HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI PEACE ATTEMPTS (1991-2024)

1991

Madrid Middle East Peace Conference
30 Oct.-1 Nov. 1991

- First direct negotiations between the two conflict parties based on the "land for peace" formula.
- Inaugurated bilateral and multilateral tracks.

1992

Bilateral and Multilateral Talks
1992

- Numerous "official" meetings in Washington and elsewhere, discussing, for the first time, issues such as borders, refugees and Jerusalem.
- Additional secret negotiation channels, including one in Oslo.

1993

Declaration of Principles (DoP) on Interim Self-Government Arrangements
13 Sep. 1993

- Mutual PLO-Israel recognition.
- Framework for interim phase.
- Pledge to begin final status talks no later than at beginning of the third year of the interim period.

1994

Oslo I Agreement
(also: Cairo or Gaza-Jericho Agreement)
4 May 1994

- Israeli withdrawal from Gaza & Jericho
- PA established.
- Security provisions.
- Transfer of civil affairs.
- Legal & economic framework.

Early Empowerment Agreement
29 Aug. 1994

Transfer to PA:

- Education, Culture (29 Aug.).
- Social Welfare, Tourism (13-14 Nov.).
- Health, Taxation (1 Dec.).

25 Feb. 1994: Hebron Massacre

1995

Protocol on Further Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities
27 Aug. 1995

Transfer to PA:

- labor, trade, gas & gasoline, industry, agriculture, postal services, insurance, statistics, local government.

Oslo II Agreement
(also: Interim or Taba Agreement)
28 Sep. 1995

- Further Israeli withdrawal (West Bank divided into Areas A, B and C).
- PLC election modes and competencies.

4 Nov. 1995: Prime Minister Rabin assassinated.

Dec. 1995: End of Israeli redeployment from Palestinian population centers.

1996

20 Jan. 1996: 1st PLC elections.

31 March 1996: Scheduled redeployment from Hebron.

4 May 1996: DoP deadline for start of final status talks (Agreement to determine the nature of a final settlement, incl. Jerusalem, settlements, borders, security, refugees, and external relations).

29 May 1996: Likud wins Israeli elections. Netanyahu becomes PM.

24 Sep. 1996: Tunnel opening under Al-Aqsa compound triggers clashes.

Re-negotiated

1997

Hebron Agreement
15 Jan. 1997

- Implementation of Israeli withdrawal from 80% of Hebron (H1); security & civil arrangements.

Re-negotiated

- April 1997: End of 2nd redeployment according to Oslo II.
- Further withdrawals planned to be completed by Oct. 1997 (Oslo II) did not materialize.

Re-negotiated

1998

Wye River Memorandum
23 Oct. 1998

- Implementation of Oslo II.
- Resumption of final status talks.
- Further Israeli redeployment (13% of the West Bank).
- Changes to the PLO Charter.
- Opening of Gaza Airport and safe passage.
- Release of prisoners.

12-14 Dec. 1998: PNC meets in Gaza, rescinds clauses in the PLO Charter that call for Israel's destruction.

21 Dec. 1998: Knesset vote for early elections in May 1999 suspends further implementation of Wye River Memorandum.

1999

Sharm Esh-Sheikh Agreement
(also: Wye II or Wye Plus Agreement)
4 Sept. 1999

- Implementation of the Wye River Accord.
- Israeli withdrawal (11% of the West Bank in three stages)
- Resumption of final status talks (Sept. 13).
- Opening of safe passages.
- Release of 350 prisoners.

4 May 1999: End of the Interim Phase (according to the DoP) - Permanent Status Agreement to enter into force.

17 May 1999: Labor wins Israeli elections. Ehud Barak becomes PM

13 Sep. 1999: Final Status Talks begin (according to Wye II).

Oct. 1999: Final Status Agreement to be completed (according to Oslo II).

