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“CONTEMPLATING DIPLOMATIC FRACTURES WHILE
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF SOCIOPOLITICAL INJUSTICE
AND APATHY”



**Strengthening fragile Middle Eastern peace treaties and
resolving diplomatic dissonance**

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Issue: Strengthening fragile Middle Eastern peace treaties and resolving diplomatic dissonance

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Introduction

The Middle East has experienced decades of diplomatic efforts aimed at ending conflicts and promoting lasting peace, yet many agreements remain fragile and vulnerable. While some treaties have successfully reduced direct military confrontations, unresolved political disputes, security concerns, and historical grievances continue to fuel tensions. This has created a situation in which formal agreements exist alongside recurring violence, instability, and mistrust among regional actors.

The roots of these challenges lie primarily in the long-standing Arab–Israeli conflict, which has shaped regional diplomacy for decades. Bilateral peace treaties and internationally mediated negotiations have provided frameworks for dialogue but often failed to address core issues such as borders, sovereignty, refugees, and the status of Jerusalem. As a result, initial progress in peace processes frequently loses credibility over time. Changing regional dynamics further complicate the durability of peace agreements. Political shifts, leadership changes, and regional rivalries can weaken states’ commitment to treaties, while non-state armed groups often undermine ceasefires and negotiations. In some cases, external support from other states intensifies these disruptions, increasing the risk of escalation and eroding trust.

International organizations, especially the United Nations, have attempted to stabilize the region through mediation, peacekeeping, and humanitarian coordination. These efforts help prevent immediate escalation and facilitate dialogue but often struggle with enforcement and monitoring, allowing repeated violations and reducing confidence in diplomatic solutions.

Delegates addressing this agenda must consider how trust can be rebuilt, compliance encouraged, and international cooperation strengthened while respecting state sovereignty. Solutions should be practical, inclusive, and enforceable, taking into account historical grievances, regional power dynamics, and the role of both state and non-state actors. By focusing on these measures, the committee can work to reduce diplomatic dissonance and promote a more stable and sustainable peace in the Middle East.

Definition of Key Terms

Peace Treaty: A formal agreement between states or parties to officially end a conflict and establish conditions for peaceful relations.

Normalization: The process of establishing official diplomatic, economic, and political relations between states that previously had no formal ties.

Two-State Solution: A proposed framework that envisions Israel and Palestine existing as two independent states within defined borders.

Ceasefire: A temporary or permanent agreement to stop fighting, often used as a first step toward broader peace negotiations.

Occupation: Control of a territory by a foreign military force without sovereign authority, often a central issue in peace negotiations.

Non-State Armed Group: An organized armed group that is not part of a recognized state military, often complicating peace enforcement.

Bilateral Agreement: A treaty or agreement made between two parties or states, rather than through a regional or international framework.

Multilateral Mediation: Peace efforts led by multiple international actors or organizations to facilitate negotiations between conflicting parties.

Final Status Issues: Core unresolved topics in peace talks, such as borders, Jerusalem, refugees, and security arrangements.

Diplomatic Dissonance: A situation where states maintain formal peace or cooperation while political tensions and unresolved conflicts continue.

General Overview

The Middle East has been shaped by decades of conflict, diplomacy, and peace initiatives, making it one of the most politically complex regions in the world. Although numerous peace treaties and diplomatic agreements have been signed, many of these arrangements remain fragile and prone to collapse. While some agreements have successfully reduced direct military confrontation, they have often failed to deliver long-term stability due to unresolved political disputes, security concerns, and a lack of mutual trust. This has resulted in ongoing diplomatic dissonance, where formal peace agreements exist alongside recurring tensions and periodic violence.

Arab–Israeli Conflict

A major source of this instability is the long-standing Arab–Israeli conflict, which has significantly influenced regional politics since the mid-twentieth century. Multiple attempts have been made to resolve this conflict through negotiations, including bilateral peace treaties and internationally mediated talks. Agreements such as the Egypt–Israel and Israel–Jordan peace treaties demonstrated that diplomacy could replace prolonged warfare between states. However, these agreements addressed only specific bilateral relationships and did not lead to a comprehensive regional settlement. Core issues such as borders, sovereignty, refugees, and the status of Jerusalem were left unresolved, allowing tensions to persist.

