



To whom it may concern,

April 15, 2025

We, Professor Vered Blass, Senior Researcher at IIASA and Director of the Archimedes Center, responsible for academic relations between Israeli academic institutions and IIASA, and Professor Itai Sened, the representative and Head of the Israel NMO at IIASA and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel Aviv University, are appalled by the recent accusations against IIASA published in the Austrian press and circulated on social media.

Israel joined IIASA in 2017 and has never encountered any antisemitic or anti-Israeli sentiments or expressions from the organization's management. We have commended and recommended the leadership of Professor Schellnhuber and the entire IIASA leadership team as exemplary in navigating today's complex socio-political situation and have been sharing this view with anyone willing to listen. IIASA has always been a safe haven for research diplomacy for all its members, including Israel. Especially in today's complicated geo-political climate, we have always received fair, respectful, and professional support.

Over the past two years, following the renewal of Israel's membership and the appointment of a new leadership team under Professor Schellnhuber, Israel's collaboration with IIASA has grown and expanded significantly. Joint programs aimed at encouraging and fostering research and policy exchanges between Israeli scientists and policymakers have been established, with many more initiatives and programs planned for the coming two years. Israeli scientists have been employed at IIASA since 2018 and are currently involved in a large and ever-growing range of research programs.

Furthermore, and especially during the complex last 18 months—IIASA's science diplomacy efforts, which bring together scientists from countries such as Iran, Egypt, South Africa, and Israel, have demonstrated the unique and vital role the Institute plays both regionally and globally. This has been especially significant for the academic community in Israel, and the academic communities across all member countries.

Any attempt to portray IIASA or Professor Schellnhuber as anti-Israeli or antisemitic is entirely false, misleading, and devoid of any factual basis. IIASA has always been—and will continue to be—a global leader in promoting science and knowledge as the foundation for diplomacy, building bridges between countries and people.

Professor Itai Sened

Professor Vered Blass

