

Ms. Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Hon. David Lammy MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs, UK

Mr. Marco Antonio Rubio, Secretary of State, United States

Mr. Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Mr. Johann Wadephul, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany

Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU

Dear Ministers,

A word of introduction: The Policy Working Group is a voluntary team of senior Israeli academics, former diplomats, political analysts, and human rights defenders who advocate for international involvement to expedite a resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict based on the two-state solution.

International peace and security and global economic stability are high on the agenda of the upcoming Kananaskis summit, and the Russia-Ukraine war and Iranian nuclear program will likely dominate the discussions. While we recognize the importance of these issues, we wish to stress the potential for global destabilization if the Middle East in general and Israel-Palestine in particular are not addressed.

The international community has demonstrated alarm over the humanitarian disaster in Gaza and is invested in discussions on shaping the “day after.” These discussions, however, tend to focus on the question of Gaza governance and reconstruction. Except for general statements about a future two-state solution, they largely fail to address the broader issue of ending the occupation and resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. We believe that the end of the Gaza war must constitute a pivotal moment in the history of Israeli-Palestinian relations and that the G-7 has the moral responsibility and political authority to ensure that it leads to an era of Middle East peace.

All G-7 member states have declared commitment to the two-state solution but have yet to recognize the State of Palestine. We firmly believe that recognition is not a prize to be awarded by this or any future Israeli Government. Statehood is the right of the Palestinians in accordance with international resolutions on self-determination of nations and the UN Partition Plan of 1947. Recognition of the State of Palestine at this time would align with the UNSC resolution 2334 of Dec. 2016 and the ICJ advisory opinion on the illegality of the occupation and convey to the Israeli Government that settlement expansion will never undermine the legitimacy of the Palestinians’ right to the territory occupied in 1967. Furthermore, it would afford the Palestinians *parity of esteem* when the two sides enter the negotiations room, as they ultimately will.

Plans are underway for a peace summit to be held in June under the joint leadership of France and Saudi Arabia. We urge you to respond to President Macron’s attempts to rally support for recognition of Palestine at the summit. Several of your governments have said that they are waiting for the most appropriate time. That time is now.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

  
Amb. (ret.) Ilan Baruch  
PWG Chairperson

  
Ms. Susie Becher  
PWG Communications Director

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CHAIRPERSON  
Amb. (ret.) Ilan Baruch

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Prof. David Harel \* Prof. Dan Jacobson \* Prof. Menachem Klein \* Amb. (ret.) Dr. Alon Liel \* Mr. Shemuel Meir  
Prof. Yossi Mekelberg \* Ms. Jessica Montell \* Mr. Mossi Raz \* Mr. Hillel Schenker \* Prof. Dmitry Shumsky \* Mr. Nadav Tamir

*“We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.”* (Nelson Mandela, 1997)