**Committee: Israel-Palestine Conflict**

**Country: Botswana**

Israel-Palestinian conflict is one of the longest active conflicts since the 1897 [First Zionist Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Zionist_Congress), and the 1917 [Balfour Declaration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration). [The Israel occupation of the West Bank began on 7 June 1967 during the Six-Day War when Israel occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and continues to the present day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_occupation_of_the_West_Bank). Jerusalem is a holy place for religions and the turmoil in this region is affecting people all over the world. Botswana strongly believes Israel has illegally occupied Palestinian land and has denied the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination.

Israel was the single biggest supplier of intelligence services to the Botswana government, and ramped up its investment and involvement in Botswana's lucrative diamond industry. Botswana is not only doing big business with Israel but also committing to a long-term economic relationship with the occupying power. However, Botswana has supported the statement of the African Group at the UN Human Rights Council and reiterated the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, justice and freedom.

Botswana further appealed to the parties to continue to seek a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict. For the sake of both the Botswana and the Palestinian people, Botswana government will rethink its relationship with Israel and choose to be on the right side of the history. Botswana supports the two-State solution, which is considered by the international community as the only way to ensure a durable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In that way, both can live peacefully side by side.