

ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Middle East Peace Process

Sponsored by Indonesia and Japan

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

Stressing that the chronic instability in the Middle East is the consequence of the unsettled Arab – Israeli conflicts, including the unending Israeli – Palestinian conflict and the recent political tension across borderlines between Israel and other Arab countries (Lebanon, and Syria), as well as the prolonged crisis in Iraq;

Expressing deep concern at the aggravated instability and continued violence in Iraq, in particular against innocent civilians;

Being convinced that the internationally-backed plan for the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State is principal factor of peace settlement in the Arab – Israeli conflict;

Being convinced also that the peace settlement of the Israeli – Palestinian conflicts can be reached if the peace talks are conducted without excluding any party in the conflict, and address impartially the core issues including borders, fate of Palestinian refugees, settlements, security and status of Jerusalem;

Reaffirming that the normalisation of the prolonged crisis in Iraq requires internal dialogue involving representatives of all leading ethnic-faith groups and political forces to reach reconciliation and agreement, and **being concerned** with the need to ensure that Iraq will resume control of internal security as a matter of priority. Foreign forces will gradually withdraw;

Reiterating the Resolution on Middle East Peace Process adopted by the 15th Annual Meeting of Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in 2007 concerning a just and everlasting solution for the Arab – Israeli conflict which must be based on the Madrid “Land for Peace” principle, UN Security Council Resolutions No.242, 338, 1397, and 1515, and other previous agreements including those reached in Oslo, as well as the Middle East Road Map 2003;

Convinced that achieving a final and peaceful settlement of the issue of Palestine is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

Hoping that the Palestinians will continue to unite their efforts to peacefully establish a Palestinian state that co-exists with Israel;

Deeply concerned by the tragic events that have occurred, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries;

Expressing support for the Middle East peace process and the efforts to reach a final and lasting settlement between the Israeli and the Palestinian sides as quickly as possible;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call on** the international community to intensify its efforts in bringing the Middle East crisis to an end, and take all actions necessary to return the conflicting parties to the negotiating table, without excluding any party in the conflict, in order to reach a comprehensive and lasting solution;
2. **Call on** all APPF Member Parliaments to make positive contributions to creating peace in the Middle East, especially in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq, based on justice, respect for sovereignty, and free from foreign domination;
3. **Reaffirm** the need to immediately promote national reconciliation, peace, democracy and cooperation in Iraq, and **emphasise** that the political tension in Iraq is an internal matter;
4. **Reaffirm** the international community's commitment to supporting Iraqi efforts to maintain peace and order, urge the need for a gradual withdrawal of all foreign forces currently in Iraq, and call for, where necessary, the deployment of a peace-keeping forces under the auspices of the United Nations;
5. **Look forward** to the outcome of negotiations over the occupation of the Golan Heights, the southern part of Lebanon, and other Arab lands to 1967 borders;
6. **Urge** Israel to fulfill its initial obligations stipulated in the Roadmap Plan including freezing West Bank settlements, dismantling illegal settlement outposts, easing Palestinian movements and the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the West Bank;
7. **Call on** Palestine and Israel to realise the idea of peaceful coexistence between the two independent and sovereign states - Palestine and Israel - living side by side in peace and security based on the UN resolutions, and Peace Road Map Plan 2003 which are internationally recognised;
8. **Strongly urge** both the Israeli and the Palestinian sides to enhance their efforts—and in particular to exercise mutual self-restraint—in order to stop immediately the ongoing tragic violence, and also strongly urge both sides to take all necessary steps for a commitment to the Roadmap for Peace and for avoiding new provocation by all members including Israel and the Palestinian Authority and other parties concerned, in order to promote the prospects for the Middle East peace process;
9. **Encourage** all the parties concerned to make efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; affirm again that establishment of a Palestinian state and border security for the State of Israel are essential elements of a permanent peace;

and call upon Israel and the Palestinian Authority to strive for building a proper environment for establishing a Palestinian state;

10. **Seek** the active cooperation of Gulf nations and strongly call upon all APPF countries to continue to extend as much support and cooperation as possible to the Middle East peace process;
11. **Promote** dialogue among parliamentarians of the APPF Member Countries to support the efforts taken by the international community as well as outcomes resulted by negotiations at all levels and frameworks, regional and international, bilateral and multilateral, in order to find better solutions in the Middle East peace process.