In addition to unresolved interstate disputes, internal conflicts and political fragmentation have further weakened the durability of peace treaties. Civil wars, uprisings, and governance crises across the region have diverted attention from long-term diplomatic commitments toward immediate domestic security concerns. Political instability within states often results in shifting priorities, leadership changes, and inconsistent implementation of agreements. As a result, peace treaties that rely on sustained political will become increasingly vulnerable over time.

Role of Non-State Armed Groups

Non-state armed groups present another significant challenge to strengthening peace in the Middle East. These actors are not bound by formal diplomatic agreements and frequently undermine ceasefires and negotiation processes through violent actions. Their involvement often escalates tensions between states that are formally at peace and complicates diplomatic efforts. In many cases, non-state groups receive support from regional or global powers, turning local conflicts into proxy confrontations. This further deepens diplomatic dissonance and reduces trust between parties.

International Efforts

The international community, particularly the United Nations, has played a central role in addressing these challenges through mediation, peacekeeping missions, and monitoring mechanisms. UN Security Council resolutions have provided legal frameworks for peace efforts, while international missions have helped prevent immediate escalation in sensitive areas. Despite these contributions, international involvement has often been limited by weak enforcement mechanisms. Violations of agreements are frequently met with limited consequences, reducing the effectiveness of international oversight and weakening confidence in diplomatic solutions.

Economic and Humanitarian Measures

Economic cooperation and humanitarian assistance have also been used to support peace and stability in the Middle East. Large international pledges, such as the nearly €6 billion in reconstruction and humanitarian aid promised for Syria at the 2025 Brussels donors conference, aim

to support political transition, rebuild infrastructure, and encourage peaceful recovery after years of conflict (Associated Press). Likewise, the European Union and its partners continue to provide sustained humanitarian and development aid to Palestinian communities, including financial support to the Palestinian Authority and programs designed to strengthen governance and economic resilience in the West Bank and Gaza (European Commission). While such initiatives can help stabilize affected populations and build limited confidence in political processes, they have not been sufficient to resolve deeper political disputes. In some cases, economic cooperation and reconstruction commitments have progressed faster than political reconciliation mechanisms, reinforcing the gap between formal agreements and the realities on the ground.

Conclusion

Overall, the Middle East continues to face the consequences of fragile peace treaties and unresolved diplomatic contradictions. Although previous agreements and international initiatives have reduced violence and opened channels for dialogue, they have failed to secure lasting and comprehensive peace. Strengthening existing treaties requires consistent implementation, effective monitoring, and renewed political commitment from all parties. Addressing this agenda item also requires acknowledging the broader regional context, including internal instability, non-state actors, and competing strategic interests. By understanding these challenges, delegates can work toward realistic and cooperative solutions that promote long-term stability and reduce diplomatic dissonance across the region.

Major Parties Involved

Palestine Liberation Organization

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is a political and paramilitary organization founded in 1964 that is globally recognized as the official representative of the Palestinian people that is currently represented by the Palestinian Authority. Initially committed to the armed struggle to "liberate" all of Palestine PLO underwent a significant shift in the late 1980s to the early 1990s under

the leadership of Yasser Arafat. This transformation resulted in the PLO formally recognizing the State of Israel in the 1993 Oslo Accords. In turn the State of Israel Recognized PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. This agreement laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA). PLO remains to be the political entity responsible for representing the Palestinians and is internationally recognized so.

Hamas

The Hamas movement , acronym for Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyyah (Islamic Resistance Movement), is a Palestinian Sunni Islam fundamentalist organization established in 1987 during the First Intifada as a ideological rival to the secular PLO. Hamas is rooted in the Muslim Brotherhood (Al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun) movement and calls for the establishment of an Islamic state in the historic Palestine area rejecting the existence of Israel completely. Similar to the PLO it operates both as a political entity and a paramilitary organization. After a violent conflict with the Fatah led PLO it resulted in Hamas taking de facto control of Gaza in 2007.

