

# Middle East Peace Simulation 2009

## Position Paper

Middle East Peace Proposal  
The Russian Federation

### Through Moscow to Peace in Jerusalem

#### A. **Brief Background of the Topic**

- Long history of Russian involvement on both sides of the Israeli-Arab conflict
- Russia has long and strong ties with various nations involved in the region, from Syria and Egypt to Iran and Iraq
- The large amount of Russian émigrés that reside in Israel and strong economic ties allow Russia to actively and productively engage with both sides of the conflict
- Unlike the United States and the European Union, the Russian position has supported the right to Palestinian autonomy and independence and engaged with the democratically elected leaders of the Palestinian people
- Stability in the region affects world gas and oil prices, which is of key importance to Russia, as well as being place where radicalism is taught, affecting the world as well as Russia's own Muslim minority
- The long presences of the Russian Orthodox church in the Holy Land again gives the Russian Federation another reason that we must maintain our presence in the Middle East peace solution as well as suggesting that our voice should be one of the larger ones.

#### B. **Previous Actions**

- Russia has accepted the two state solution and has been included in the quartet giving Russia a position of responsibility in the region. Meetings with Palestinian (both Fatah and Hamas), Syrian, Egyptian, Iranian and Israeli delegations have occurred in recent years along with a call for a peace conference in Moscow (ignored by all except the Palestinians)

#### C. **Country Policy, Involvement, and Proposed Solutions**

- Policies that Russia has under taken in the region are as follows; close economic cooperation with the Israeli government; visa free travel between Israel and Russia, a key success in Russian foreign policy that must not be threatened; Continue cooperation in the area of arms development and sales to the third world; Close ties to Syria through arm sales; Debt forgiveness of 75% previously to Syria; Belief that Golan Heights must be returned to Syria for peace to be lasting; Pro-Palestinian policies have been the norm to counter act American policies in the region; Allowed HAMAS leader to visit Moscow and meet with government; Attempt to play intermediary between Hamas and Israeli government during Lavrov trip; Support for Iranian development of nuclear technology; Weapons sales to Iranian government; Agreed with Livni that Russia would remain firm with Israel that Iran must not have a nuclear weapon; Saudi-Russian relations are strained due to Saudi funding of "Wahabbism" in Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia; Lack of significant arms agreements; Saudi Arabia is irate by Russian policies in regards to Iran, specifically nuclear support
- Voting record in the UN is strongly pro-Palestinian. Russia has often voted against Israeli interests in support of the Arab and Palestinian causes. Suggestion of a peace conference in Moscow this year to reclaim Russian position in the Middle East peace process
- Position for the peace must not put the following in jeopardy; economic interests, especially energy interests in Israel; the visa free regime that has been established; the close and lucrative economic ties between Russian arms and nuclear companies in Syria, Egypt, Iran and the other Gulf States; Exacerbate Russian-US or Russian-EU relations; Maintain support for a two State Solution; Continue to engage with Hamas so long as it does not radically change relations with the above mentioned nations; Garner international recognition as a "Great Power" and as the "new" old leader of the modern world.