

Congress of the Israeli-Palestinian People

The Congress of the Israeli-Palestinian Charter

1. Opening Declaration

In the region between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River live about twelve million people of multiple identities: Israelis and Palestinians; Jews, Muslims, and Christians; religious, secular, and agnostics; wealthy and needy; people enjoying liberty and people with their liberty constrained.

Both, Israelis and Palestinians, live in a complex situation of a long lasting conflict, fraught with wars, bloody confrontations, misery and suffering. This conflict, one of the most protracted struggles in the contemporary world, has territorial, national, ethnic, religious, economic and psychological dimensions.

We, representatives of different sectors of the conflicting parties, who view this part of the universe as their home and haven, gather, out of a sense of responsibility, to arrive at agreed solutions on the various controversial issues of the conflict. We commit to work together to put an end to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. To describe our commitment to ending the conflict some of us prefer to use the terminology “ending the occupation”, while others prefer to use the terminology “stopping a situation where one nation dominates another.”

We firmly believe that disputes are better resolved by peaceful means while taking into consideration the needs, fears, and aspirations of each side. We recognize that all human beings, including Israelis and Palestinians, are born equal and are entitled to enjoy freedom, peace, security, dignity, and prosperity.

2. Ground Rules

All involved in the negotiations of the Congress of the Israeli-Palestinian People affirm their commitment:

- To respect one another;
- To make the maximum efforts to avoid entering into historical debate upon the origin of the conflict and past evils. We intend to focus upon improving the present situation, to draft and use a language that works for both sides and to explore creative ideas that can progress the negotiations.
- To employ peaceful means in resolving all conflicting issues;
- To resort to democratic and exclusively peaceful methods in trying to alter any aspect of decision with which each may disagree;
- To ensure that maximum efforts are utilized to publicize the goals, activities, and consequences of the Congress of the Israeli-Palestinian People;
- To continue to participate and support the operation of the Congress of the Israeli-Palestinian People in events of violence, committed by members of either side, and in other crises in the region.

3. Decision Making Procedures

The members of the Congress of the People will do the maximum efforts to make decisions by consensus. In cases of disagreement between members of the Congress of the People, the decision-making procedure is “sufficient consensus.” By the rule of sufficient consensus, any proposal to be adopted should meet two criteria:

1. Support from a majority of the representatives present at the talks
2. Support from a majority of the Israeli representatives and the majority of the Palestinian representatives present at the Congress

In witness whereof we have signed

