

Republic of Armenia

Statement

High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution

New York, July 28-30, 2025

delivered by H.E. Vahan Kostanyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Honorable Co-Chairs,

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

I would like to start by thanking France and Saudi Arabia for initiating this conference on the implementation of the Two-State Solution in the time when it is most needed to pave the way for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Armenia does believe that only two independent neighbor states can guarantee long-lasting stability, security, peace and prosperity for both Palestinian and also Israeli people, where all enjoy the benefits of peaceful co-existence. With this in mind, being always a supporter of two-state solution, in June 2024 Armenia recognized the State of Palestine and later under the auspices of 79th session of UNGA established diplomatic relations.

In this regard, Armenia welcomes the announcement of President of France Emmanuel Macron on intention to recognize the independent the State of Palestine. We are also particularly proud, that Foreign Ministers of France and Palestine had a chance to meet in Armenia in the margins of Yerevan dialogue diplomatic forum, paving a way for this historic development.

Based on our own experience Armenia clearly knows what the horror of war is. Despite the limited resources we have been trying to support the needs of Palestinian people. Based on the agreement between President of Egypt and Prime-Minister of Armenia we sent humanitarian aid to Gaza, we do also support the activities of UNRWA. Taking the chance, allow me also to announce that we reached an agreement with Palestinian authorities that Matenadaran-Armenian institute of ancient manuscripts, will temporarily become a shelter for Palestinian endangered manuscripts.

Armenia also emphasizes the importance of ensuring the safety, security, and full rights of Christian communities in both states. As one of the world's oldest Christian nations, we attach particular significance to the preservation of the Christian heritage in the Holy Land. Armenia hopes that of the historic Status Quo arrangements governing the Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and beyond will be fully respected, as a cornerstone of interreligious harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Mr. Co-Chair

Ever since the 7 October 2023 horrendous terrorist attack with unspeakable scenes of violence, slaughter and hostage taking, which we condemn in the strongest terms, we have been witnessing the worst escalation in region, with terrible tragedy unfolding for millions of innocent civilians, women, children and elderly. All the calamities that we are witnessing have a clear solution. The hostilities should stop, the ceasefire should be put in place and reinforced to prevent further bloodshed, all detainees and hostages should be immediately and unconditionally released, while ensuring the flow of humanitarian aid and relief. Most importantly the negotiations should be considered the only and viable way of securing a lasting and dignified peace in the Middle East rested on the Two-State Solution.

Allow me to conclude by thanking once again France and Saudi-Arabia for leading this important conference and express our strong support, as a nation, which is part of the fabric of the region, for lasting peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

Thank you!