



Key recommendations

- Recognize an independent Palestinian state. Canada should recognize an independent Palestinian state. This recognition should evolve from the fact that: 1) this was the original intent of the 1947 UN Partition Plan for Israel-Palestine, and 2) Palestinians have the human right to self-determination under international law. Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention on Rights and Duties of States (1933) lays down the most widely accepted criteria of statehood in international law: (a) a stable population; (b) a defined territory; (c) a government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with other states.
- Urge Israel to grant citizenship and equality to Palestinian residents born there. Extremists within Israel argue that Palestinians living there should be moved elsewhere or obliged to swear allegiance to the “Jewish” state of Israel and forego rights enjoyed by Jewish Israelis. However, Palestinians are indigenous to Israel-Palestine. They should not be pressured to either uproot themselves or swear allegiance to a state defined in a manner that ignores that or enshrines their second-class status.
- Insist that Israel immediately halt construction of colonies (a.k.a. “settlements”). At present, Israel’s colony expansion in the West Bank and East Jerusalem constitutes a huge obstacle to the negotiations process. After the creation of a Palestinian state, Israel’s colonies will constitute a violation of the territorial integrity of Palestine. In both scenarios, they are illegal and have been condemned by literally every country – including the US and Canada.
- Commit to providing multilateral aid to the new Palestinian state for the following purposes:
 - to enable resettlement of millions of Palestinian refugees likely to return
 - to enable repair of infrastructure, and other structures damaged by Israeli occupation
 - to enable a Palestinian government to govern and provide services to Palestinians.

Key advantages of “statehood” for Palestinians

- Palestine would gain the right to request UN members’ help with violations of its territory. Currently the Palestinian Authority is unable to protect its residents in any way from the Israeli military: e.g. conducting house demolitions, building the Wall, bombarding Gaza. With admission to the UN, Palestinians would have greater access to UN mechanisms to deal with such violations. Israel would find itself violating the rights of a sovereign internationally-recognized nation, rather than of a territory it claims is “disputed.”
- An end to the indignity of statelessness and dependence. Currently most Palestinians are citizens of no state, and do not enjoy any of the protections normally offered by citizenship of a state. For those Palestinians living in the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority administers authority over only a portion of the territory. Furthermore, the economy of West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem is largely controlled by Israel. As a result, Palestinians living in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem are generally legally vulnerable, poor and dependent on international aid.