"From Challenges to Opportunities to Solutions"

September 21, 2024
United Nations International Day for Peace

THE GENEVA PROCLAMATION

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Preamble: A Call for Global Peace and Cooperation

On September 21, the United Nations International Day for Peace was celebrated globally, and the Global Challenges Forum (GCF) Foundation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, issued this **Geneva Proclamation**. Recognizing Geneva's historic role as a bastion of diplomacy, dialogue, and conflict resolution, this Proclamation sets forth a renewed commitment to advance peace in one of the world's most enduring conflicts—the Israeli-Palestinian struggle.

Geneva, often called the "Capital of Peace," has long been a neutral platform for resolving complex global disputes. It is home to numerous United Nations offices, international organizations, and non-governmental institutions that foster peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The city's legacy of facilitating groundbreaking accords, from the Geneva Conventions to multilateral disarmament negotiations, underscores its unique capacity to host and propel diplomatic efforts that transcend borders, faiths, and ideologies.

In the spirit of this legacy, the Global Challenges Forum Foundation, established in 2012 in Geneva, issues the **Geneva Proclamation** as a call to action for the international community. This Proclamation introduces the **Geneva Accord**, an innovative framework designed to rejuvenate the Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue, underpinned by Swiss values of neutrality, inclusivity, and respect for international law. The Accord seeks to inspire new pathways toward coexistence, drawing on Geneva's unparalleled diplomatic infrastructure and Switzerland's enduring commitment to peacebuilding.

The **Geneva Accord** reflects our belief that peace is not merely the absence of violent conflict but the presence of justice, equality, tolerance, and shared human dignity. It seeks to harness the energy and vision of youth, leverage innovative governance models, and foster interfaith dialogue to construct a sustainable peace for future generations. The **Geneva Proclamation** marks the beginning of this transformative journey, calling upon all nations, leaders, and communities to unite in pursuing a peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

THE GENEVA ACCORD: PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

1. INTRODUCTION

The Global Challenges Forum (GCF) Foundation, established in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2012, is at the forefront of championing a novel strategy to rejuvenate the Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue. This initiative underscores the Foundation's unwavering dedication to fostering peace and stability in the Middle East, encapsulating a collective vision for a harmonious future for forthcoming generations.

The Foundation's Board is keen to collaborate with Switzerland and other pivotal entities to mentor emerging young leaders and foster a culture of peace and mutual comprehension. This collaborative effort aims to reimagine the pathway to resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict, offering an innovative twist on the traditional "two-state" solution.

Central to our proposal is the **"Geneva Accord,"** an avant-garde plan to redefine regional peace initiatives. It reconsiders Edward Said's concept of a binational state, advocating for equal rights and coexistence for all inhabitants. This strategy is inspired by successful federative models such as those of Switzerland and Belgium, emphasizing the importance of joint governance and mutual respect in establishing a peaceful living environment. Detailed collaborative projects and a Code of Conduct will underpin this vision.

2. TRACK II DIPLOMATIC FRAMEWORK AND SUMMIT

The formulation of this strategy will take place within a "Track II" diplomatic framework in Geneva, aimed at constructive dialogue and the generation of actionable recommendations, culminating in a **Summit in Geneva,** further reinforcing Switzerland's neutral role in the peace process. The Foundation offers to spearhead the preliminary negotiation framework, uniting diverse perspectives and expertise. Furthermore, we suggest Swiss facilitation of interfaith dialogue and custodial arrangements for Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among all faiths and inspiring young leaders toward impactful interreligious dialogue, enhancing peace efforts.

3. SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB HOPE AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT NETWORK (AHSAN)

This initiative will strengthen the Arab Hope and Social Advancement Network (AHSAN), a transformative platform launched in the Global Challenges Forum Foundation's *Amman Declaration.* Rooted in the Arabic word **"Ahsan" (أحسن),** meaning "better" or "to do well," AHSAN seeks to break away from traditional Arabic governance models, championing youth-led leadership, inclusivity, and innovation. It will build a new generation dedicated to peace, progressive transformation, and modern governance by serving as a dynamic forum for young leaders to actively engage in dialogue on peace and coexistence while promoting social entrepreneurship and innovative solutions within the peacebuilding process.

4. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES OF THE GENEVA ACCORD

A. Binational State Model:

We call for a binational Israeli-Palestinian state that provides equal rights to all its citizens without discrimination—a departure from the often-debated two-state option. This model will incorporate youth perspectives by forming advisory committees of younger generations to provide insights and innovative ways, supplementing the new governance model with next-generation ideas and ensuring that policies represent the different goals of all ages.

B. Confederation Model with Shared Governing:

We propose a Confederation model inspired by Switzerland's successful Confederation, which balances autonomy and cooperation among its diverse linguistic and cultural communities. The model promotes youth engagement by establishing a youth parliament, allowing leaders from both communities to contribute to future decision-making, provide new ideas, and actively shape standard governance norms.

C. Switzerland's Support for Youth Leadership:

We will first seek Switzerland's support for mentorship and development programs for young Palestinian and Israeli leaders. Then, we will leverage Switzerland's expertise in conflict resolution and youth empowerment to nurture a new generation of knowledgeable and involved peacemakers.

D. Custodianship of Al-Masjid al-Aqsa:

We recommend Swiss facilitation of interfaith dialogue and custodial arrangements for Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among all faiths. This endeavor will include developing interfaith conversation and educational initiatives for young people, promoting better understanding and respect across sectarian lines, and growing leaders committed to interreligious cooperation.

E. Unity in Action: Supporting the ASHAN Global Compact and Enforcing Equitable Conduct:

The ASHAN Global Compact, with global support, is proposed to modernize Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts by emphasizing equality and coexistence. Youth will have critical roles in the governing body and will actively participate in implementing a detailed Code of Conduct, including an international monitoring body.

F. Dialogue Pioneers: Young Voices for Trust Building and Reconciliation:

The project will empower young Israelis and Palestinians through conversation forums, leadership training, and community projects. It will build a new generation of leaders for long-term peace and redefine ties through mutual respect.

5. EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR PEACE: THE VISION OF THE GENEVA ACCORD

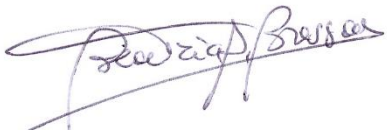
The **Geneva Accord** represents a visionary step forward, embedding resilience at its core to empower the next generation with the strength and adaptability required to navigate the complexities of peacebuilding. A core component of our proposal involves bolstering mental health and community resilience and understanding that peace also needs healing and support on a personal and communal level.

The proposed **Geneva Accord**, buoyed by global support, is poised to be a cornerstone in the Middle East peace process for the rest of this century, envisioning a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within a cooperative framework led by Switzerland and supported by key international players such as the United States, the European Union, the Arab League, and Israel, all under the auspices of a United Nations Security Council Resolution. Establishing next-generation youth leadership and innovation platforms is crucial to this vision, as it ensures that young voices are heard and that they lead the charge in crafting a more peaceful future.

CONCLUSION: A CALL TO PEACE

As we issue this **Geneva Proclamation** on the United Nations designated *International Day for Peace*, we call upon all nations, organizations, and individuals to join us in realizing the **Geneva Accord**. By embracing this framework, we affirm our collective commitment to peace, tolerance, dialogue, and the enduring values that Geneva represents. Together, let us turn the page on violence and open a new chapter of hope, cooperation, and shared prosperity for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East to build a sustainable future under the auspices of youth.





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