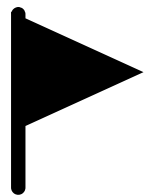


Proposals: Israel & the API

In 2002, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League introduced the Arab Peace Initiative (API), a proposal to fully normalize Arab-Israeli relations as part of a permanent status two-state agreement. The initiative, which has since been modified and was recently re-endorsed by the Arab league, was never formally responded to by Israel. IPF and its partners have proposed the following Israeli responses to the Arab Peace Initiative:



The Formal Acceptance of Land Swaps

In the Spring of 2013, the Arab League accepted “comparable and mutually agreed minor swaps of the land,” as part of the API. This removes the previously unacceptable demand that Israel return to the 1967 Green Line and signals that the API should not be considered a take-it-or-leave-it proposition.



Israeli & Palestinian Consent on the Issue of Refugees

In recent years, representatives of the Saudi royal family and other Arab actors have signaled a recognition that any resolution to the issue of refugees requires both Israeli and Palestinian consent, acknowledging that a full-scale return of Palestinian refugees and their descendants is not in the cards.



A Realistic Analysis of Regional Developments

The API's original inclusion of the areas “including the Syrian Golan Heights to the lines of June 4, 1967” is no longer politically feasible due to the Syrian civil war. The conflict in Syria has created a mutual interest in Israel's maintaining its long-term presence on the Golan Heights. By responding to the API in this context, Israel will find an Arab League that is not encumbered by the views of Syria or its Hezbollah partners and potentially prepared to further amend the API accordingly.