

## The People's Republic of China

### Positions for the United Nations Security Council

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#### **I. Promoting Middle East Peace: The Future of Palestine as it Continues on the Road to Statehood**

It has been over 60 years since the first United Nations resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis (S/691) was passed on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1948. Since that time there have been two hundred and twenty-five Security Council resolutions passed related to the issue of Palestine, culminating with 2009's S/2009/1860. In those 24,500 days humanity has invented the personal computer and put a person on the moon. And yet, we have not been able to solve this conflict that has cost the lives of over 115,000 people, and which has increasingly endangered the international community. The situation has become even more problematic as more radical groups have taken hold of the Palestinian government, further pushing tensions between the two factions.

China has long held a position of neutrality, believing that nations should make their own diplomatic decisions and formulate their own solutions. As stated in our eight-point plan laid out by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang "[international affairs] will not have double standards. China will not have two policies: one for itself and one for others. China believes that it cannot do unto others what they do not wish others do unto them." This belief has guided our actions in regards to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict until recently. Over the past few decades, China has been active in contributing to numerous humanitarian causes that help ameliorate the effects of the crisis. China has financially supported the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), to whom we released one million dollars' worth of emergency aid in response to the 2008 Gaza War. China also gave the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East \$150,000 in 2013 with a promise of a similar contribution in 2014.

China has recently reconsidered its policy in this matter from one of indirect contribution to direct intervention. While China still believes that any solution that is enacted must be agreed upon by both the Palestinian and Israeli governments, China also believes that with the gravity of the threat that this conflict poses, international support and guidance is needed if lasting peace is to be achieved. Foreign Minister Wang Yi laid out China's five-point peace plan on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The five points of the plan are as follows: a total cease fire; both groups committing to stop pursuing unilateral appeals by force; an agreement to secure the rights of the Palestinian people by moving towards the establishment of a Palestinian State; the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) taking all necessary actions in solving the conflict; and finally, "the humanitarian situation in Palestine, especially in Gaza, be[ing] paid high attention to and alleviated effectively." China intends to help support this last point with a \$1,500,000 grant of aid to Gaza.

In our effort to provide solutions that many Member States themselves want, we believe pursuing a Palestinian Protectorate State would be the fairest solution to both sides. That Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas wrote a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon asking for Palestine to be put under United Nations protection in the annex to S/2014/514, further strengthens China's resolve for this solution. Making Palestine a Protectorate State would facilitate a cease fire by making it nearly impossible for either side to fire upon the other. This international protection would also include peace enforcement operations working with the Palestinian Authority (PA) to root-out terrorist elements, especially in the Gaza Strip where they have superseded governmental authority. This protection would also allow infrastructure-building, which China views as the only way to truly guarantee long lasting peace. For too long this issue has been a central breeding grounds for unrest in the international community, but China believes that appropriate actions exist to try and improve the situation on the ground in Palestine.

## II. Addressing the Threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The terrorist organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (hereafter ISIS) is one of the gravest threats to international safety the world has ever known. While it has been called by several different names in its history, this iteration of the organization under leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is by far the most violent, best funded, and most ruthless. According to the Report on the Protection of Civilians in the Armed Conflict in Iraq: 6 July to 10 September 2014 by the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) "at least 8,493 civilians were killed and 15,782 were wounded" in Iraq in the first eight months of 2014 alone. More than a million other refugees have been displaced from areas under ISIS control in Iraq. Since that time, the violence has only escalated and spread. One of the major components of what makes this threat so grave is the amount of funding ISIS has been able to procure. According to ACLJ tax attorney Jay Sekulow "ISIS accumulated cash and assets worth an estimated \$2 billion, making it arguably the wealthiest terror organization in the world." The international community has started to address this problem with S/RES/2170 which decried ISIS and their activities and placed sanctions upon high ranking members and the organization in general. That being said there is still much to be done in this matter.

China is gravely concerned with this issue, not only because of its international safety implications, but because of the security threats it places on China as a nation. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei said, "China opposes all forms of terrorism. China is willing to strengthen cooperation with the international community, including the fight against the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement", including terrorism and safeguarding regional and world security and stability." Baghdadi has said "Muslim rights are forcibly seized in China, India, Palestine...your brothers all over the world are waiting for your rescue, and are anticipating your brigades." ISIS has had success recruiting and militarizing Chinese citizens. This problem is pronounced in the Xinjiang region, a home to many from the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) - an offshoot of the ISIS movement. China has repeatedly said that it does not wish to interfere with the religious practices of the large Muslim population there. According to CNN, "President Xi Jinping pledged to respect the local residents' legitimate religious rights and local customs 'in accordance with laws and regulations.'" However, to address increasing violence caused by these organizations, Beijing has started a rigorous domestic campaign against terrorism which includes anti-terrorism drills for citizens. President Xi has also called for courts to handle terrorism cases in a "harsh and quick" manner.

While much has been done in this matter on both a national and international level, this threat is still one at the forefront of Chinese concern. We must call upon all Member States if we wish for this organization to be eradicated. China would first implore all Member States that offer sanctuary to these heinous terrorists to officially denounce these criminals and enact justice upon them. If those Member States feel themselves unable to fully carry out such proceeding, we hope that they will turn such actors over to the International Criminal Court so that they may be truly held accountable for their crimes. We would also call upon the international community at large to follow the sanctions put upon ISIS so that they will no longer hold such a large monetary advantage. We cannot stop at just the sanctions. A majority of ISIS's funding comes from smuggling historical artifacts and antiquities out of the country and selling them to the highest bidder. This practice not only funds the destructive acts of this organization but destroys the rich history of the many Member States they terrorize. We must band together to stop the smuggling of antiquities that are not government sanctioned at both a national and international level without violating the national sovereignty of the affected Member States. Furthermore, we must go above the language in S/RES/2070 and make it harder for these organizations to use their main recruiting tool, that of social media. If the international community can come together on this issue we can at the very least minimize the threat these terrorists and criminals cause.