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## **Principles and Framework for Peace in Palestine and the Middle East**

Whereas the ongoing war needs an immediate cessation, and that all the peoples of Palestine, Israel and the rest of the Middle East are equally entitled to freedom, human rights and peace;

Whereas only an immediate ceasefire alongside good faith to a real and credible political perspective with clear guarantees on both sides is the only recourse to end this conflict by peaceful means;

Recalling the Two-State solution that is in line with international law, international humanitarian law, UN relevant resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002;

Supporting the international community to bring an end to this conflict; to protect innocent civilians in Palestine and Israel and the Middle East, to avoid the extension of the conflict at a time of high global tension and to support concluding agreements that favour international stability and a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict;

Therefore, in order to uphold the said principles to end this prolonged conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians and endeavor to work under this framework for Sustainable Peace in Palestine and the Middle East:

1. An immediate ceasefire should be reached with an exchange of hostages and prisoners, and an end to all crimes committed against innocent Palestinian peoples.
2. International aid should flow freely and unimpeded into Gaza with reconnection of water and electricity supplies.



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3. The United Nations should prepare a timetable to end the Israeli occupation that has occurred on the Palestinian Territories since 1967 based on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.
  
4. Two states, Israel and Palestine, are to be recognized by all United Nations member states on the basis of the UN resolutions relevant to the conflict namely the UN Security Council Resolution 242, UN Security Council Resolution 338, and UN Security Resolution 2334, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the 1967 war.
  
5. Implementation modalities and mechanisms are to be discussed at an international conference to be hosted by the UN with the presence of both the Israelis and Palestinians.
  
6. Both sides should agree to refrain from any unilateral acts including settlements construction activities, incursions into towns, deduction of funds illegally and incitements. Parties who do not adhere to these principles will have to face international sanctions.
  
7. To follow up with the progress of these measures, the UN Secretary General should appoint a peace envoy to ensure that these principles are respected and implemented within the proposed timetable.

**Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh**

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**Former PM of Palestine**