Israel

International support grew for the Zionist movement after the 1917 Balfour Declaration. Following the British Mandate for Palestine after the first world war , the horrors of the Holocaust and the failure of the 1947 UN Partition Plan to achieve consensus, the State of Israel was declared on May 14 1948 immediately leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War (also known as al-Nakba). Israel's victory in the conflict secured its existence and altered the region dramatically. Subsequent conflicts such as the 1967 Six-Day War (which resulted in the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem) and the 1973 Yom Kippur War defined its borders and intensified the Arab-Israeli conflict, while paving the way for the country's first peace treaties with Egypt(1979 subsequent to the Camp David Accords) and Jordan (1994)

Iraq

The Republic of Iraq occupies a highly sensitive geographical and political position, seeking to project itself as a neutral mediator and stabilize its own post conflict environment. Its current policy , which is deeply affected by the devastation caused by the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran War, is centered on preventing internal conflict and balancing the competing interests of regional powers. Iraq demonstrated great peacekeeping utility by successfully hosting secret direct talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia in 2021 and 2022 , a critical step that led to the restoration of the diplomatic ties between the countries and reduced regional tension significantly. However, Iraq's position is fragile; the war's legacy means the country must firmly prioritize rebuilding, while maintaining the strong belief that lasting regional peace depends entirely on a resolution to the Palestinian question.

Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran driven by an ideological goal to dismantle the Western supported regional security order and export its revolution. Iran maintains a strategy of "Axis of Resistance," providing financial and military support to allied non-state actors like the Hamas and Hezbollah to maintain direct pressure on Israel and US interests. This policy with its highly contested nuclear program and rejection of normalization with Israel leads to frequent international crises and punitive sanctions. While Iran uses these means for deterrence and regional influence, it also leverages its relationship with other powers like Russia and China to maintain a counter balance to the West, using strategic posturing to secure geopolitical ambitions.

UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a crucial regional actor whose policy is defined by a strategic shift toward economic pragmatism and de-escalation, moving away from ideological rivalries to prioritize stability and growth. Its most significant peace-making action was the signing of the 2020 Abraham Accords, which formalized diplomatic relations with Israel, a move that successfully averted Israel's planned annexation of West Bank territories and fundamentally altered the traditional Arab consensus regarding normalization. Furthermore, the UAE has actively worked to resolve internal Gulf dissonance by restoring diplomatic ties with Qatar and Türkiye, employing its substantial economic leverage and advocating for multilateralism and dialogue, including engagement with Iran, to secure its trade interests and strengthen its regional security architecture.

Turkey

The Republic of Türkiye is a crucial NATO member and regional power that adopts a highly active and often unilateral foreign policy, positioning itself as both a strategic bridge between East and West and an independent challenger to established security norms. Türkiye's policy is defined by a commitment to strategic autonomy, strong support for the Palestinian cause, and deep involvement in key conflicts, including military operations in Syria and Iraq aimed at counter-terrorism and securing its borders. While it has recently engaged in diplomatic normalization efforts with nations like Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, easing some regional dissonance, its complex relations with the EU, the US, and regional rivals over issues like the Eastern Mediterranean's energy resources and the status of political opposition groups continue to generate significant diplomatic friction. Türkiye views its security and prosperity as inextricably linked to regional stability, advocating for solutions that respect the territorial integrity of neighboring states while ensuring its national security interests are met.

Timeline of Key Events

Date:	Event:
1967 – Six-Day War	Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, Sinai and Golan Heights, creating the territorial disputes that define all later peace negotiations.
1973 – Yom Kippur War	Egypt and Syria's attack on Israel demonstrated the limits of military solutions and directly pushed the region toward diplomacy.
1978 – Camp David Accords	U.S.-brokered negotiations between Egypt and Israel produced the first framework for Arab-Israeli peace.
1979 – Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty	Ended decades of war between Egypt and Israel, stabilizing borders but isolating Egypt diplomatically in the Arab world.
1991 – Madrid Peace Conference	Brought Israel, Arab states and Palestinians into direct negotiations under international sponsorship for the first time.
1993 – Oslo I Accord	Established mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, raising expectations for a two-state solution.

