



Conference on

The Quest for Palestine Statehood: Legal, Political and Economic Implications

25 October 2011

Institute of Law, Birzeit University

Introduction

The Conference explores possible and impossible tactics and processes needed to build and proclaim the State of Palestine. To this avail, the Conference attempts to address various tools that are supposed to be effective and efficient in materialising and sustaining this long-pursued goal. These include inherent tools of international and constitutional law, politics and economy. In particular, the Conference focuses on international law from the following perspectives: (1) the general role of international organisations, as well as the specific role of the UN agencies and international courts, in furnishing support to Palestine statehood recognition; (2) the value and nature of the diplomatic recognition of emerging states (states *in statu nascendi*) and ensuing gains; and (3) the legal and political foundations supporting Palestine statehood.

08:00-09:00

Registration

09:00-09:15

Opening

09:15-11:00

1st Session:

Palestine Statehood: The Art of the Possible and Impossible in Law and Politics

This session sheds light on international law from the following perspectives: (1) the general role of international organisations, as well as the specific role of the UN agencies and international courts, in furnishing support to Palestine statehood recognition; (2) the value and nature of the diplomatic recognition of emerging states (states *in statu nascendi*) and ensuing gains; and (3) the legal and political foundations supporting Palestine statehood.

Moderator: Nafe'e Al Hasan

Title of Presentation	Speaker
Legal Foundations of Statehood: The Way Ahead for the Palestinian State	John Quigley
The UN Role in Securing Statehood: Treaty Directions	Reem Butmeh
The Role of the International Court of Justice in Achieving	Valentina Azarov

Palestine's Independence	
Diplomatic Recognition of Emerging States: The Case of Palestine	Johnny Asi
Comment: Yaser Amouri	
Discussion	

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-13:00 2nd Session: Constitutional Law and Constitutionalism

This session tackles various statehood-related aspects under the constitutional law, including the notion of building and sustaining a constitutional democracy that ensures building accountable, democratic political institutions. This task will require an assessment of the need to draft a new constitution in order to cope with existing deficiencies and shortfalls in the current Basic Law, including in terms of drafting, adoption and enforcement. The session further deliberates on the values and principles which the desired constitution should adopt.

Moderator: Rafiq Abu Ayyash

Title of Presentation	Speaker
Constitution-making and Palestine Statehood	Asem Khalil
Which Constitutional Values for Palestine?	Yara Jalajel
Towards a Political System for a Stable, Democratic Palestinian State: Structure of the Political System and Future Relations between Public Authorities	Ahmad Abu Dayyeh
Towards Advanced Approaches to Safeguard and Enforce Human Rights and Public Freedoms in Palestine	Sha'wan Jabareen
Comment: Firas Milhem	
Discussion	

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-16:00 3rd Session Resistant Economy vs. Economic Dependence of a Viable State of Palestine: An Overview of the Future from a Macroeconomic Perspective

This session casts light on essential economic considerations of a viable statehood. In this vein, the session overviews the future of economic dependence on Israel from a macroeconomic perspective by initiating a serious and responsible discussion of vital issues that consolidate economic independence and sustainable development.

Moderator: Adel Zagha

Title of Presentation	Speaker
Economic Stability and Sustainable Economic Development in Palestine: Key Structural Highlights	Jawad Anani
Economic Independence and Resilience: What is Possible for a Small Country? Recent and Historic Evidence	Mehrene Larudee
The Future of External Aid: Towards an Effective National	Naser Abdelkarim

Financial Strategy	
Tax and Customs Management within a Framework of Appropriate Palestinian Monetary Measures	Yaser Shaheen
Comment: Mohammad Nasr	
Discussion	

Closing Session	Concluding Remarks
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