Country/entity	Israel Palestine
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Letter of Invitation to Madrid Peace Conference
Date	30 Oct 1991
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Arab-Israeli Conflicts (1948 -)

This conflict involves Israelis and Palestinians over territory and belonging and has long historical antecedents. The agreements post-1990 are between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, with some supporting inter-state agreements (i.e. between Israel and Jordan). More recently the importance of the once dominating Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) has diminished not in the least due to the effective disappearance of its left-wing members and the loss of the popularity of their political wing, Fatah. Hamas and other Islamic groups have attained significant relevance in Fatah's stead, with Hamas controlling the Gaza strip (from which Israel ultimately unilaterally withdrew (not coded as a peace agreement).

Geo-political implications of the conflict have been considerable across the MENA region.
Close
Arab-Israeli Conflicts (1948 -
)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Israel-Palestine peace process
Parties	Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine Liberation Organisation

Third parties	US, Soviet Union
Description	The breakup of the Soviet Union and the Gulf War reshaped the basic political order of the Middle East. In an attempt to take advantage of this change, US Secretary of State James Baker made eight trips to the region in the eight months following the Gulf War. The Madrid Invitation, inviting Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians to an opening conference represents the result of this shuttle diplomacy. The invitation, an outcome of compromises by all sides, details the structure of the Madrid process: An opening conference having no power to impose solutions Bilateral talks with the Arab states bordering Israel, Talks with the Palestinians on 5-year interim self-rule, to be followed by talks on the permanent status Multilateral talks on key regional issues, like refugees. The following is the complete text of the invitation to the Madrid Peace Conference on October 30, 1991, jointly issued by the U.S. and the Soviet Union: The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region-wide issues of water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.

Agreement document	IL_PS_SY_LB_USSR_Madrid Letter [format].pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical Page 6, Invitation ... The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	Page 5, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel 8. The U.S. will not support the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Page 3, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria 7. The U.S. does not intend to recognize or accept any unilateral action on the pan of Israel vis-a-vis the extension of its laws, sovereignty or administration to the territory of the Golan Heights.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	Page 5, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel 10. Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders.
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.
Border delimitation	Page 3, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria 9. The U.S. is prepared to serve as guarantor of the security of whatever borders Israel and Syria agree on. Page 5, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel 14. The U.S. reconfirms ex-president Gerald Ford's written commitment to ex-premier Yitzhak Rabin of September 1975 regarding the importance of the Golan Heights to Israel's security. ... 16. Israel is entitled to a secure border with Lebanon and Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon must be implemented in a manner assuring the stability and security of the border.
Cross-border provision	No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	No specific mention.
Elections	Page 2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • The U.S. believes that Palestinians of East Jerusalem should be able to participate by voting in elections of an interim governing authority.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Autonomous regions Page 2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • Negotiations between Israel and .Palestinians will be conducted in phases beginning with talks on interim self-governing arrangements. These talks will be conducted with the objective of reaching agreements within one year. Once agreed the interim self-governing arrangements will last for a period of five years. Beginning the third year of the period of self-governing arrangements, negotiations will take place on permanent status. It is the aim of the U.S. government that permanent status negotiations will be concluded by the end of the transitional period. Page 1, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • We believe that Palestinians should gain control over political, economic, and other decisions that affect them and their fate.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	Page 1, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians ... • The U.S. doesn't seek to determine who speaks for Palestinians in this process. We are seeking to launch a political negotiating process that directly involves Palestinians and offers a pathway for achieving the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and for participation in the determination of their future. We believe that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation offers the most promising pathway toward this end Page 1, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • Palestinians and Israel must respect each other's security, identity, and political rights. Page 2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • The purpose of negotiations on transitional arrangements is to effect the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to Palestinians. Palestinians need to achieve rapid control over political, economic, and other decisions that affect their lives and to adjust to a new situation in which Palestinians exercise authority in the West Bank and Gaza. For its pan the U.S. will strive from the outset and encourage all the parties to adopt steps that can create an environment of confidence and mutual trust, including respect for human rights
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation	Page 5, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel ... 16. Israel is entitled to a secure border with Lebanon and Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon must be implemented in a manner assuring the stability and security of the border.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 6, Invitation ... The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights

Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights
Page 1-2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians
• The U.S. understands how much importance Palestinians attach to the question of East Jerusalem. Thus we want to assure you that nothing Palestinians do in choosing their delegation members in this phase of the process will affect their claim to East Jerusalem or be prejudicial or precedential to the outcome of the negotiations.
• The U.S. is opposed to the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and extension of Israeli law on it and the extension of Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. We encourage all sides to avoid unilateral acts that would exasperate local tensions or make negotiations more difficult or preempt their final outcome.

Page 2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians
• ... The U.S. supports the right of Palestinians to bring any issue including East Jerusalem to the table.

Page 2, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians
• The U.S. believes that no party should take unilateral actions that seek to predetermine issues that can only be reached through negotiations. In this regard the U.S. has op posed and will continue to oppose settlement activity in territories occupied m 1967 which remain an obstacle to peace.

Page 3, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria
6. The final settlement can be reached only on the basis of mutual concessions during the negotiations. The U.S. will throughout these negotiations continue to be committed to the fact that Security Council Resolution 242 and the land-for-peace principle are applicable to all fronts, including the Golan Heights.

Page 3, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria
7. The U.S. does not intend to recognize or accept any unilateral action on the pan of Israel vis-a-vis the extension of its laws, sovereignty or administration to the territory of the Golan Heights.
8. The U.S. will continue to oppose Israeli settlement activity in the territories occupied in 1967, which remains an obstacle to peace.

Pastoralist/ nomadism rights

No specific mention.

Cultural heritage

No specific mention.

Environment

Page 6, Invitation
... The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.

Water or riparian rights or access

Page 6, Invitation
... The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	Page 1, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to the Palestinians • Palestinians and Israel must respect each other's security, identity, and political rights. Page 5, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel 10. Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders. ... 14. The U.S. reconfirms ex-president Gerald Ford's written commitment to ex-premier Yitzhak Rabin of September 1975 regarding the importance of the Golan Heights to Israel's security. 17. The U.S. is committed to Israel's security and to the maintenance of Israel's qualitative edge. Page 6, Invitation ... The co-sponsors believe that those negotiations should focus on region wide issues such as arms control and regional security, water, refugee issues, environment, economic development, and other subjects of mutual interest.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	Page 3, C. A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Lebanon • An assurance that Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, has nothing to do with resolution 242 and will be treated as a separate is - sue. • An assurance that the withdrawal of Israeli troops and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon are two separate issues, the former addressed by resolution 425 and the latter by the Taef agreement, which also calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.
Corruption	No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	Page 3, D. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Israel 1. The U.S. sees the objective of the Middle East negotiations as the attainment of genuine peace and reconciliation between the peoples of the region, accompanied by peace treaties and full diplomatic relations. Page 7, Invitation Indeed, only through such a process can real peace and reconciliation among the Arab states, Israel and the Palestinians be achieved

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Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	Page 3, A. U.S. Letter of Assurances to Syria 5. The role of the UN consists in the dispatch by the UN secretary-general of a representative to attend the conference as an observer.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
