

On the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly

**The Situation in Gaza and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution
as the path to just and comprehensive peace**

A Ministerial Meeting

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Thursday 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Concept Note

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

The war in the Gaza Strip, the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, the dangerous escalation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the recent dangerous escalation in the region have caused and are causing unspeakable horrors, tremendous human loss and suffering, and are threatening not only the Middle East but world peace and security.

War, sieges, starvation, taking and targeting of civilians, destruction of civilian infrastructure, terror, and violence have never brought and will never bring peace and security to the peoples of Palestine, Israel and the region. Dangerous escalation will continue to re-emerge in increasing lethality if the root causes of the conflict are not properly and immediately addressed.

As members of the international community, we cannot remain idle towards such dangers, atrocities and suffering. We have a duty towards maintaining international peace and security, and protecting the peoples of the region and humanity from the risks and brutality of war.

We must act to ensure accountability with full respect to international law, taking into account the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19th July 2024, and the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions.

For decades, the international community represented at the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Security Council, has reiterated its unwavering commitment to the vision of the two-State solution and urged an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, but to no avail. Unfortunately, support for the two-State solution in both Israel and Palestine has receded and the two peoples are losing hope of peace. Moreover, the very possibility of the future of the implementation of the two-State solution is in grave danger, due to settlement activities and other unilateral illegal measures, and violations undermining its prospects. It has become an urgent matter that the international community intervenes to protect the two-State solution before it is too late.

It is clear that waiting for a negotiated settlement to end the occupation can no longer be an option. Words and promises are no longer sufficient, a steadfast commitment and concrete measures towards implementation of the two-State solution are needed more than ever. This is the only way to guarantee the fulfillment of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, and to achieve peaceful coexistence, security and prosperity, and ensure a better future for all the peoples in the Middle East and beyond.

AIM OF THE MEETING

The United Nations General Assembly high-level week represents an opportunity and a platform for the international community, not only to reiterate the support for the two-State solution, but also, and more importantly, to plan and coordinate ways and means to implement this solution, including through mitigating any obstacles and supporting incentives and opportunities for its effective realization. The only viable way to achieve the two State Solution is through the concretization of a sovereign, independent, viable, contiguous Palestinian State on the basis of the 4 June 1967 lines, including East Jerusalem, and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, including the right to self-determination, in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

A high-level side event will be held for this purpose on 26 September 2024, with a view to forming a global alliance of UN members and international and regional organizations to support the current diplomatic efforts to reach a permanent cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages and detainees, to address the humanitarian suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza, and to advance an irreversible path of joint efforts and concrete measures in support of upholding international law, ending the occupation and realizing the two-State solution with a clear timeline. The objective of this diplomatic initiative is to materialize in practice the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, living side by side in peace, security and dignity, as a necessary step towards peace. This endeavor should be guided by a conviction that Palestinian statehood cannot be a byproduct of peace, but rather a prerequisite of peace.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Following the discussion, the organizers intend to present their concrete proposals for practical follow-up meetings, at senior working level, in Riyadh, Brussels, Cairo, Oslo, Amman, and Ankara that will focus on action points identified in the Ministerial meeting to advance UN and all related peace efforts, in the context of the implementation of the two-State solution.

The aim of this initiative would therefore be to advance the implementation of the two-State solution rather than to “revive” or to “relaunch” another endless process. The international community would remain engaged, shouldering its responsibilities and accompanying the parties by fulfilling their commitments in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations

resolutions, ensuring accountability and the end of illegal measures threatening the two-State solution.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Members of the United Nations, the United Nations Secretary-General, and representatives of the relevant United Nations agencies and international and regional organizations are invited to attend the meeting with the aim to advance coordination of the implementation of the two-State solution and support the United Nations and all other relevant peace efforts

STRUCTURE

After the welcoming remarks and the keynote presentation, the floor will be open for interventions by Foreign Ministers and Heads of organizations for a maximum of two minutes per speaker.

LANGUAGES OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be held in three (3) working languages of the United Nations namely Arabic, English, and French.

FORMAT

Minister/Head of organization + 2

REGISTRATION & LOGISTICS:

Kindly follow the link to register your attendance, including indicating the request to make an intervention: <https://forms.gle/Rb6DLgDza1KW1VE77>

Special Pass:

A special pass is required to attend the meeting. Passes can be collected from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the UN, 809 UN Plaza #10, New York, NY 10017.

Contact Persons:

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