

PALESTINIAN ISRAELI WORKING GROUP – SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS VERSION 5 ('MID-AFTERNOON' - SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2007)

Preamble

The purpose of this paper is to summarize recommendations that reflect a broad consensus in the group. We recommend that these be shared with policy and decision makers.

We recommend that the process of preparing for the steps below must not be allowed to prevent the implementation of immediate short-term beneficial measures. We believe the principles of mutual obligation and reciprocity should replace conditionality and sequentiality.

Key Points

1. We believe that progress should be made in regional and bilateral tracks in parallel.
2. With respect to the Palestinian - Israeli track, which we consider to be the core issue, we recommend that the parties move immediately toward a comprehensive binding agreement under which a joint vision and declaration of principles will clearly articulate the "end game" and the process (steps and timetable) for reaching it.
3. The Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 (API) provides a sound basis for moving forward on this effort to reach an agreement. We recommend that Israel publicly acknowledge the API as providing a constructive platform to engage in the bilateral tracks. This could be furthered by:
 - A visit by a senior Israeli official to the Arab League, and/or via a visit of a senior Arab representative to Israel.
 - An international conference led by the Quartet
4. In parallel, but not contingent upon the above, each side should re-affirm and implement its commitments contained in previous agreements (including but not limited to, those obligations included in the Roadmap, the Sharm El-Sheikh, and other agreements).
5. In addition, the following steps should be implemented immediately:
 - Strict enforcement of the bilateral ceasefire in Gaza by both sides, and its extension to the West Bank, to be coordinated on a continuing basis with international assistance, with active measures to reduce violence and terror;
 - Prisoner releases by both sides;
 - Further release of all tax revenues;
 - Implement AMA as a tangible step to improve the quality of life and economic situation of the Palestinian people
 - Payment of civil servants, including security personnel.
6. The parties should work with the International community to:
 - Establish monitoring and verifying mechanisms, as well as dispute-resolution means;
 - Deploy international forces in Gaza to ensure adherence to the present ceasefire.
7. The aim of all of the above steps is to create an enabling environment for a sustainable peace process.

**Athens.
28th January 2007**