Country:Yemen

Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Topic: Israel-Palestine Conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the world's most perennial conflicts, with the Israel occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip reaching 54 years of conflict. The beginning of these conflicts, whose history dates back to the First World War, started with the First Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland. Public declarations of claims to a Jewish homeland in Palestine, including the 1897 First Zionist Congress and the 1917 Balfour Declaration, created early tension in the region. The Jewish population, which is a small number in Palestine, increased gradually with these new decisions.Following the implementation of the Mandate for Palestine, which included a binding obligation on the British government for the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" the tension grew into sectarian conflict between Jews and Arabs. Attempts to solve the early conflict culminated in the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine and the 1947–1949 Palestine war, marking the start of the wider Arab–Israeli conflict. Despite a long-term peace process, no final peace agreement has been reached between Israel and Palestine. Today, Palestinians are facing occupation by Israeli soldiers of the Gaza Strip and 165 islands in the West Bank. Key issues that have stalled further progress are security, borders, water rights, control of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian freedom of movement,and Palestinian right of return.

Yemen belongs to a category of countries that do not share a common border with Israel and therefore have little to lose by persisting in their hostile policy. The President of Yemen expressed full support for the Palestinian struggle, and they discussed ways to bring all Palestinian factions to agree on a common strategy. Yemen's foreign minister said his country will not normalize relations with Israel until the Palestinians get their own sovereign state with Jerusalem as its capital, as envisaged under the Saudi-proposed Arab Peace Initiative. Being aware of the reasons for Israel's pragmatic mentality, Yemen is behind Palestine until the end.

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 such as Palestine 194, security concers and human rights that the United Nations and the Security Council can act on that could impact peace negotiations. There are two types of solution suggestions for this problem. One state solution is also called the "binational state," which would create one democratic, secular state in which both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs would live as citizens with equal rights. Two state solution would create two states for two peoples, Israel and Palestine. Hypothetically, the Israel state would retain a Jewish majority, thus remaining a Jewish state, and the Palestinian state would have a Muslim Arab majority. Like the other countries, Yemen also supports a two-state solution, and thinks that this solution is more effective for states to get what they deserve and become more independent.

References:

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