

Draft Outline (revised version)

Conference ' Jerusalem: Coalitions for Justice and Peace'

1. Project: On 18 and 19 June International Dialogues Foundation (IDF) will organise the conference 'Jerusalem: Coalitions for Justice and Peace' in partnership with the Palestine Israel Journal (PIJ) in The Hague.

2. Aim: Formulation of proposals, which can serve as basis for international coalitions for the realisation of a just and workable solution for the status of Jerusalem as part of a comprehensive plan for the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian.

3. Considerations: It is obvious that there is a deadlock in the efforts to resume the negotiating process between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. It is for this reason that the Arab countries have declared that in case the efforts of the US government fail they will have to think of alternative ways. In this context the question of East-Jerusalem as capital for the Palestinians can be considered as a testcase.

4. Background and planning: This project is the outcome of a series of roundtables within the context of the program Justice and Peace in Israel/Palestine on 'What to be expected of Obama becoming President' (December '08), 'Security for Israel/Palestine from a regional perspective' (June '09) and 'Perspectives for a Palestinian state' ('09). After this Jerusalem-roundtable for the coming period roundtables have been planned on Gaza and the West Bank, to be followed by a final conference for an assesment of the conclusions.

5. Organisers: In consultation with a Steering Group of committed Israeli and Palestinian experts the board of IDF organises and coordinates the discussions. Members of the Steering Group are Menachem Klein, Ziad Abuzayyad, Moshe Maoz, Walid Salem, Hillel Schenker and Mouin Rabbani. Members of the Advisory Committee of prominent Dutch politicians (chairman Wim Deetman) play an active role as moderators in the roundtable meetings. As the decision on the composition of the Steering Group was an outcome of last years June roundtable, the extension of the group of Israeli and Palestinian experts with congenial experts from countries abroad might also be an outcome of this roundtable, and as such perfectly fitting with the theme of this meeting: the concept of coalitions. Similar conclusions might be drawn with regard to the composition of the Advisory Committee.

6. Approach: With as core the Steering Group colleague-experts from Europe, the US and neighbouring countries have been invited to participate in a process of formulation of proposals on the basis communication online and a series of roundtables.

7. Sources: As reference for the dicussions are being used reports and articles presenting congenial opinions, among them besides articles and reports of PIJ, the report of the EU Heads of Mission on East Jerusalem and the report 'A Policy Framework for the Interim Period of The Jerusalem Policy Forum.

8. Assumptions: As basis for the discussion the 'two state solution' with Jerusalem as capital for the two states.

9. Description of the situation: the unilateral expansion of the West-Jerusalem territory in 1967; the policy of Judaisation of East Jerusalem; expropriation and restrictive measures against the Palestinians; the creation of 'facts on the ground' by the Israeli authorities; the isolation of East Jerusalem from the Palestinian West Bank area.

10. Earlier proposals and conclusions: Camp David in 2000, followed by the Taba conclusions in 2001.

11. Impediments and counter-initiatives: the weakened Palestinian position by the internal division between Fatah and Hamas with as partial answer the bottom-up policy of strengthening of the institutions; the weakening of the left in Israel with as partial answer a shift to the role of the civil society.

12. Coalitions as a multidimensional process: between the two nations, on governmental and non-governmental level; international on governmental and non-governmental levels; triangular between the internal and external forces.