



[Palestinian President Abbas Calls for an International Conference Early Next Year Regarding the Middle East Peace Process](#)

In a recent virtual address to the U.N. General Assembly, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas urged the global community to convene an international conference early next year in order to work towards a genuine peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. Abbas emphasized that Palestinians remain committed to the Arab Peace Initiative, which calls for Arab nations to normalize their relations with Israel in conjunction with Palestinian statehood and Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory. As such, impartial observers have denounced the Israeli normalization agreements signed by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in the preceding weeks for being completely devoid of any fair or just concessions to the Palestinians, elements that are necessary to achieve any meaningful progress in the Middle East peace process.

During his speech to the United Nations, Abbas stated that the normalization agreements signed at the White House a couple of weeks ago are a violation of the “principles of a just and lasting solution under international law” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. There is an unwavering consensus among the global community that positive progress cannot be made regarding the issue so long as Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian territory continues. Thus, any accord which does not include this as an agreed-upon element and completely ignores the major issues at the heart of the conflict will only serve to prolong injustice. If there is in fact anything that the agreements between the United Arab Emirates/Bahrain and Israel normalize, it is Israeli occupation and the status quo. Essentially, under the terms of the treaties, the Israeli government is being rewarded with normalization and the formal opening of ties with the two respective Gulf regimes despite making no fair concessions to the Palestinians. Therefore, a potential international conference which would allow for headway to be made on the issue is necessary, since the recent normalization agreements accomplish nothing by way of true progress towards a just resolution.

Under Abbas, the Palestinians rejected U.S. President Trump’s Mideast Peace Plan, which was released earlier this year in February and widely-criticized for failing to address these core principles and being an unjust proposal in favor of Israel. Due to this and other biased moves made over the past few years, Abbas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) have cut off contacts with the United States, arguing that the current U.S. administration under Trump is no longer an honest broker between Israelis and Palestinians. Instead, Palestinian officials have advocated for a multilateral peace process based on past agreements and U.N. resolutions, and for this reason, Abbas is appealing to international actors to remain engaged in these efforts.

Ultimately, it is misguided to think that a legitimate resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved by ignoring one side’s positions, stances which are also universally deemed to be fundamental to the advancement of the Middle East peace process. These vital issues must be addressed if real progress is going to be made on the matter. Without fair concessions to the Palestinians, Israel’s normalization agreements with regimes in the region are insufficient in bringing about positive change.