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AIPAC APPLAUDS ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE *Calls on the Palestinians, Arabs to meet reciprocal obligations*

AIPAC applauds today's major announcement by Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel's unilateral moratorium on settlement activity in the West Bank. The move, which goes [further](#) than any previous Israeli government in restraining activity, underscores the Jewish State's unyielding commitment to achieving peace with the Palestinians and all of its Arab neighbors. It also provides a deep expression of Israeli confidence in American diplomacy and Israeli dedication to cooperation with the United States in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East

As Israel acts to fulfill its Roadmap obligations, the Palestinians must meet their reciprocal obligations, come to the negotiating table, and cease incitement against Israel at home and in international bodies.

As the Obama Administration said in praising this monumental Israeli move, "the steps announced by the Prime Minister are significant and could have substantial impact on the ground," and the "first time ever" move by Israel is "more that any previous Israeli government has done before."

AIPAC calls on the Palestinians to follow Israel's lead and drop all preconditions to negotiations, and on the Arab states – Saudi Arabia especially – to heed the calls of both the [U.S. House & Senate](#) and [President Obama](#) to take immediate and meaningful steps toward normalization.

For over six decades, Israel has consistently offered its hand in peace, demonstrating again and again its willingness to make real and heartrending sacrifices – altering borders, relinquishing territory, uprooting families and entire communities – in the pursuit of peace.

In the past few months alone, Israel has taken dramatic steps to improve the everyday lives of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. Israeli authorities have removed more than 140 roadblocks and inspection points and significantly reduced their security foot print. In addition, Israel has made great efforts to bolster the Palestinian economy – efforts that the International Monetary Fund predicts will result in seven percent GDP growth for the West Bank this year.

Israel is taking meaningful steps and tangible risks for peace.

Now it is time – well past time – for the Palestinians and Arabs States to match Israel's commitment to peace with actions of their own.

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