

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an international organization that primarily focuses on helping governments tackle the economic, social, and government challenges of a globalized economy. OECD brings together the governments of countries that are committed to democracy and promoting a market economy from around the world in order to provide a setting where governments compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice, and coordinate domestic and international policies.

It is said that Israel requested to join the OECD and that this matter will be brought up on May 27-28, 2010 in Paris France. Excessive resources have been allocated in order for Israel to join and become a member of the OECD. If Israel is acknowledged and becomes a member of the OECD, especially during this time in which strong international pressure motivates for resuming peace talks with the Palestinians, it would confirm the Israeli government's belief of being above all types of law and authority free of fear of the consequences of their actions.

It is also important to note that there is underlying unease amongst some OECD members concerning Israel's request to join the OECD. However, with that said, this process has been concealed from the public, media, and politics in order to prevent any type of pressure.

The statistical information that Israel has gathered to endorse becoming a member of the OECD, is including data from East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and all Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recognizing this as Israel's de facto "economic territory". However, by the OECD recognizing this territory that is occupied by Israel and where countless restrictions are imposed on the Palestinians, totally obliterates the key vision and mission of the OECD which promotes human rights, democracy, market economy and sustainable development.

It is proposed that if the members of the OECD raise the following objections it would hopefully delay accession of Israel becoming an OECD member and would give more time to engage in discussion pertaining to this matter.

1. **Put consideration of Israel's respect for OECD values** (human rights, democracy, rule of law, development, open markets) explicitly **on the agenda of the forthcoming Council** meetings (on April 29 and May 6).
2. Accession process to be **put on hold pending or rejected a fuller assessment** prepared by the OECD Secretariat as to whether Israel can be judged to be in accordance with the OECD principles and related articles set out in the OECD constitution on human rights, the rule of law and support for sustainable development.
3. Ensure that Israel's accession is **properly considered by the** (given member state's) **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** in the context of OECD principles, international law obligations as well as the peace process efforts.
4. Not accept the proposed compromise on the issue of **statistics**. Put the accession on hold pending a fuller assessment of OECD member states' obligations under international law with regard to recognizing Israel's statistical data from illegal settlements.

5. **Overall: prevent Israel** until it has demonstrated major progress in its respect for HR, international law, Palestinians' rights to development and open trade, and peace process commitments.

If these issues are not met, and Israel becomes an official member of the OECD, this would ultimately denote that its daily measures against the Palestinians desecrate the value of which this international organization stands for so long as the settlements grow, apartheid lives, and the occupation breathes.