



Statement from the Israeli Medical Association and the German Medical Association



Dresden, 23 June 2022

In 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, the German Medical Association and Israeli Medical Association met to pay tribute to the cooperation and friendship that have developed between our associations. To continue this tradition, another meeting was held in Israel in 2018.

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are only too aware of the importance of international cooperation. The pandemic has left in its wake a slew of physical and mental health effects. The collaborations that have been established in developing vaccinations and sharing information amongst nations are extraordinary, and we should encourage their continuation.

Many issues which occupy us on an almost daily basis are, in fact, global phenomena. New developments in technology and innovation are immense and we should ensure that our physicians are prepared and at the forefront of this new way of working. The continued struggle to care for Covid patients, while maintaining the care of all other patients, leads to stress, over-work and burn-out amongst health professionals. Violence against health professionals has reached epidemic proportions. In addition to the detrimental effects upon the individual physician, these issues also impair our ability to care for our patients and contribute to other problems such as a lack of access to care for many patients. The ability to share information and learn from one another is of critical importance and a precondition for sustainable and successful healthcare provision in our countries.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves once again at a time of war. The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has had a continued detrimental effect on innocent civilians. Together we call for the adherence to and implementation of rules of international humanitarian law protecting civilians and combatants, as well as medical, nursing and other health and humanitarian personnel.

In order to support our colleagues in Ukraine, international medical organisations have come together to collect funds and send medical supplies to those in need. This sign of solidarity is fundamental in order to demonstrate that medical professionals stand above politics. It is our duty to preserve health and to save lives in times of war, just as it is in peacetime.

The Israeli Medical Association and the German Medical Association have agreed to further strengthen our cooperation, specifically in relation to our core tasks and mandates, to build bridges between the physicians in our respective countries.

The German Medical Association and the Israeli Medical Association recognise the important essential achievements of both our Associations in producing CME. In order to develop this and continue to provide our physicians with the most effective educational opportunities, it is clear that there is a need for international cooperation of our Medical Associations

Continuing medical education, the process through which professionally active physicians continuously update and expand their medical knowledge and skills while enhancing professional competence, is an integral part of the medical profession and a physician's professional duties. The aim of continuing education is to consistently improve the quality of medical treatment and, in so doing, ensure a high quality of care for patients. Regular continuing education is therefore an important contributor to quality assurance.

The Israeli Medical Association and the German Medical Association seek to underscore this key component of medical professionalism by enabling the mutual recognition of continuing education successfully completed in Israel and Germany. Having established the equivalence of our systems of certification for continuing education activities, we recommend that the competent authorities in our respective countries, the Israeli Medical Association Scientific Council and the German State Chambers of Physicians, allow the mutual recognition of certificates of participation without further detailed assessment.

This agreement reinforces the spirit of continued collaboration between the Israeli Medical Association and the German Medical Association and allows us to strengthen our friendship

while improving the professional lives of physicians and the quality of care offered to patients in both of our countries.