

## The United States of America- Position paper



*IN GOD WE TRUST*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". The United States deeply deplores the ongoing violence in the Middle East, as well as the fact that during that last 60 years, more than 51.000 Israelis and Palestinians have fallen victim to the Arab Israeli Conflict. 61 years after the declaration of the state of Israel, 29 years after the Camp David accords, 16 years after the Oslo accords and seven years after the Road Map, the United States believes it is about time to establish lasting peace in the Middle East.

The United States sees and appreciates the willingness both on the Israeli and on the Palestinian side, to commit to dialogue; their deep desire to bring this conflict to an end. We are engaged to do all that is in within our power to help building peace and security in this area. Even though we are aware that this quest for peace is a long process, we firmly believe it is possible. Whenever opportunities seemed to arise for progress in negotiations, the United States seized them. In the 1993-2000 Oslo process, the United States tried to facilitate a deal on the Israel-Palestinian and Israel-Syrian fronts. During the Oslo process, the United States put such peacemaking at the top of its international agenda.

The United States fully endorses a two-state solution. We are convinced it is of paramount importance that the Palestinian people be granted a sovereign state, a country they can call home. It is equally important that the Palestinian Authority decidedly combat all forms of terror and aggressiveness against the state of Israel.

In 2002, 22 Arab countries gathered to negotiate a way to end the dispute. This historic attempt resulted in the Arab Peace Initiative. The United States sees the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative as a crucial step on our way to peace in the Middle East and it will be part of any future US effort concerning the Middle East. The United States calling on Israel to withdraw from all territories occupied since 1967. We oppose the expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian territory as it is undermining the Palestinians' confidence in the negotiation process.

Our main goal is to frame a timetable for the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab world and to break down the Arab Peace Initiative into its details and not leave it as a purely theoretical framework. The US will take urgent measures to ensure progress and will provide both financial support and diplomatic mediation in order to advance the peace process. We hope that the Middle East conference will provide us an opportunity to accomplish significant progress.