



# **Florence Model United Nations**

## ***Research Guide***

*Organized by the International School of Florence*

**Committee: Security Council**

**Topic:** 1. Discussing a path towards lasting peace and security in post-conflict Palestine

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## I. Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one that began long before the October 7th Hamas attack, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of political Zionism and Arab nationalism. Historical events such as the 1947 Partition Plan, the Arab uprising and subsequent wars, including various INTIFADA's and cross exchange conflicts of 1967 and 1973. Key United Nations resolutions like Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) have laid foundational principles for peace negotiations, emphasizing territorial integrity, sovereignty, and a just resolution to refugee issues.

In the most recent phase of this conflict, particularly regarding the humanitarian crisis and famine that plagues the palestinian people, we must discuss how their future can coincide with Israel's desires for expansion and safety.

Our committee will focus on developing practical recommendations grounded in existing UN frameworks, while considering new ideas from global stakeholders. We invite you to engage deeply with these complex issues through rigorous research supported by credible sources listed throughout this guide.

### Note on clauses Important\*\*\*\*

As delegates will be debating as part of the security council UN-Body, resolutions are binding. Therefore **specific** clauses must be presented. Whether they are extreme or biased is not of a concern. The point is to provide some type of realistic solution. Whether this means more peace negotiations or a declaration of war, what is important is not necessarily the content of clauses but how well the content is presented and applicable. We strongly urge delegates to think out of the box instead of dancing around vague solutions that are very diplomatic but very impractical. (Its security council dont be scared to be cutthroat :)

## II. Definition of Key Terms

- **Intifada:** An uprising or rebellion, particularly referring to periods of intense Palestinian protests and violence against Israeli occupation. There have been two major intifadas: the First Intifada (1987-1993) and the Second Intifada (2000-2005)
- **Occupation:** Refers to Israel's control over the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 1967, which is considered illegal under international law. It involves military presence, settlements expansion, and restrictions on Palestinian movement.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA) / Palestinian National Authority (PNA):** The administrative body governing parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since its establishment in 1994 following Oslo Accords
- **Hamas:** A political organization controlling Gaza since 2007; it is designated as a terrorist group by many Western countries but enjoys significant support within Gaza

- **Settlements:** Jewish communities built on land captured by Israel during wars, primarily in the West Bank; their construction is widely regarded as illegal under international law due to being established on occupied territory.
- **Right of Return:** The principle that Palestinian refugees from past conflicts should be allowed to return to their ancestral homes or receive compensation if they choose not to return; this remains a contentious issue in peace negotiations.
- **Blockade:** Restrictions imposed by Israel on movement into/out of Gaza.
- **Iron Dome:** An Israeli missile defense system designed to intercept short-range rockets fired from Gaza.
- **Administrative Detention:** Imprisonment without charge or trial used by Israel against Palestinians.

### III. General Overview (as of 2024)

A fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas went into effect on January 19th, with the first six-weeks of the deal ushering in a pause to fighting, the staggered release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and an influx of aid to Gaza.

#### Key Components of the Deal

##### Ceasefire Stages:

- The deal involves a three-stage process:: A six-week ceasefire with an exchange of hostages and prisoners. Hamas would release Israeli hostages (initially focusing on women, children, and elderly) in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

##### Hostage Exchange:

- Initially, Hamas released three female hostages immediately after the ceasefire took effect on January 19, 2025.
- Further exchanges involve releasing more Israeli hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

##### Humanitarian Aid:

- The agreement allows for increased humanitarian aid deliveries into Gaza to alleviate severe shortages affecting its population.

#### Withdrawal of Troops:

- Israel is expected to withdraw its troops from populated areas in Gaza during the initial stages.

#### Reconstruction Plans:

- Long-term plans include rebuilding infrastructure damaged during the conflict over several years

### **To consider externally from the deal**

#### Casualties and Displacement

- Over 45,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, with more than 111,000 injured.
- Approximately 90% of the population has been displaced.

#### Food Insecurity

- Almost all Gazans rely on humanitarian aid due to extreme food insecurity; about 96% do not have enough food and or are in a famine state.
- The risk of famine persists across the entire strip.

#### Healthcare Crisis

- The healthcare system is on the brink of collapse due to extensive damage to hospitals and a lack of medical supplies.
- Urgent medical evacuations are needed for life-saving care that cannot be provided locally.

#### Infrastructure Damage

- Essential infrastructure such as water supply systems is severely damaged, leading to public health risks like dehydration and infectious diseases.

#### Aid Delivery Challenges

- Despite some aid entering through land routes, access remains limited due to border closures (e.g., Rafah crossing).