1994 – Israel–Jordan Peace Treaty	Normalized relations between Israel and Jordan, reinforcing the feasibility of bilateral peace agreements.
1995 – Oslo II Accord	Divided the West Bank into administrative areas, complicating governance and weakening trust in the peace process.
2000 – Camp David II Failure	Final-status talks collapsed over Jerusalem, borders and refugees, leading to renewed violence.
2002 – Arab Peace Initiative	Arab states collectively offered normalization with Israel in exchange for Palestinian statehood, though it was never implemented.
2005 – Israeli Disengagement from Gaza	Israel withdrew from Gaza, reducing direct occupation but leaving security and governance unresolved.
2006–2007 – Hamas Control of Gaza	The Palestinian political split undermined unified negotiations and long-term ceasefire stability.
2014 – Gaza Conflict	Major escalation highlighted the fragility of ceasefires without political progress.
2020 – Abraham Accords	Israel normalized relations with several Arab states, reshaping regional diplomacy while sidelining the Palestinian issue.
2023 – Renewed Escalations	New waves of violence tested the durability of existing peace treaties and normalization efforts.
2025 – Ongoing Diplomatic Stalemate	Peace treaties remain in place, but unresolved core disputes continue to fuel instability and diplomatic dissonance.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Diplomatic negotiations, international mediation, and multilateral cooperation have been the main strategies used in previous attempts to strengthen peace treaties and reduce diplomatic tensions in the Middle East, though with limited long-term success. Efforts such as the Camp David Accords and the Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty demonstrated that negotiated agreements could end direct interstate conflict, while frameworks like the Madrid Peace Conference and the Oslo Accords sought

to institutionalize dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians under international sponsorship (United Nations, 1991; United Nations, 1993).

Additionally, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Road Map for Peace, supported by the United Nations and other international actors, aimed to provide comprehensive regional solutions but failed due to weak enforcement mechanisms and inconsistent compliance (UN Security Council, 2003). Although international organizations and external mediators attempted to monitor ceasefires, encourage cooperation, and facilitate communication through peacekeeping missions and special envoys, progress was repeatedly hindered by shifting political priorities, lack of mutual trust, and internal divisions among the parties involved.

More recent agreements, such as the Abraham Accords, improved bilateral relations between certain states but bypassed core disputes, further illustrating how opposing national interests and unresolved regional conflicts continue to undermine diplomatic harmony (United Nations, 2020). Consequently, while previous initiatives played an important role in reducing violence and opening channels of dialogue, they proved insufficient to secure comprehensive and sustainable peace.

Possible Solutions

Delegates could consider ideas such as deploying peacekeeping forces to protect civilians and monitor ceasefires, establishing rapid response teams for conflict hotspots, or encouraging regional cooperation to prevent cross-border attacks. They might also explore disarmament measures like arms embargoes on non-state actors, programs to collect and destroy illegal weapons, or dialogue with states supplying arms to conflict zones. Humanitarian assistance could include providing food, medical aid, and shelter, facilitating NGO access, and supporting displaced persons and refugees. For reconstruction, delegates might focus on rebuilding hospitals, schools, and infrastructure, promoting local economic development, or creating international funds for post-conflict recovery. Additionally, they could consider justice and accountability measures such as prosecuting war crimes, supporting truth and reconciliation initiatives, or monitoring human rights violations, as well as educational and social programs to prevent radicalization and promote peacebuilding within affected communities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Middle East remains a region where formal peace agreements coexist with persistent instability, reflecting decades of unresolved political disputes, historical grievances, and competing strategic interests. While past diplomatic initiatives—from the Camp David Accords to the Oslo process and more recent Abraham Accords—have demonstrated that dialogue and negotiation can reduce direct military confrontation, they have consistently fallen short of achieving comprehensive and lasting peace. Fragile enforcement mechanisms, leadership changes, internal political instability, and the involvement of non-state armed groups have repeatedly undermined these efforts, creating cycles of mistrust and renewed conflict. International organizations, particularly the United Nations, have provided essential mediation, peacekeeping, and humanitarian support, yet these measures alone have proven insufficient to address the deeper structural and regional challenges. Economic and reconstruction efforts, such as aid to Palestinian communities and post-conflict recovery funding in Syria, offer important support for stability but cannot replace durable political solutions. Moving forward, delegates must focus on practical, enforceable, and inclusive strategies that balance the sovereignty of states with the need for regional cooperation, address core disputes, including borders, refugees, and governance, and integrate mechanisms to monitor compliance, rebuild trust, and hold parties accountable. By combining security, humanitarian, economic, and justice-oriented approaches, the international community can help bridge the gap between formal agreements and the realities on the ground, providing a pathway toward more sustainable stability and reducing the diplomatic dissonance that has long defined the region.

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