

**Israel, South Africa: Relations stuck in a time warp - opinion**

South Africa's boycott of Israel prevents the sort of fruitful cooperation seen in Israel's relations across Africa.

By Mark Regev / April 14, 2022

The institution committed to unity in Africa has been decidedly disunited on Israel. The African Union (AU) has been split over granting Israel official observer status, exposing serious fault lines regarding the Jewish state in the organization that brings together the continent's 55 countries.

On one side, there is the growing list of African states that have positive ties with Israel and support Israel becoming an AU observer. On the other, there are countries adamantly opposed to upgrading Israel's status.

Among Israel's AU friends are states from across sub-Saharan Africa: Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia, to name but a few. With some of these countries, Israel's ties date back decades.

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