#### Impact on Vulnerable Groups

- Over 13,000 children have reportedly been killed as of November 2024; many more are injured or separated from their families (estimated at around 17,000). Malnutrition affects a significant portion of children under five years old—about 335,000 are at high risk.
- Thousands require psychosocial support due to trauma experienced during ongoing conflicts.

#### Current Response Efforts

- Organizations like the Palestine Red Crescent Society continue providing emergency relief items and health services despite immense challenges. This crisis underscores urgent needs for increased humanitarian access and support in Gaza to prevent further deterioration.

## IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views

**Israel:** Led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's government includes far-right factions that prioritize settlement expansion and security. Emphasizes security concerns, including threats from Hamas rockets and terrorism. Supports a two-state solution but conditions it on Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

### **Palestine**

a) **Fatah:** The primary party within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), led by Yasser Arafat. Advocates for a secular stance and supports a two-state solution with negotiations based on pre-1967 borders.

b) **Hamas:** An Islamist group that has been governing Gaza since 2007. Committed to resisting Israeli occupation through armed struggle; historically opposed to recognizing Israel's right to exist but has hinted at accepting temporary truces or ceasefires under certain conditions.

**United States:** A strong ally of Israel providing significant military aid. However, there are criticisms over civilian casualties during conflicts with a majority of the population not in favor of the country's military support of Israel. Recently, President Donald Trump proposed a controversial plan involving the United States taking control of Gaza, suggesting that Palestinians could be resettled elsewhere while the area is rebuilt into a "Riviera of the Middle East." This proposal has sparked significant debate and criticism both domestically and internationally. Historically, U.S. policy has supported a two-state

solution for Israel and Palestine; however, Trump's proposals deviate from this stance by not insisting on Palestinian statehood alongside Israel's

**European Union:** Generally supports Palestinian rights while condemning violence from both sides; emphasizes need for negotiated peace based on international law principles.

**Russia & China:** Maintains diplomatic contact with both sides without openly condemning Hamas actions; emphasizes regional stability over specific policy stances towards either party as well as their infamous non-interference stance.

**Iran:** Supports Hamas financially and militarily due to shared anti-Israeli sentiments; denies direct involvement in recent attacks despite speculation about its role in planning them.

## V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles

### 1. UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947):

This resolution proposed the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration.

### 2. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967):

Adopted after the Six-Day War, it emphasizes withdrawal from occupied territories and a just peace with secure borders for all states in the region.

### 3. UN Security Council Resolution 338 (1973):

Called for a ceasefire following the Yom Kippur War and reaffirmed Resolution 242's principles.

### 4. UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016):

Demanded an end to Israeli settlement activities in occupied Palestinian territory as they undermine a two-state solution.

### 5. Recent Non-Binding Resolutions:

The UN General Assembly has passed several non-binding resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories and supporting a two-state solution, such as those demanding cessation of settlement activities

## VI. Questions to Consider

- What are some successful models or precedents from other post-conflict regions that could inform our approach? E.g. Azerbaijan and Armenia, Ireland, and the UK, Rwanda and DRC
- What role should international organizations play in supporting negotiations? To what extent should NGOs have the power to create change and how must this be regulated?
- To what extent could certain "relocations" of the Palestinian people be considered ethnic cleansing?

- How can socio-economic cooperation between Israel and Palestine enhance mutual trust?
- What regulations and legislation should be put in place so as to ensure that the Palestinian people can receive compensation for their damaged infrastructure?
- What security measures could be implemented to protect both Israeli citizens from militant attacks and Palestinian civilians from military actions?
- How might an agreement on refugee rights impact broader negotiations for a two-state solution?
- How can international law enforcement mechanisms ensure compliance with agreements reached during negotiations?

## **VII. Conclusion**

As delegates prepare to engage in discussions on achieving lasting peace and security in post-conflict Palestine, it is crucial to understand the complex historical context, current challenges, and diverse perspectives involved. This guide has provided an overview of key events, UN resolutions like Resolution 181 (1947), recent humanitarian crises, major parties involved (including Israel, Palestine with Fatah and Hamas), and international actors such as the United States.

### **Key Takeaways**

- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is deeply rooted in historical events such as the Balfour Declaration (1917) and UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947).
- : Ongoing issues include settlements expansion, Jerusalem's status, refugee rights, economic development opportunities within Palestinian territories.
- Recent escalations have led to severe humanitarian conditions in Gaza with significant displacement and food insecurity.
- Various international actors play critical roles; U.S. policies under different administrations have significantly influenced negotiations.

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