

GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTING A SUCCESSFUL PEACE PROCESS

As the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians progress, it is critical that the Obama administration keep in mind a number of key principles that are vital to supporting successful negotiations.

The United States and Israel Should Work Together

The chief guiding principle is that the United States and Israel must always work together, even if they are not in full agreement on every issue. Israel can be more flexible in negotiations when it completely trusts American negotiators. Efforts to circumvent Israel's decisions or pressure the state on issues relating to its security are destined to backfire.

Strong U.S. Support Allows Israel to Pursue Peace

The United States should continue to promote the need for secure, recognized, and defensible borders with the understanding that Israel must determine its own security requirements. Negotiations should also be premised on the belief that a final-status agreement between Israel and a Palestinian state would entail the end of all claims between the parties.

America Should Hold the Palestinians Accountable

With respect to the Palestinians, America can support moderate leaders without abandoning its insistence that the PA decisively act to halt violence, incitement, and terror.

The U.S.-Israel Relationship Transcends the Peace Process

Beyond the peace process, the United States and Israel have a deep alliance, based on common values, that benefits both countries. The two allies share intelligence, cooperate extensively regarding defense measures, and work to counter the mutual threats of terrorism and proliferation. It is critical that this vital cooperation be maintained irrespective of the daily ups and downs of Israel's negotiations.

Direct Talks – Not Imposed Solution – Are the Key to Success

An enduring solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must arise from the parties themselves and cannot be imposed by the United States or other outside parties. A deal can only work if both parties enter into it willingly, feel vested in it, and intend to implement it. Without buy-in from the two parties and the publics they represent, no accord will be viable.



A genuine peace will only be achieved via direct talks between the parties, not imposed solutions.