

B'NAI B'RITH  INTERNATIONAL

November 2, 2017

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
U.N. Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency:

We write to express deep dismay regarding the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), for 2018-2022, signed with the "Government of the State of Palestine."

Included in the Framework's exceptional allocation of resources would be many millions of dollars to train Palestinians to "effectively access international accountability mechanisms in order to hold Israel accountable for its [alleged] violations." The unnamed mechanisms might presumably include the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council. Lawfare has persistently been wielded as a threat by Palestinian leaders to not merely isolate and impugn Israel but to practically hinder Israel's critical efforts at self-defense that are aimed at preserving the lives of its citizens and that also head off catalysts for more costly mutual confrontation. Lawfare's primary achievement, however, is the erosion of Israelis' trust in a Palestinian partner with whom to negotiate genuine reconciliation and peace.

The UNDAF, more generally, pledges to "strengthen the capacity of Palestinian organizations to advocate effectively," to work to ensure that a "strong Palestinian national identity prevails," to help "promote Palestinian culture and national narrative," and even to seek to boost the "[n]umber of heritage sites and places of historical importance in Palestine that are under Palestinian Jurisdiction."

Mr. Secretary-General, why is it appropriate for the United Nations to single out the Palestinians alone for support of political advocacy and "national narrative"? Moreover, Palestinians' exploitation of UNESCO, in particular, to politicize the designation of heritage sites and to shamelessly whitewash Jews' ties to holy places in their sole ancestral homeland has brought that body into catastrophic disrepute and made it complicit in an overt perpetration of contemporary anti-Semitism.

The one-sided program detailed in the Framework, which amounts in essence to UN encouragement of Palestinians' explicit strategy of internationalized conflict against Israel and Israelis, represents more than simply an enormous waste of the taxpayer resources of donor countries. It will present a substantial impediment to any progress that could be made toward resolving peacefully the conflict between Palestinians and Israel, and thus, ultimately, to bettering the circumstances of people on both sides.

UN agencies' unmistakable partisanship in service to Palestinian nationalism will only deepen the perception within the Israeli public, and among others, that the UN is hopelessly biased

against the Jewish state, and incapable of fairly contributing to the needs of both parties to a tragic conflict.

We strongly urge you to direct a review and thorough revision of the allocations provided for in the aforementioned Framework. Peace will only come from a willingness by Palestinians to discontinue confrontation, end terrorism and incitement, accept Israel's legitimacy as a Jewish democracy, and engage in resolving disputes exclusively through direct bilateral negotiations and compromise. UN development assistance would have a far greater likelihood of positive impact if invested in initiatives bringing Palestinians and Israelis together, rather than further apart.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Saltzman
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President