

The Role of Parliaments in Advancing a Two-State Solution in Palestine

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 150th IPU Assembly (Tashkent, 9 April 2025)

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the Middle East conflict, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 2334 (2016), which established the principles for the resolution of this conflict, in particular the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, as well as those of the United Nations General Assembly, including resolutions 181 (II) (1947), 194 (III) (1948), 58/292 (2004), 67/19 (2012), 73/18 (2018), and the most recent resolution 79/81 (2024) on Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, which expressed unwavering support, in accordance with international law, for a two-State solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict based on the 1967 borders, with both States living side by side in peace and security,

Recalling also the IPU's numerous resolutions and statements since 1988 on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which have consistently emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution based on international law and mutual recognition, reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, opposed illegal settlements, condemned all acts of terrorism and violent attacks, and called for urgent humanitarian action, while supporting international efforts to achieve a two-State solution,

Acknowledging the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its devastating human toll, including population displacement, loss of life and regional instability, and its significant intensification since 7 October 2023, which has resulted in a substantial number of deaths, the taking of hostages and escalating violence, leading to a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exacerbated by dire living conditions and restricted access to essential resources,

Firmly believing that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extends beyond being a regional issue, and that its repercussions are being felt globally, including through the export of tensions to other parts of the world, fuelling divisions within communities, influencing international relations, weakening international law, including international humanitarian law, and impacting global peace and security, while complicating efforts towards multilateral cooperation,

Expressing deep concern over the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories and the expansion of Israeli settlements in violation of international law and the prohibition of territorial acquisition by force, in contradiction to the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood based on the 1967 borders within the framework of a two-State solution, as well as the critical role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in upholding international legal norms and providing advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities,

Deeply concerned by the grave violations of the fundamental rights, dignity and safety of civilians – with children, women and girls, and people with disabilities bearing a particular burden as the most vulnerable members of affected communities – as the ongoing conflict continues to cause population displacement, destroy livelihoods, restrict humanitarian access and exacerbate inequalities, leaving lasting physical, psychological and socioeconomic impacts on individuals, families and entire communities,

Recognizing that acts of violence, terrorism against civilians and the use of starvation as a method of warfare constitute serious breaches of international humanitarian law and that State actions must fully comply with human rights obligations and the rule of law,

Deeply convinced that a two-State solution is the only viable path to break the cycle of violence and ensure security, prosperity and equal rights for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, in line with international law and the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity, and that key steps towards this goal include: an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the release of hostages and political prisoners; the universal recognition of Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and the cessation of illegal settlement activities, as peace cannot be achieved through force or occupation,

Highlighting the unique role of parliaments, including regional parliamentary bodies, in advancing dialogue, diplomacy and peacebuilding to support a two-State solution, while making use of their core functions to uphold international law, ensure government accountability, facilitate inclusive debate and consensus-building, promote human rights, protect vulnerable groups, allocate funds for humanitarian aid and reconstruction, and foster international cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy to encourage the peaceful resolution of the conflict,

1. Calls on parliaments to urge their governments to advocate for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the lifting of the blockade to enable the free movement of people and goods, facilitated access to humanitarian aid and the release of hostages and political prisoners, in view of ending the war, which has left only death and destruction in its wake;
2. Calls on the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to promote human dignity and safeguard fundamental rights by taking all actions necessary to protect civilians, particularly children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly, ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access and supporting the safe delivery of essential supplies; and in this regard:
 - a. Reaffirms its support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as a vital provider of humanitarian aid, education and healthcare services to Palestinians;
 - b. Urges the Parliament of Israel to: review its decision to ban UNRWA's operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT); and to support the implementation of education for peace initiatives;

- c. Requests that parliaments provide financial support to UNRWA and other humanitarian organizations working in Gaza and the OPT more broadly to alleviate suffering and support recovery efforts;
3. Strongly encourages parliaments to enhance oversight of their governments' foreign policy actions to ensure compliance with international law, including the implementation of transparent arms export control measures, the monitoring of transfers of arms and military equipment to countries in conflict, and the protection of human rights;
4. Advises parliaments to monitor and promote respect for the ICJ's advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities;
5. Urges parliaments to use their legislative powers to enact or amend laws in order to reinforce support for a two-State solution, ensuring the recognition of both Israel and Palestine as independent sovereign States;
6. Appeals to parliaments to advocate for their governments to support the recognition of Palestinian statehood, including the accession of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations, as a key step towards a two-State solution, and to back the implementation of a comprehensive peace process, led by the United Nations, aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
7. Expresses its hope for strengthened parliamentary diplomacy aimed at facilitating dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives, supporting a two-State solution and fostering peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, through direct engagement with inter-parliamentary institutions and networks, multilateral parliamentary forums and relevant United Nations agencies;
8. Strongly encourages the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to engage in indirect parliamentary diplomacy, facilitated by neutral third parties such as the IPU, promoting dialogue and cooperation on shared issues of concern, including security, health, education, humanitarian access, economic development and environmental protection;
9. Invites parliaments to provide financial and technical support for electoral processes and their follow-up in due time in Palestine to allow for the holding of regular, free, fair and transparent elections, and to promote democracy, good governance, peace and security;
10. Urges parliaments to participate in, and the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, monitoring of the political situation and electoral processes in both Israel and Palestine, including through the deployment of election observation missions;
11. Calls on parliaments and regional parliamentary bodies to provide, and on the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, technical assistance, including legislative capacity-building support, to the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, with the aim of strengthening their core parliamentary functions in support of peace, democracy and a two-State solution, including the promotion of State-building and the rule of law, legislative reform, oversight of government actions, citizens' engagement, and effective participation in international peacebuilding processes;

12. Invites regional parliamentary bodies to leverage their unique position to share good practices encouraging cross-border cooperation and joint actions on economic development, to discuss shared challenges such as water management and environmental protection, and to support parliamentary diplomacy and foster peace in the Middle East region;
13. Encourages the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt and implement gender-responsive legislation and policies that protect the rights and dignity of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and promote the role of women as peacebuilders;
14. Urges parliaments to promote, in the Middle East region, the creation of initiatives that support peace education, youth empowerment, non-violence programmes aimed at fostering a culture of peace and coexistence, mutual understanding including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and the prevention of violent extremism, while prioritizing the principles of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security agendas;
15. Also urges parliaments to promote a common security approach in the pursuit of a two-State solution, recognizing that the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples is interdependent, and to take measures that build mutual trust, ensure the protection of civilians, and prevent actions that exacerbate tensions;
16. Calls on the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt a human security approach in their day-to-day work, prioritizing the protection and well-being of individuals and communities on both sides and addressing the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, population displacement and inequality, in support of peace, stability, dignity and the realization of a sustainable two-State solution;
17. Recommends that the IPU transform its Committee on Middle East Questions into a Strategic Task Force on the Middle East, composed of equal numbers of representatives from all IPU geopolitical groups, with a mandate to support dialogue and facilitate indirect parliamentary diplomacy between the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, and to monitor and report on commitments related to humanitarian access, the protection of vulnerable groups, and peace education, as well as on steps taken towards the achievement of a two-State solution, taking into account the global impact of the conflict.