

HIGHLIGHTS OF 55 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS - ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

TIMELINE

01. UN Security Council Resolution 242

Adopted on 22 Nov 1967, emphasising "land for peace". Called for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories and respect for regional state sovereignty. The exact extent of withdrawal became a point of contention.

1967

02. Camp David I

Post the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Egypt's Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem, setting a tone of peace. U.S. President Carter then mediated between Sadat and Israeli PM Menachem Begin at Camp David, resulting in two agreements. One outlined peace principles, building on Resolution 242, and proposed an Egypt-Israel treaty. The second, suggesting "self-governing authorities" in the West Bank and Gaza, was rejected by Palestinians.

1978

03. MADRID CONFERENCE

Promoted by the U.S. and USSR, this conference aimed to encourage Arab countries to sign agreements with Israel, akin to Egypt's post-Camp David accord treaty. Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and Egypt attended. Palestinians were represented within the Jordanian delegation, excluding key PLO figures. The event paved the way for the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty and initiated discussions leading to the Oslo Accord. However, talks with Syria and Lebanon stalled due to border disputes and Hezbollah's influence.

1991

04. OSLO ACCORDS

The Oslo Accords marked the first direct agreement between Israel and the PLO, symbolized by a historic handshake between Arafat and Rabin at the White House. The accords outlined phased Israeli withdrawals from the Palestinian Occupied Territories and the formation of a temporary Palestinian Authority, aiming for a two-state solution. However, despite mutual recognitions, the agreement faced significant opposition, culminating in Rabin's assassination by an Israeli opponent.

1993

05. Camp David II

Following the Oslo Accords, multiple peace attempts were made in the late 1990s. In 2000, under Bill Clinton's guidance, Israel's Ehud Barak and the PLO's Yasser Arafat met to address unresolved issues, including borders and Jerusalem. However, negotiations stalled as Israel's proposed concessions fell short of Palestinian expectations, particularly concerning the pre-1967 borders and the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees. This impasse subsequently ignited a fresh wave of Palestinian violence.

2000

06. Arab Peace Initiative

Following stalled bilateral talks and renewed conflict, Saudi Arabia introduced the Arab Peace Initiative. This multilateral proposal called for Israel to withdraw from territories seized in 1967 and endorsed a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, coupled with a "just solution" for refugees. In return, Arab nations would recognize Israel. The initiative was reaffirmed in a 2007 Arab summit in Riyadh.

2002

07. The Roadmap for Peace

The "Quartet"—comprising the U.S., Russia, the EU, and the UN—introduced the "Roadmap to Peace" after Senator George Mitchell's 2001 visit to the region. The plan, developed in phases, called for mutual statehood declarations, cessation of Palestinian violence, a halt in Israeli settlements, and the creation of a provisional Palestinian state. However, despite its aim for a final agreement by 2005, the roadmap was not realised, though it continues to be a reference in peace negotiations.

2003

In **December 2003**, an informal agreement known as the **Geneva Accords** was announced by Israeli representative Yossi Beilin and Palestinian representative Yasser Abed Rabbo. Contrary to the previous "Roadmap to Peace," these accords prioritized political agreements to foster security and peace. It proposed that Palestinians relinquish their "right of return," allowing Israel to retain significant West Bank settlements while conceding others. Palestinians would establish their capital in East Jerusalem, with Israel maintaining sovereignty over the Western Wall. Another unofficial pact by former officials also suggested reverting to 1967 borders, establishing an open Jerusalem city, and ending Palestinians' claims to return to former homes.

2007
2010

08. Annapolis and Washington

In **2007**, George W. Bush hosted peace talks in Annapolis, with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and several Arab nations attending. Although Hamas was absent, they aimed for a comprehensive peace deal by the end of 2008. However, due to disagreements and Israel's 2008 Gaza offensive, the talks were disrupted and no agreement was reached.

In **2010**, under **Obama's presidency**, the U.S. resumed peace talks after a 19-month break. Obama convinced Netanyahu to temporarily halt some West Bank constructions. Despite initiating direct negotiations in Washington in September 2010, the talks quickly stalled after a meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh.

09. Trump's Plan and Abraham Accords

In **2017**, under Trump's presidency, Jerusalem was recognised as Israel's capital, sparking Palestinian and Arab discontent. The U.S. moved its embassy there in 2018. By **2019**, the U.S. no longer deemed Israeli settlements as violating international law. The **Abraham Accords**, signed on September 15, **2020**, are historic normalisation agreements between Israel and several Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, later joined by Sudan and Morocco. Brokered with U.S. mediation, these accords aimed to establish diplomatic and economic ties, reflecting shifting regional dynamics and fostering greater cooperation in the Middle East.

2017
2020