

# The Berlin Initiative

*For a Diplomatic Solution to the  
Israeli - Palestinian Conflict*







## OVERVIEW »

The long-lasting **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** has dramatically **escalated since October 7th, 2023**. The Hamas massacre and the Israeli retaliation have become part of the ongoing saga of victimhood and are threatening to bring Israelis and Palestinians back to square one, even before Madrid and Oslo. The world is now divided between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian camps, instead of doing the utmost to bring Israel and the PLO back to the negotiating table. It is difficult to observe, on either side, any initiatives that offer a diplomatic and peaceful alternative to the conflict. Previous such initiatives have been rejected and discredited by hardliners on both sides, while new ones are blocked, as the initiators often face harsh personal risks. Israel and Palestine consequently find themselves in a situation where there is an absence of diplomatic alternatives, open dialogue, or free public debate on their most important political issue, one that could lead to an even more dangerous situation with high and far-reaching risks for both societies.

**Looking back at the history of peace efforts around the world**, it becomes clear that especially in moments of fragmentation and violence, it is utterly vital to **present diplomatic, peaceful alternatives** to the continuation and escalation of conflict. Even if, at first glance, the chances of success for such alternatives appear small, they must publicly exist and be strengthened. It is a principle that **Israelis and Palestinians** must always know and be certain of: that there are, at all times, countries, institutions, and individuals who understand the suffering of both sides and are actively campaigning for and offering peaceful alternatives to the conflict.

There is broad understanding and belief that this conflict, like many other serious conflicts around the world, and as has happened many times throughout the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, will ultimately end in some form of agreement that brings remedy and calm. For this reason, it is wise to start as early as possible to present alternatives that can influence such an agreement, with the hope that one day soon it will be possible to adopt a peaceful resolution. The ultimate goal, therefore, is to enable such alternatives for the sake of all Israeli and Palestinian people, including those who currently oppose them.

Now is the time to identify and engage with effective models that can halt the deterioration of the conflict and promote its peaceful de-escalation. **The international community must actively support such initiatives that reduce tensions and present viable solutions, in order to prevent further tragedy.** In this spirit, the Berlin Initiative will convene politicians, diplomats, academics, and other key stakeholders from the PLO (Palestine), Israel, the United States, Europe, Arab countries, and beyond. Together, they will work to generate fresh insights and build new alliances dedicated to advancing the de-escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.







## YOSSI BEILIN »

[www.yossibeilin.org](http://www.yossibeilin.org)

Yossi Beilin's distinguished career in public service began in 1984 with his appointment as Cabinet Secretary. From 1988 to 2008, he served as a Member of Knesset and held a range of ministerial roles, including Deputy Foreign Minister, Deputy Finance Minister, Minister of Economy and Planning, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister for Religious Affairs, and Minister of Justice. Dr. Beilin was the initiator of the Oslo peace process and the informal Geneva Peace Accord, and he currently serves as Chairman of the Geneva Initiative.



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The Holy Land Confederation as a  
Facilitator for the Two-State Solution



## HIBA HUSSEINI »

[www.hibahusseini.org](http://www.hibahusseini.org)

Ms. Hussein chaired the Legal Committee to Final Status Negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. She has served as legal advisor to the peace process negotiations since 1994. She has written widely on the peace process, the rule of law, economic development and Jerusalem. She serves on the boards of various educational, professional, cultural, business, and non-profit organizations. She served as the Vice Chair of the Palestine Bourse from 1998-2005. Ms. Hussein holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.



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## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (OSLO I, 1993) »

Washington D.C.  
1993-09-13

An agreement between Israel and the PLO, signed in Washington, DC, on 13 September 1993, following an **exchange of letters on mutual recognition**. It was the first agreement signed in the framework of the **Oslo Process**. The agreement outlined general principles for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and came about following a prolonged period of negotiations in Norway. It was signed by Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin** and PLO Chairman **Yasser Arafat**, and witnessed by **US** President **Bill Clinton**. It called for a transitional period of five years following an Israeli withdrawal from the **Gaza Strip** and Jericho areas, during which an interim, democratically-elected Palestinian self-government will be established in the **West Bank** and Gaza Strip. During the transitional period, negotiations would be held with the goal of reaching a permanent settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions **242** and **338**. The agreement was followed by the 1994 **Cairo Agreement**, facilitating Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and creation of the Palestinian Authority, and the 1995 **Interim Agreement**, transferring partial control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority.