1999

13 Sep.: Final Status Talks open.

15 Sep.: First stage of withdrawal. (7% of Area C to become Area B).

6 Oct.: Southern safe passage opens (originally planned: 1 Oct.).

8 Oct.: Second prisoner release.

15 Oct.: PA reports on weapons collection and arrested suspects.

15 Nov.: Second stage of withdrawal. (2% of Area B to become Area A and 3% of Area C to become B).

Dec.: Prisoner release (Ramadan).

2000

20 Jan.: Third and final withdrawal stage (5.1% of Area B & 1% of Area C become Area A).

5 Feb.: Northern safe passage opens.

13 Feb.: Framework for a final agreement reached.

13 Sep.: Overall agreement reached.

2000

Camp David Summit
21-25 July 2000

- Final push to save the peace process between President Clinton, Arafat and Barak.
- Aimed for a final agreement.
- Collapsed over issues of borders, settlements, refugees, and especially Jerusalem.

28 Sep. 2000: Ariel Sharon's touring of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound triggers second (or Al-Aqsa) Intifada.

17 Oct. 2000: Summit at Sharm Ash-Sheikh on how to halt recent violence (Al-Aqsa Intifada), restore security cooperation and return to negotiations.

10 Dec. 2000: PM Barak resigns.

23 Dec.: President Clinton presents his "parameters" for a final status agreement based on his understanding of points reached at Camp David.

based on

Follow-up

2001

Taba Talks
21-27 January 2001

- Last attempt to discuss outstanding issues prior to the Israeli elections.
- Ended unsuccessfully as Pres. Clinton's final bridging proposal was rejected.

6 Feb.: Ariel Sharon defeats Barak in early Israeli elections.

30 April: Mitchell Report by a fact-finding committee into the events leading to the Al-Aqsa Intifada and how to prevent their recurrence and resume negotiations.

13 June: Tenet Plan: Ceasefire and security plan proposed by CIA Director George Tenet on the resumption of Israel-PA security cooperation.

2002

Arab (Saudi) Peace Initiative
March 2002

- Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967.
- Return of refugees.
- Recognition of Israel.
- Normalization with the Arab World.

In the wake of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, Israeli army re-invades/re-occupies most of the West Bank.

12 March: UNSC Resolution 1397 affirms the two-state solution formed.

10 April: Middle East Quartet formed.

June: Israel begins constructing the separation barrier.

20 Dec.: Middle East Quartet presents a draft of the Road Map.

2003

Performance-Based Road Map
30 April 2003

- for a "final & comprehensive settlement" based on the two-state solution
- End to "terrorism"
- Freeze on settlements
- Clear timelines, dates, and benchmarks monitored by the Quartet.
- Palestinian state by 2005.

Aqaba Summit
4 June 2003

- Meeting between President Bush, Abbas and Sharon on how to implement the Road Map.

June: People's Voice initiative.

19 Nov.: UNSC Resolution 1515 reiterates the commitment to a two-state solution and endorses the Road Map.

Dec.: Geneva Accord.

2004

Feb.: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon introduces his unilateral Gaza disengagement plan.

18-23 May: "Operation Rainbow" in Rafah, Gaza.

9 July: The ICJ rules that the construction of the separation barrier is illegal.

20 July: UNGA confirms ICJ ruling on illegality of the separation barrier.

11 Nov.: Death of President Arafat.

2005

9 Jan.: Mahmoud Abbas is elected new President of the PA.

8 Feb.: Mahmoud Abbas and Sharon announce ceasefire, ending the second intifada.

Aug.-Sep.: Sharon's disengagement plan is implemented: evacuation of settlers from Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank.

2005: Deadline for Palestinian state according to the Road Map.

2006

Jan.: PM Sharon suffers a stroke; Ehud Olmert takes over.

25 Jan.: Palestinian elections – Hamas defeats Fatah, forms government with Ismail Haniyeh as Prime Minister.

April.: US and EU suspend aid to "Hamas government".

25 June: Israeli soldier Shalit is kidnapped to Gaza.

28 June.: Israel launches "Operation Summer Rain" in Rafah, Gaza.

1 Nov.: Israel launches "Operation Autumn Clouds" in Beit Hanoun, Gaza.

2007

Madrid +15 Conference
11 January 2007

- Called unsuccessfully for an official international Middle East peace conference towards a comprehensive agreement.

Annapolis Conference
27 November 2007

- To set up a timetable for future final status negotiations in line with the 2002/03 Road Map.

Follow-up

8 Feb.: Fatah and Hamas sign Mecca Agreement for unity government, which takes office on 17 March.

28 March: Arab League adopts the Saudi Peace Initiative.

15 June: Salam Fayyad is appointed Prime Minister by President Abbas.

June: The "Battle of Gaza" – a brief civil war resulting in Hamas's takeover in Gaza and the Palestinian political split.

Israel imposes blockade on the Gaza Strip.

2008

Sharm Esh-Sheikh Meeting
9 November 2008

- Quartet conference to follow up on the Annapolis conference.
- Agreement that a comprehensive deal is needed on all issues (nothing would be considered agreed until everything is agreed).

16 Dec.: UNSC Resolution 1850 underscores the importance of efforts for a two-state solution and an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

27 Dec.: Israel launches "Operation Cast Lead" against targets in Gaza, allegedly due to rocket fire.

2009

18 Jan.: "Operation Cast Lead" in Gaza ends with a ceasefire agreement and over 1,380 Palestinians killed.

20 Jan.: President Barack Obama takes office.

10 Feb.: Early Israeli elections bring Likud under Netanyahu back to power.

April: UNHRC appoints fact-finding commission into "Operation Cast Lead", led by Richard Goldstone.

29 Sep.: Goldstone Report on "Operation Cast Lead" is presented.

2010

Resumption of Direct Talks
2 September 2010

- US-brokered direct negotiations began in Washington, D.C. after 7 rounds of indirect talks.

31 May: Israeli forces raid the Gaza Flotilla.

22 Sep.: Knesset passes a law requiring a referendum and vote of at least 60 MKs for any withdrawal from East Jerusalem or Golan.

26 Sep.: As Israel refuses to extent its 10-month settlement freeze, talks come to a halt.

2011

Arab Spring

14 Feb.: The PA cabinet resigns. Salam Fayyad is appointed Prime Minister, asked to form a new cabinet.

March: After a new round of meetings and in the midst of the Arab Spring, the Quartet declares it had little hope for renewed talks as the differences between the two sides were too wide.

26 June: President Abbas announces that in the absence of peace talks, Palestinians would pursue their unilateral bid for statehood in September and on 26 Sep., he submitted the formal application to the UNSC.

29 Sep.: Palestinians accept a Quartet proposal to resume talks within a month to arrive at a final agreement by the end of 2012, but demand that Israel stop building settlements.

31 Oct.: UNESCO votes to admit Palestine as its 195th full member. The US stops funding to UNESCO.

2012

Jan.: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators meet for the first time in over a year in Amman.

14 Nov.: Israel launches "Operation Pillar of Cloud" on Gaza.

29 Nov.: The UN General Assembly votes to grant Palestine non-member observer State status, while also expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians leading to a permanent two-state solution.

2013

Kerry Mission or Talks
29 July 2013-24 April 2014

- Direct negotiations between Israel (Justice Minister Tzipi Livni) and the Palestinians (PLO official Saeb Erekat) under the auspices of US Secretary of State John Kerry to revive the peace process and reach a final status agreement within 9 months (by 29 April 2014).
- Based on the Clinton Parameters.
- Mission failed when Israel refused to release the last agreed group of Palestinian prisoners and approved new settlement units in Jerusalem, and President Abbas signed 15 international rights conventions in early April 2014 in response.
- Was officially suspended by Israel on 24 April 2014, a day after a Fatah and Hamas signed a unity accord.

13 April: Prime Minister Fayyad resigns due to power struggles within the PA.

30 April: Saudi/Arab peace plan is re-endorsed with the updated terms that a peace agreement should be based on the two-state solution on the basis of the June 1967 lines.

3 June: President Abbas appoints Rami Hamdallah as next prime minister.

2014

Abbas Peace Plan
3 September 2014

- New proposal presented to Kerry, which called for 9 months of direct talks followed by a three-year plan for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines, on the condition of a settlement freeze and the release of the pending batch of prisoners.
- Was rejected by Israel and the US as being a unilateral initiative.

2 June: A new Palestinian unity government is sworn in.

12 June: Three settler youth are kidnapped, triggering Israel's search "Operation Brother's Keeper". After their bodies are found on 30 June, Israeli extremists kidnap and kill a Mohammed Abu Khdeir,15, from Shufat, which triggers rocket fire from Gaza.

8 July: Israel launches "Operation Protective Edge" on Gaza, which lasts until 26 Aug. Over 2,100 Palestinians are killed and half a million displaced.

31 Dec.: Abbas signs the Rome Statute as a step to join the ICC.

- The UNSC Security Council rejects a resolution demanding an end to the Israeli occupation within three years by a vote of 8:2, and 5 abstentions.

2015

2 Jan.: Palestine accedes to the Rome Statute.

1 April: Palestine becomes member of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

30 Sep.: Palestinian flag for the first time been raised at the UN.

1 Oct.: President Abbas declares at the UNGA that the PA was no longer bound by the Oslo Peace Accords.

Oct.: Begin of the "Knife intifada" ("lone wolf" stabbing attacks focused on Jerusalem).

2016

French peace initiative
3 June 2016

- Renewal of international efforts upon French call to restart the peace process.
- Attended by 28 delegations, excluding Israel and Palestinians.
- Focus on parameters for core issues in line with a two-state solution.

Follow-up

International Conference
15 January 2017

- Attended by over 40 foreign senior officials (but no Israelis nor Palestinians).
- Ended with a joint declaration reaffirming the two-state solution as the only way to achieve enduring peace.

1 July: Middle East Quartet outlines key threats to the two-state solution and urges the parties to make progress.

8 Sep.: The Palestinian high court rules to postpone the Palestinian elections slated for 8 October *inter alia* due to disputes over party lists.

23 Dec.: UN Resolution 2334 reiterates condemnation of Israeli settlements as "flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution".

2017

20 Jan.: Donald Trump is inaugurated as the 45th president of the US.

1 May: Hamas issues a new charter that provisionally accepts a Palestinian state based on the 1967 lines.

June: 50 Years of Occupation.

6 Dec.: Trump announces the US's recognition of Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. PA cut ties with the Trump administration in protest.

2018

30 March: Great Return March - Gaza border protests.

14 May: US Embassy move to Jerusalem.

19 July: Israel's Nation State Law enacted.

10 Sep.: After cutting US aid to Palestinians, the PLO diplomatic mission in the US is ordered close.

29 Oct.: The PLO Central Council votes to suspend recognition of Israel until it recognizes a Palestinian state and calls for an end to security coordination and all economic agreements with Israel (but leaves it to President Abbas and the PLO to decide if and when they want to implement the decision).

2019

Trump Economic Plan - "Peace to Prosperity"
22 June 2019

- Economic component of President Trump's broader proposal to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Proposed a $50 billion 10-year investment package, mainly to be funded by Gulf countries, to boost Palestinian economic development, and create over one million jobs.
- Harshly criticized by experts and Palestinians, who boycotted the launching event in Manama.
- Did not progress beyond its initial unveiling.

13 April: Mohammed Shtayyeh is sworn in as new Prime Minister.

26-27 June: The economic part of Trump's "deal of the century" titled "Peace to Prosperity: The Economic Plan" is revealed in Bahrain.

