

## **Letter From the Chairs**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2024 Mid-South Model United Nations Conference (MSMUN) and to the Economic and Financial committee. My name is Phoebe Burns, and I will be your 2024 Economic and Financial chair. I am a sophomore at Rhodes College majoring in Anthropology and Sociology. Nessa Blair will also be chairing the committee with me. Nessa is a sophomore at Rhodes College double majoring in Political Science and Media Studies. We are both very excited to chair the Economic and Financial committee!

## **Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations Economic and Financial Council is the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Our work deals with global financial and economic issues, such as macroeconomic policy questions; financing for development; sustainable development; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; operational activities for development; agriculture development, food security and nutrition; and information and communications technologies for development. The Second Committee will also consider issues relating to groups of countries in special situations, as well as the item on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. The Economic and Financial Council was formed with the rest of the General Assembly when the UN was established after the Second World War in 1945 and first met in London in January 1946. We seek to foster financial cooperation between member states and find peaceful solutions to the world's biggest economic issues.

## **Statement of Problem**

Since the start of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel has been able to prevent Palestine from implementing and constructing housing, hospitals, schools, etc. by limiting and withholding construction permits. Although still an issue in West Bank territories and refugee camps, Gaza is in a more critical condition due to the consequences of occupation, siege and attacks. Many Gazans continue to lack permanent housing and basic infrastructure, such as electricity, clean water, sewage treatment, and waste management. Palestinian civilians and infrastructure have been under attack by foreign military actors since the 1950's. Past efforts on behalf of the United Nations (UN), World Bank (WB) and other international institutions to develop a Palestinian contingency plan have failed to bring about a peaceful end to the conflict, often sacrificing long-term flexibility for short-term improvements which are not compatible with the evolving needs of the Palestinian people and government.

The majority of efforts to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are funded by non-League states, which creates a disconnect between the creators of these initiatives and those whom the initiatives affect. For example, plans calling for military action disproportionately place military offensives in Gaza and the West Bank regions, which are already systematically targeted by state and sub-state violence. Meanwhile, economy-focused contingency plans tend to ignore the greater fiscal influences of the region. In order to create a meaningful contingency plan for the Palestinian conflict, it is important that Arab states play a role, as their understanding of the Palestinian people's needs is more intimate than other states.

This Council must seek ways to address the current issues within Palestine and provide plans for protecting Palestinians against further infrastructure loss. The League must come together to create a strong plan to aid Palestine in rebuilding lost infrastructure as well as a plan

to protect it. This Council should create plans both for short-term relief for protection of current infrastructure and Palestinian citizens, as well as a long-term plan to provide aid in the rebuilding of infrastructure across the West Bank and Gaza and its protection as well.

### **History and Past UN Action**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing military and political conflict which began in the mid-20th century and is one of the world's longest continuing conflicts. Public declarations of the desire to see a Jewish homeland established in Palestine created early tensions in the region after waves of Jewish immigration. After WWI, the Mandate for Palestine included a binding obligation for the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People". This continued to spark tension between Jews and Arabs.

The 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was never implemented and thus provoked the 1947-1949 Palestine War. Additionally, after the Six-Day War, Israel began military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza which helps maintain the status quo of Israelis and Palestinians today.

The UN has passed numerous resolutions concerning the conflict, some of the most significant ones being:

- Resolution 181 (Recommends partition of the Mandatory Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, and international status for the City of Jerusalem.)
- Resolution 338 (Calls for all parties to cease all firing and terminate all military activities immediately, aftermath of Yom Kippur War)
- Resolution 3236 (Recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to regain its rights, including the right to self-determination.)
- Resolution ES-10/21 (Criticizes Hamas actions in 2023 Israel-Hamas War)

## **Latest Development**

On 7 October 2023, an armed conflict broke out between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip after the latter launched a multi-pronged invasion of southern Israel. After clearing Hamas militants on 10 October, the Israeli military retaliated by conducting an extensive aerial bombardment campaign on Gazan targets and followed up with a large-scale ground invasion of Gaza. Israel declared war on Hamas on 8 October, and its response to the attack has seen the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War. Hamas declared that the invasion was carried out in response to the "desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque", the Gaza Strip blockade, the construction of Israeli settlements, and Israeli settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

## **Problems a Resolution Should Address, & Possible Solutions**

1. How long should Palestine be supported?
2. What infrastructure should take priority during the rebuild?
3. What protection can be provided to prevent further infrastructure loss?

## **Characters Involved**

Israel

Palestine

United States of America (Supports Israel)

Iran (Supports Palestine)

Uruguay (Supports Israel)

Italy (Supports Israel)

Ghana (Supports Israel)

Thailand (Supports Israel)

Bulgaria (Supports Israel)

United Kingdom (Supports Israel)

Brazil (Supports Palestine)

China (Supports Palestine)

India (Supports Palestine)

Saudi Arabia (Supports Palestine)

Turkey (Supports Palestine)

### **Additional Resources**

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/housing-situation-occupied-palestinian-territories-and-establishment-human-settlements-fund>

<https://english.pnn.ps/>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/lack-unrwa-funding-exacerbates-housing-crisis-palestine-refugees>

### **Works Cited**

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_United\\_Nations\\_resolutions\\_concerning\\_Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_Nations_resolutions_concerning_Palestine)

<https://peacemaker.un.org/middleeast-resolution338>

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>