## THE GENEVA INITIATIVE (2003 - 2009) »

Geneva, Switzerland  
2003-12-01

An unofficial draft proposal for a permanent status agreement to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, prepared in 2003 by a joint Israeli-Palestinian team headed by Palestinian minister **Yasser Abed Rabbo** and former Israeli Justice Minister **Yossi Beilin**, and sponsored by the **Swiss** government. The initiative references both the **2000 Clinton Parameters** and the **2002 Arab Peace Initiative**. The main principles contained in the initiative are: the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and resolution of all outstanding demands on both sides; mutual recognition of Jewish and Palestinian self-determination in Israel and Palestine respectively; borders based on the 4 June 1967 lines (**Green Line**) with agreed **territorial exchange**; division of **Jerusalem** along ethnic lines, including the Old City; resolution of the **Palestinian refugee issue** primarily through resettlement in Palestine, with other countries including Israel accepting a limited number of refugees; and **demilitarization of the Palestinian state**. In 2009, several annexes were added to the initiative, with specific details as to the implementation of the principles laid down in the original document. The initiative was not adopted officially by either side.



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## The Holy Land Confederation (HLC)

*As a Facilitator for the Two-State Solution 2025*

*(Since 2020 - Israel/Palestine; Authors: Dr. Yossi Beilin & Dr. Hiba Hussein)*

An unofficial draft proposal for a permanent status agreement to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, prepared from 2020 to 2022 by a joint Israeli-Palestinian team headed by Palestinian attorney and veteran peace negotiator Hiba Hussein and former Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin. The proposal builds on the 1993 Oslo Accords and the 2003 Geneva Initiative. Entitled the "Holy Land Confederation," it is not a substitute to the two-state solution but rather a way to facilitate it. Rather than aiming for hermetic separation between two independent states, Israel and Palestine, the proposal envisages a confederative framework of cooperation and cohabitation including joint authorities and a range of joint mechanisms. Under the proposal, the parties would begin negotiating for one year, both hammering out the parameters of a sovereign Palestinian state and determining the structure of a "Holy Land Confederation" - a cooperative, European-style confederation that would be formed between the two independent states of Israel and Palestine. The proposal allows for greater cooperation between the two states, facilitates movement between them, and makes Jerusalem - the capital of both states - a partially open city. It also foresees allowing Jewish settlers living in the West Bank to choose between relocating or becoming permanent residents of the State of Palestine. An equal 13 number of Palestinian citizens would then be allowed to reside inside Israel as permanent residents.



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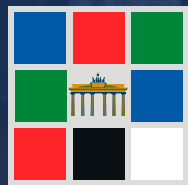
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## The Berlin Initiative

*"For a Diplomatic Solution to  
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(Launch Event, Potsdam; March 3-6th, 2025)







# THE BERLIN INITIATIVE »

## Launch Event

The **Launch Event** of the **Berlin Initiative** took place in the frame work of the Berlin Economic Forum 2025 in **Potsdam** from **March 3-6th, 2025** and provided a neutral platform for development and peace advancement.

Since decades, the **"Two State Solution"** has become almost a consensus as the prime solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. A **joint group** of Palestinians led by **Hiba Hussein** and Israelis led by **Yossi Beilin** have worked together in the last years and are suggesting the **"Holy Land Confederation (HLC)"** as an **"Umbrella"** for two independent and sovereign states collaboration.

The HLC that is following the model of the European Union will enable unique cooperation and profound coordination between the two sovereign states. The HLC will be open for other countries of the region to join in the future what will enable a remarkable constructive vision for the development of the near region and the entire Middle East. The HLC suggests solutions for most of the main issues that are in the core of the conflict. To illustrate, under the HLC solution it will not be required to evacuate Israeli settlements in the West Bank from their homes.

The launch event brought together renowned figures from international politics, diplomacy and academia to speak to an interdisciplinary audience. The HLC and other current and new solutions were debated during the launch event of the Berlin Initiative. Through a program of lectures, discussions and debates, the event has focused on enabling **"A Diplomatic Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"**.

Launched in the frame of the Berlin Economic Forum, the Berlin Initiative will constantly and consistently explore and suggest economic mechanisms to strengthen, **foster and support viable solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.



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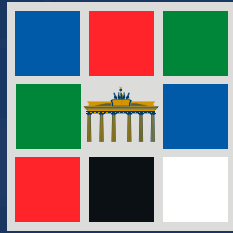
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