2020

Trump Plan - "Deal of the Century"
28 January 2020

- Formally "Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People".
- Israel to have sovereignty over all existing settlements.
- Annexation of up to 30% of the West Bank as part of a two-state solution, with Jerusalem as Israel's capital only.
- Welcomed by Israel, rejected by Palestinians.
- President Abbas halted almost all bilateral contacts with Israel in response.

14-16 Feb.: During the Munich Security Conference, the foreign ministers of Egypt, France, Germany and Jordan (Munich Group) discuss peace efforts.

21 Feb.: COVID-19 pandemic arrives in the country.

15 Sep.: Israel, the UAE & Bahrain sign the Abraham Accords.

24 Sep.: Munich Group meeting in Jordan calls for resumption of negotiations towards a two-state solution.

23 Oct.: Israel and Sudan agree to normalize relations.

3 Nov.: Joe Biden wins US elections, defeating Donald Trump.

22 Dec.: Israel and Morocco sign the Abraham Accords.

2021

6 Jan.: Israel and Sudan sign the Abraham Accords.

11 Jan.: In Cairo, Munich Group discuss revival of peace talks.

19 Feb.: At the Munich Security Conference, Munich Group condemns Israel's settlement policy and Palestinian displacement.

11 March: Munich Group, EU and UN coordinators stress need for confidence-building measures to promote the two-state solution.

April: Palestinian protests erupt over looming eviction from Sheikh Jarrah.

29 April: Palestinian elections scheduled in May are indefinitely postponed.

10 May: Israeli raid of Al-Aqsa Mosque triggers 11 days of clashes and firing of rockets from/bombardment of Gaza.

13 June: PM Netanyahu ousted from power, replaced by Naftali Bennett's and Yair Lapid's centrist coalition.

2022

31 March: Israeli "Operation Break the Wave" targets resistance groups in Jenin and Nablus.

5-7 Aug.: Israeli "Operation Breaking Dawn" in Gaza.

22 Sep.: The Munich Group, the UN and EU call for a "just, comprehensive and lasting peace on the basis of the two-state solution."

1 Nov.: Netanyahu wins Israeli elections, forms far-right coalition government.

14 Dec.: An EU parliament resolution urges, *inter alia*, to set up a European peace initiative with the end goal of a two-state solution.

2023

9-13 May: Israeli "Operation Shield & Arrow" in Gaza

June-July: Israeli raids on Jenin leave at least 17 Palestinians dead.

26 June: Netanyahu tells MKs that Israel "needs the Palestinian Authority," but also "needs to crush [the Palestinian] ambition" for an independent state.

7 Oct.: Hamas' "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" on Israeli locations along the Gaza border, kills some 1,200 people. 240 are taken hostage.

8 Oct.: Israel declares war on Hamas, begins war on Gaza with airstrikes.

27 Oct.: Israel begins ground invasion in Gaza.

24 Nov.: Temporary ceasefire - 102 Israeli hostages, 200 Palestinian prisoners released.

24 Nov.: South Africa files a complaint with the ICJ, accusing Israel of violating the Genocide Convention.

2024

26 Jan.: In response to the case brought by South Africa, the ICJ orders Israel to take specific measures to prevent the possibility of genocide in Gaza.

26 Feb.: The entire PA government of Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh resigned.

20 May: The ICC prosecutor seeks arrest warrants for Israeli PM Netanyahu, Defense Minister Gallant, and Hamas' leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar.

24 May: The ICJ ordered Israel to immediately stop its military offensive in Rafah.

28 May: Spain, Ireland and Norway formally recognize a Palestinian state.

19 July: The ICJ concludeds that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is unlawful, that Israel should put an end to that occupation, desist from creating new settlements, evacuate those already established, and pay reparations where Palestinians have lost land and property.

Main event, agreement or plan

Related or relevant incidents and events

Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs
Tel: +972-2-626-4426 / 628-6566 | Fax: +972-2-628 2819
Email: passia@passia.org | Hind Al-Husseini, Alley, 2 Wadi Al-Joz | P.O. Box 19545, Jerusalem / Al-Quds

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung