

Draft PRST on the Middle East, including the Palestinian Questions

The Security Council expresses its great concern over the recent Israeli military incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which caused deplorable civilian casualties and injuries, and believes that such activities are in contradiction to the spirit of the agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

The Security Council is deeply concerned at the harmful humanitarian consequences of the Palestinian civilians caused by those military activities.

The Security Council welcomes the recent meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and expresses hope that the meeting could add a positive vigour to the efforts of finding viable solutions to the protracted conflict in the Middle East.

The Security Council calls upon all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any actions which could hinder possible progress emanated from the said agreement and the meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian leaders.

The Security Council stresses that there can be no military solution to the problems of the region and negotiation is the only viable way to bring peace and prosperity to peoples throughout the Middle East.

The Security Council underlines that action by the international community cannot be a substitute for determined measures by the parties themselves. The Security Council, therefore, encourages the parties to engage in direct negotiations.

The Security Council reaffirms its profound attachment to the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security, as envisaged in the Roadmap.

The Security Council reiterates the importance of, and the need to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and 1515 (2003), the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace.