

# *Long Term Trends in Palestine*

**Working Group Meeting**  
**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**  
Amman, Jordan  
September 17, 2014

This workshop seeks to look beyond recent developments and examine potential longer term scenarios for the West Bank and Gaza. The group will consider how developments in key areas are likely to impact Palestinian life, politics and livelihood as well as the future of the national project in the years ahead.

## Meeting Agenda

**8:30 am**                      **Light Breakfast and Welcome**

**8:45 am – 10:15**        **Session One –Palestinian Political Dynamics and Governance**

This session will look at scenarios for the evolution of Palestinian political dynamics, including the fate of the Palestinian National Authority (PA), the role of political Islam, and alternative actors.

Moderator: Nathan Brown

Discussion Questions include:

- What are the likely scenarios for political leadership and succession moving forward?
- What events or developments might shift Civil Society in a manner that could significantly impact political dynamics?
- How are current entrenched interests likely to be affected over time by the continuing status quo?
- What are the longer term scenarios for Fatah-Hamas relations? What events will impact the evolution of this relationship and the prospects for reconciliation and/or permanent division of West Bank and Gaza?
- What long term trends are likely to affect the prospect of Islamization of Palestine and what scenarios for the future of Hamas and groups like Islamic Jihad can be foreseen for the next decade?
- What form might Palestinian resistance take going forward? What scenarios could we see in the coming decade and what form, if any, is resistance likely to take, any why, going forward? What developments will be most critical to determining how resistance manifests itself?

**10:15-10:30 am      Coffee break**

**10:30- 11:45 pm      Session Two – Economic Dependency and Restrictions**

This session will consider future economic scenarios for the West Bank and Gaza, including the provision of basic services in the event of a PA collapse, the future of outside support for the PA or its successor, and the situation in Gaza.

Moderator: Samir Abdullah

Discussion Questions include:

- What are the likely economic scenarios for the West Bank and for Gaza over the long term? What assumption might be made about the availability of donor assistance and under what, if any, conditions would aid be no longer needed?
- What are the economic implications of the current restrictions on the movement of goods and people in the West Bank and Gaza? In particular, to what extent would the Palestinian National Authority (PA)'s aid requirements be lower if the restrictions are eased?
- What are the specific circumstances where aid is likely to cease or become highly inadequate, and what are the implications?
- Could the PNA continue to govern effectively without donor aid? What would be the implications of the PNA's collapse?

**12:00pm - 1:15 pm      Session Three – Palestinian Attitudes and Alternatives to Statehood**

This session will examine the impact of ongoing occupation and settlement activities on Palestinian attitudes and long term political trajectories and scenarios.

Moderator: Yezid Sayigh

Discussion Questions include:

- What are the implications of continued settlement at the current pace – when does time run out for statehood?
- What are the alternative scenarios to statehood and when does statehood become an unrealizable goal? What benchmarks are critical in this respect?
- What happens if there is no peace process? What happens if the occupation and settlements continue on their present trend, and a two-state solution becomes impossible?

- What are the likely implications for citizenship on both sides of the green line of a defacto 'one state' scenario? What sort of "one state" might that be and how will that affect contending political agendas?
- How does the increasingly rightwing nationalist dynamic we now see in Israel affect these trajectories?

**1:30-2:45 pm            Lunch Buffet**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm            Session Four -- External Actors and Diplomacy**

This session will consider the potential role of outside actors – in the Arab world and elsewhere -- on the evolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict going forward.

Moderator: Marwan Muasher

Discussion Questions:

- How is the conflict likely to be affected by the turbulence and new dynamics elsewhere in the Arab region?
- What conclusions can be drawn from recent events regarding the mobilization of Arab publics around the Palestinian issue in the future and their impact on key actors, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia?
- In what way are changes in regional and international policies likely to affect the situation on the ground?
- In what way might external engagement shift? What factors are most likely to influence this?
- When and under what conditions, if any, could the costs of external activist campaigns directed against the occupation impact the situation on the ground?

**4:45- 5:30 pm            Wrap Up Discussion**

**7:30 pm                    Dinner**