

**MEPP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
DRAFT JOINT DECLARATION**

I) Following the Ministerial meeting held in Paris on 3 June 2016, the Participants met in Paris on 15 January 2017 to reaffirm their support for a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They reaffirmed that a negotiated solution with two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, is the only way to achieve enduring peace.

They emphasized the importance for the parties to restate their commitment to this solution, to take urgent steps in order to reverse the current negative trends on the ground, including continued acts of violence and ongoing settlement activity, and to start meaningful direct negotiations.

They reiterated that a negotiated two-state solution should meet the legitimate aspirations of both peoples, including satisfying Israel's security needs and Palestinian right to statehood and sovereignty, fully end the occupation that began in 1967, and resolve all permanent status issues on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

They also recalled relevant Security Council resolutions and underscored the Arab Peace Initiative as a vision for a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, thus contributing to regional peace and security.

They welcomed the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 on 23 December 2016, which clearly condemned settlement activity, incitement and all acts of violence, including acts of terror, and called on both sides to take steps to advance the two-state solution on the ground. They took note of the report of the Quartet of 1 July 2016 and its recommendations for both sides to take concrete steps to preserve the two-state solution, to prevent entrenching a one-state reality of perpetual occupation and conflict, and to create the conditions for final status negotiations. They noted with particular interest United States Secretary of State's remarks on 28 December 2016, in which he stressed that no solution could be imposed and outlined his vision of principles for a final status agreement.

They noted the importance of addressing the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and called upon all parties to take swift steps to produce a fundamental change to the political, security and economic situation of that territory.

They emphasized the importance for Israelis and Palestinians to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, ensuring accountability.

II) The Participants highlighted the potential for security, stability and prosperity for both parties that could result from a peace agreement. They expressed their readiness to exert necessary efforts toward the achievement of the two-state solution and to contribute substantially to arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of a negotiated peace agreement, in particular in the areas of political and economic incentives, the consolidation of Palestinian state capacities, and civil society dialogue. Those could include, inter alia:

- a European special privileged partnership; other political and economic incentives and increased private sector involvement; support to further efforts by the parties to improve economic cooperation; continued financial support to the Palestinian authority in building the infrastructure for a viable Palestinian economy;
- concrete support to the implementation of the Palestinian Statehood Strategy and to the consolidation of Palestinian institutions and institutional capacities, including further meetings between international partners and the Palestinian side to that effect;

- convening Israeli and Palestinian civil society fora, in order to enhance dialogue between the parties, rekindle the public debate and strengthen the role of civil society on both sides.

III) Looking ahead, the Participants:

- call upon both sides to officially restate their commitment to the two-state solution, thus countering voices that reject this solution;
- call on each side to independently demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to the two-state solution and refrain from unilateral steps that prejudge the outcome of final status negotiations, in order to rebuild trust and create a path back to meaningful direct negotiations;
- restate the validity of the Arab Peace Initiative and highlight its potential for stability in the region;
- reaffirm that they will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;
- welcome the prospect of closer cooperation between the Quartet and Arab League members and other relevant actors to further the objectives of this Declaration and enhance, if necessary, existing mechanisms;
- welcome the readiness of interested Participants to review progress, including on development of economic and political incentives, and to inform the United Nations.

France will inform the parties about the international community's collective support and concrete contribution to the two-State solution contained in this joint declaration.
