

Universal Declaration of Palestine (Draft)

Preamble

We, the people of Palestine, proclaim this Universal Declaration of Palestine in affirmation of our inalienable rights under international law and universal moral conscience. Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,[1] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),[2] and the International Covenants on Human Rights, we declare our right to exist, to return, and to live in freedom and equality among all nations.

Article I — Right to Existence and Sovereignty

The Palestinian people possess the inherent right to self-determination under Article 1(2) of the UN Charter and Common Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

We assert our right to establish an independent State of Palestine on our national soil, with East Jerusalem as its capital, consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Article II — Human Dignity and Equality

All Palestinians are born free and equal in dignity and rights.[3]

Discrimination based on gender, faith, or origin is prohibited. The Palestinian State shall uphold equality before the law, freedom of belief, and full participation of all citizens.

Article III — The Right of Return and Justice

All Palestinian refugees and their descendants retain the right to return to their homes and lands, as affirmed in UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) of 1948.[4]

Restitution and compensation shall accompany the restoration of rights.

Article IV — Peace, Security, and Coexistence

Palestine is committed to peace based on justice and equality, in accordance with Article 2 of the UN Charter.

True peace requires the end of occupation and the guarantee of human security for all peoples.

Article V — Cultural and Spiritual Heritage

Palestine, the cradle of civilizations and faiths, safeguards its heritage in accordance with the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972).

Jerusalem (Al-Quds al-Sharif) is affirmed as a city of universal belonging and shared sanctity.

Article VI — Governance, Freedom, and Accountability

Palestine shall be governed by democratic institutions grounded in the UDHR and ICCPR, guaranteeing freedoms of conscience, expression, and assembly.[5]

Article VII — Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Palestine shall pursue equitable and sustainable development under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement (2015).

Natural resources belong to the people and must be protected from exploitation.

Article VIII — International Solidarity and Universal Principles

The Palestinian struggle for freedom stands within the universal movement for human rights.

This principle is affirmed by the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (UNGA Resolution 1514 (XV), 1960) and the Declaration on Friendly Relations (1970).

Concluding Covenant

We, the People of Palestine, stand before humanity and history to declare that our rights are indivisible, our dignity unyielding, and our peace inseparable from justice.

Let this Declaration serve as both a moral testament and a legal affirmation:

that Palestine shall live free and sovereign,

and that justice — for all — shall endure.

REFERENCES AND SOURCES

1. Charter of the United Nations, 24 October 1945, 1 UNTS XVI.
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNGA Resolution 217 A (III), 10 December 1948.
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), UNGA Resolution 2200A (XXI), 16 December 1966.
4. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III), 11 December 1948.
5. Arab Charter on Human Rights, League of Arab States, 22 May 2004.
6. UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 16 November 1972.
7. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNGA Resolution 70/1, 25 September 2015.
8. Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UNGA Resolution 1514 (XV), 14 December 1960.
9. Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, UNGA Resolution 2625 (XXV), 24 October 1970.