**Committee:** Israel-Palestine Conflict **Topic:** The Situation in the Middle East
**Country:** Bulgaria
**Delegate:** İbrahim Yiğit Şimşek/Özel Abdullah Yüksel İvme Anadolu Lisesi

**Topic Background**
Following World War II and the horrors of the Holocaust, in 1947 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which called for the creation of two separate Jewish and Arab states. Israel declared itself an independent state in May 1948, and the next day Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq attempted to invade. Israel was able to repel the invasion, taking land that was originally reserved for Arab Palestinians in the process, and creating a large Palestinian refugee crisis. The founding of Israel would be followed by decades of fighting and terrorism, from the 1948 Arab-Israel War and the 1967 Six-Day War to the 1973 Arab-Israeli War and the First and Second Intifadas. As a result of the conflict, thousands of people have died and millions more have suffered, with an entire population becoming refugees. Attempts were made to end the conflict and bring peace to both sides. In 1993, Israeli and Palestinian leaders met to negotiate a potential peace agreement called the Oslo Accords. Although this would not bring peace, it would kick off years of diplomatic efforts to end the conflict, which is referred to as the peace procession Today, the peace process revolves around negotiations between Israeli leaders, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Palestinian leaders, led by President Mahmoud Abbas. Within Israel, however, Netanyahu faces conflicting pressures from his own political party, opposing political parties, and Israeli citizens. Within Palestine, President Abbas is the recognized leader, but another group, Hamas, control a part of Palestine called the Gaza Strip, where they are effectively in control. Although there are two sides to the conflict, within each side there are different actors and internal pressures. The intense conflict and various internal pressures of both sides’ means that the peace process requires help from the international community in order to move forward. The United Nations, the European Union, the United States, and Russia have been particularly involved in the peace process, and the four of them are referred to as the “Quartet.” The Arab League is also involved in the peace process.

**Bulgaria’s Position**

- Bulgaria is a member of UN (United Nations) and takes its side on topic.
- Bulgaria is keen to provide hospitality for direct talks between the two, aimed at establishing a Palestinian state and achieving lasting peace in the region in 2010.
- UN doesn’t accept Israeli’s Claim of Jerusalem.
- Bulgaria is Quartet on the Middle East member and because of his membership in the UN (United Nations)
- Hamas (Gaza Strip) is on the European Union’s terrorism list.
- Accept Jerusalem an International City and moved his embassies to another city.
- Send peace offer letters to Israel and Palestine of 1971 and 1984
- in 2002 and 2003 Bulgaria send a letter to Security Council. Security Council did work assessments under Bulgaria presidency. ([Inalienable rights of the Palestinian people](https://www.un.org/unispal/document-subject/inalienable-rights-of-the-palestinian-people/), [Peace proposals and efforts](https://www.un.org/unispal/document-subject/peace-proposals-and-efforts/), [Situation in Lebanon](https://www.un.org/unispal/document-subject/situation-in-lebanon/), Middle East situation, Palestine question, Peace process, Peacekeeping, Protection)

**Possible Solutions**

The Israel-Palestine conflict is broad and complex, and many of the issues that are key to finding peace need to be negotiated directly between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. However, there are several key issues that the United Nations and the Security Council can act on that could impact peace negotiations:

**Palestine 194:** Palestine is applying to become the 194th member state of the United Nations. Becoming a member state would give the state of Palestine more credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of the international community. And it would help Palestinian leaders in negotiations with Israel. However, membership to the UN requires a vote by the Security Council, and historically the US has vetoed Palestine’s bid for membership. But can the Security Council find a compromise that would enable Palestine to become a member of the UN?

**Security Concerns:** Currently, the Israeli military occupies Palestine. From the Israeli point of view, this is to protect its borders, ensure national security, and prevent acts of terrorism. From the Palestinian point of view, this is a violation of Palestine’s sovereignty and is seen as a show of force and intimidation. And at the same time, there are groups within Palestine that do not recognize Israel’s right to exist, and have committed acts of terror within Israel. Can the Security Council and the international community make efforts to relieve this tense situation and guarantee the security of both Israelis and Palestinians?

**Human Rights:** Palestinian leaders have accused Israel of violating the human rights of Palestinians, starting with the Israeli occupation of Palestine to Israel’s refusal to recognize the right of reply of Palestinian refugees. However, various Palestinian groups have refused to recognize Israel’s right to exist. And Israeli leaders believe it is their right to preserve Israel’s national security. What is the UN’s and the Security Council’s view on these issues? Can their opinion affect peace negotiations?

 There seems to be opportunity for Israeli and Palestinian leaders to negotiate peace, but the opportunity may not last long. It is imperative for the UN and the international community to act and help both sides find an end to this long and violent conflict.

İbrahim Yiğit Şimşek