



466 Lexington Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10017

June 10, 2020

Dear Excellencies,

In response to recent claims received from a group of Canadians regarding Canada's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and while we support the engagement of all Canadians in the work of the United Nations, Canada is concerned that the letter contains significant inaccuracies and mischaracterizes Canada's longstanding policy positions.

Canada has long supported the creation of a Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel. We firmly believe that the only means to a two-state solution is through direct negotiations between the parties. We understand the frustrations of Palestinians around the world who feel that the two-state solution is becoming an increasingly distant possibility.

Canada views any unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank as contrary to international law. Canada has expressed deep concern and disagreement with the proposed policy of annexation and raised the issue publicly. Canada will continue to oppose any unilateral action by either party.

In accordance with international law, Canada does not recognize permanent Israeli control over the Golan Heights. Canada considers the status of Jerusalem can only be resolved as part of a final peace agreement, and does not recognize Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem.

Canada has long expressed its belief that there are too many General Assembly resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We have voted no on resolutions we felt were one-sided. However, this year, we voted yes on one more resolution: the Resolution on the Right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination. We did so because this resolution addresses one of the core issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Canada believes this is a critical moment for the two-state solution. We have demonstrated that we adapt to changing dynamics and address threats to the two-state solution. We welcome and encourage the ongoing efforts of the Palestinian delegation to streamline the resolutions.

Canada remains committed to addressing the development and humanitarian needs of Palestinians while advancing the cause of peace. Each year, we provide significant assistance to Palestinians in the areas of humanitarian assistance, access to quality education, and inclusive governance, while also advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.





Canada is also deeply concerned that Palestinians are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19. In April, we announced new funding for UNRWA, along with WHO and UNICEF, to respond to the urgent health care needs of at-risk Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Canada is equally committed to addressing the needs of Palestinian refugees, through UNRWA. Canada re-engaged with UNRWA in 2015 and maintained our engagement with UNRWA even while it was subject to a UN internal investigation related to alleged mismanagement. As indicated by the Minister of International Development during the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting on Tuesday June 2, Canada is considering an additional contribution for UNRWA, building on our previous support.

In recent weeks, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs has spoken with many of his counterparts in your countries. In these calls he has outlined Canada's position and sought diverse views for how the international community can support both the Palestinians and the Israelis in resolving this conflict.

If Canada is elected to the UN Security Council we will continue to seek with our partners, particularly in the region, constructive options to encourage a negotiated solution to this longstanding conflict. Now more than ever, we need renewed constructive and inclusive multilateral engagement to truly support a negotiated peace. Canada's Security Council candidacy is focused on five pillars, including economic security at the centre of our platform. Canada is the first member state to raise this issue as a necessary area of focus for the Security Council moving forward. Without inclusive and equitable economies, peace will continue to be elusive. To succeed in fulfilling its role, the Security Council needs to take into account economic considerations across its agenda.

Canada hopes to be able to continue to work with you on these critical efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marc-André Blanchard".

Marc-André Blanchard
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

To all Member States
and Observer States

