.

Yossi Beilin wanted to create an opportunity for the betterment of the lives of people through the Israeli- Palestinian peace process aiming to create a framework of collaboration.

He wanted to help in offering more opportunities to all the children and the younger generation in the region.

Courage Persistence and Vision

And he still works on it...

I am congratulating a courageous man with a strong desire for peace, with endless efforts and commitment to non-violence. This positive view of peace should inspire us all. I see Yossi Beilin whose enthusiasm and tireless work did not perish with all the fiascos of the peace process but believes in a work to facilitate cohesion and cooperation in offering equal assistance to all the parties involved.

It is deeply admiring how Yossi formulated comprehensive plans, such as the Oslo Accords and Geneva Initiative, and spent his entire life working relentlessly to advance them.

An Intellectual Diplomat and Pragmatic Innovator

Yossi Beilin is widely recognized as an intellectual diplomat, strategic fixer, and unyielding ideologue. I look at him as a visionary, an optimist, who is persistent. He is a polished academic, a true scholar with restrained tone, structured vocabulary, and precise composure.

His behind-the-scenes political craft demonstrates high emotional intelligence and he is at the same time a pragmatic innovator.

The Responsibility of the United Nations

I know there are many ambivalent views about the UN nowadays but I still look at the UN as a forum where the governments that may be in a political dispute should think and work together. We have already witnessed many good practices in this regard. It is the responsibility of all of us to use this forum to its greatest capacity.

We, in the UN family, should never give up, and listen to Yossi Beilin, to use the plenty of potential together for the betterment of humanity.

Cultural Diplomacy and the Work of Peace

We gathered here today as members of the Institute of Cultural Diplomacy family, believing in cultural diplomacy which can prove its strength. We have witnessed the incredible transformative power of intercultural dialogue - while politicians are in a cul-de-sac, people continue to communicate, build bridges, looking for the common ground and personalities like Yossi can inspire these bridge-building exercises deeply.

My great appreciation goes to the man, Yossi Beilin, who never gave up the hope to find the ways for orchestrating peace in his beloved region of the world.

Remarks by Dr Erato Kozakou Marcoullis

A Tribute to a Lifetime Dedicated to Peace

It is a great honour to say a few words on the occasion of the Cultural Diplomacy Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Yossi Beilin.

This award recognises much more than a distinguished political career. It recognises a lifetime committed to one of the most difficult and urgent causes of our time: the search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Cyprus and the Experience of Division

I come here from Cyprus—a country that knows all too well the pain and suffering of a long-standing conflict, the human cost of division, and the frustrations and disappointments that accompany efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement.

I consider myself a friend of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people, and a strong supporter of a two- state solution, because I believe that both peoples have an equal right to live in peace, security, freedom and dignity, in states of their own. Throughout my diplomatic career and until today, I have followed a principled position towards realizing this cause.

My own involvement in the Cyprus negotiations has taught me how difficult it is to sustain hope, when

negotiations repeatedly falter and political circumstances seem to move further away from compromise. It is for this reason that I feel particularly honoured to pay tribute to Dr. Beilin tonight.

The Oslo Breakthrough

The name Yossi Beilin is inseparably connected with one of the most significant breakthroughs in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: the Oslo process.

At a time when direct communication between Israel and the PLO seemed almost unimaginable, Dr. Beilin had the courage to reach beyond the prevailing political boundaries and understand a fundamental truth: there can be no peace without dialogue.

Dr. Beilin helped create the conditions for the secret channel that ultimately led to the Oslo Accords of 1993—an historic moment when Israelis and Palestinians recognised one another as partners in a political process.

Perseverance Beyond Oslo

Through years of negotiations, setbacks and changing political realities, Dr. Beilin continued to work for a permanent solution. And through the Geneva Initiative, he continued to demonstrate that a comprehensive two-state agreement could be translated into practical solutions.

Dr. Beilin continued even when the political climate became increasingly discouraging. That perseverance is, perhaps, his greatest contribution.

Because peace is not made only by those who sign agreements. Peace is made possible by those who continue to believe in dialogue when dialogue is unpopular; who defend compromise when compromise is portrayed as weakness or even betrayal; and who recognise the legitimate aspirations and humanity of the other side even when fear and hatred make this extraordinarily difficult.

This is also where cultural diplomacy acquires its deepest meaning. Culture can cross borders that politics cannot. It can create understanding where there is suspicion, human connection where there is distance, and empathy where there is mistrust.



To Yossi & Daniela,

It was a profound honour and a deeply personal pleasure to present you today with the Cultural Diplomacy Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of your lifetime of courage, dialogue and dedication to peace in the Middle East. Your extraordinary commitment to peace, your courage in pursuing dialogue and your unwavering belief in a better future continue to inspire us all. Thank you, dear Yossi and Daniela, for reminding us that the pursuit of peace must never be abandoned.

Today's ceremony was a memorable occasion for us all.

Mark, Hiba Husseini, Erkki Tuomioja, Emil Constantinescu, Katalin Bogyay, Erato Kozakou Marcoullis, Ann Linde, Davor Filipović and Marc Guerrero.



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*A Global Platform for Economic Dialogue,
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