

Major Players on Permanent Status Issues in Middle East Peace Process

	Objectives	Palestinian Refugees	Borders	Jerusalem	Settlements	Palestinian Reconciliation	Recognition of Palestinian State
<u>European Union</u> (Council Conclusions, 23.5.2011; HR/VP, 20-23.5.2011)	- Two state solution with a secure Israel and "an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine."	- To be decided amongst the two negotiating parties.	- "Based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps "	- Negotiations needed to "resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of [the] two states. "	- All settlements in occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, are " illegal under international law," undermine trust, and constitute an obstacle to peace.	- " Welcomed " Cairo agreement, supports "reconciliation behind President Abbas. " - New Palestinian government should reject violence, recognise Israel's right to exist, and accept previous obligations and agreements.	- Ready to recognise Palestinian state "when appropriate." - As of yet, no unified EU position on potential UN vote; Member States views differ.
<u>United States</u> (President Obama, 19-22.5.2011)	- " Two states for two peoples," Israel as Jewish homeland and "sovereign and contiguous" Palestinian state, with " full and phased " withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Palestinian land.	- To be decided amongst the two negotiating parties.	- "Based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps " reflecting realities on the ground.	- To be decided amongst the two negotiating parties.	- Rejects the "legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity." ¹	- "Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection." - Hamas must recognise Israel's right to exist, reject violence, and adhere to all existing agreements.	- "No vote at the United Nations will ever create an independent Palestinian state." - "No peace can be imposed."

¹ United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, UN Security Council. 21.04.2011.

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<u>Israel</u> (PM Netanyahu, 24.5.2011)	- " Two states for two peoples," Israel recognised as Jewish state by PLO and demilitarised Palestinian state with long-term Israeli military presence on Jordan river (including PS-JO border).	- "The Palestinian refugee problem will be resolved outside the borders of Israel. " - Palestinians have right to return only to a future Palestinian state.	- "Israel will not return to the indefensible boundaries of 1967." - Israel will retain densely-populated settlements and areas of "critical strategic and national importance" outside 1967 borders. - Israel ready to make " painful compromises "; some settlements will remain outside final borders.	- " Jerusalem must remain the united capital of Israel " in accordance with 1980 Israeli Basic Law. - Israel can best guarantee freedom of worship to all faiths.	- " In Judea and Samaria [West Bank], the Jewish people are not foreign occupiers " due to "4,000-year old bond between the Jewish people and the Jewish land." - Referred to major settlements as " neighbourhoods and suburbs of Jerusalem and Greater Tel Aviv."	- Called for President Abbas to end "pact with Hamas." - "Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government backed by the Palestinian version of al-Qaeda" (referring to Hamas).	- Recognition of Palestinian state through UN vote "should be forcefully opposed by those who want to see this conflict end." - "Peace cannot be imposed. It must be negotiated."
<u>Palestinian National Authority</u> (PLO Negotiations Affairs Department; Chief Negotiator Saeb Erakat).	- Two states: Israel that respects its Arab minority population and a sovereign Palestinian state with full Israeli withdrawal from all territories.	- Israeli reparations: (1) recognition of responsibility for refugee problem, (2) restitution of confiscated property, (3) compensation for both material and non-material damages (i.e. emotional suffering).	- Return to pre-1967 borders, with mutually-agreed swaps in line with Palestinian interests. - Territorial link between West Bank and Gaza Strip, for unrestricted transit of persons, goods and natural resources.	- East Jerusalem as capital of Palestinian state , with guaranteed access to religious sites and freedom of worship.	- Under the 'land for peace' formula of UN SC Res. 242 and 338, full Israeli withdrawal from territories acquired after 1967 in exchange for peace and recognition from its neighbours.	- Intra-Palestinian reconciliation under President Abbas as key to peace agreement and future of Palestine as viable, democratic state. - "They [Hamas] are our brothers and family. We may differ, and we often do, but we still arrive at a minimum level of understanding." ²	- Unilaterally declared independence in 1988, recognised by 130 countries. - August 2009: launched 2-year plan for creation "de facto" Palestinian state. - Pressing for September 2011 vote at UN GA/SC if no progress in negotiations.

² President Mahmoud Abbas, Cairo Speech on Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation, 3 May 2011.