



*Background Documents Distributed  
to the members of the Joint  
Palestinian-Japanese Working Group  
in preparation for the January 26  
Online Workshop*

## **Official PA-PLO Positions on Japanese-Palestinian Relations: recent statements**

The Palestinian-Israeli Peace  
Process and Palestinian-  
Japanese Relations (conversations  
and excerpts from PA/PLO officials)

January 2022

PCPSR

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# **Official PA-PLO Positions on Japanese-Palestinian Relations**

**The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process  
Palestinian-Japanese Relation**

**Excerpts from conversations with PA-PLO officials and from  
statements by the PA Minister of Foreign Affairs**

<http://www.mofa.pna.ps/ar-jo/>

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/>

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# PCPSR's Publications of the Joint Working Group on Palestinian-Japanese Working Group

## Background Reports prepared for the first workshop

Mohammad Daraghmeh, **Japan As Seen by the Palestinian Media: How the Palestinian Press and Social Media View Japanese Culture, Literature, Technology, Economy, and Palestinian-Japanese Relations**

Dr. Abdel Nasser Makky, **Strengthening Japan's "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" Initiative: Japan and the Jordan Valley**

PCPSR, **Japan in the Middle East, 2017-2021: The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process and Palestinian-Japanese Relations (excerpts from Japan's MOFA Bluebook)**

PCPSR, **Official PA-PLO Positions on Japanese-Palestinian Relations: recent statements on the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process and Palestinian-Japanese Relations**

Omar Sha'ban, **Japan's Developmental Role in the Gaza Strip: The Constraints of the "Split" and the Promising Potential in Partnering with Civil Society and the Productive Sector**

Khalil Shikaki, **Palestinian Public Perception of Japan: Report on Results of a Public Opinion Poll among Palestinians, December 2021**

## Background Report prepared for the Second workshop

Khalil Shikaki, **Japan and Palestine: Timeline of Main Developments and Turning Points in the last 50 years**

## Reports on workshop's proceedings

PCPSR, **Report on the Presentations and discussion of the First Workshop of the Joint Palestinian-Japanese Working Group, January 2022**

PCPSR, **Report on the Presentations and discussion of the Second Workshop of the Joint Palestinian-Japanese Working Group, March 2022**

## Other Publications

**The Future of the Middle East Peace Process: Policy Recommendations produced by the Middle East Study Group**, Headed by Dr. Ryoji Tateyama, Professor Emeritus, National Defense Academy of Japan, Organized by The Japanese Institute of International Affairs

Government of Japan, **Japan's assistance to the Palestinians**

Government of Japan, **JAIP: Jericho Agro-Industrial Park**

# Official PA-PLO Positions on Japanese-Palestinian Relations

PCPSR's consultation with the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Department of Public Diplomacy and Policy of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

January 2022

The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) consulted with Palestinian officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the PLO's Department of Public Diplomacy and Policy on the main issues of interest in Palestinian-Japanese relations in light of the formation of the Joint Palestinian-Japanese Working Group made up of academics and experts and the workshop planned for 26 January.

The conversations took place with three officials:

**Mr. Ahmad al Deek, the political advisor of the Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**Ms. Rana Abu Hakmeh, Director of the East Asia Department,**

**Mr. Abdualah Awwad, Department of Public Diplomacy and Policy, PLO**

*The following topics were raised and emphasized by the Palestinian officials:*

1. The PA-PLO are interested in discussing Japan's recognition of the State of Palestine. This recognition is seen as a confirmation of Japan's support for the two-state solution.
2. All officials showed great interest in a greater Japanese role in providing political support for the Palestinian diplomacy due to Japan's great standing and role in the international system.

3. The Palestinians are eager to see Japan play a greater role in encouraging and promoting international efforts to put an end to the Israeli violations of international law, particularly in the area of settlement expansion, which is seen detrimental to the prospects of the two-state solution.
4. Palestinians aspire to see Japan stand more effectively against Israeli daily attacks on Palestinian livelihood and wellbeing that includes home demolition, land confiscation, arrests, settlers' terrorism, and army violence against children and non-violent protesters.
5. Palestinians hope that Japan would play a greater role in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and to continue its current efforts to promote peace in the region and to reject Israel's foot-dragging and excuses for rejecting negotiations under the pretense that its government coalition is too weak or fragile. Given its current settlement plans, the current Israeli government is seen as posing an irreversible damage to a future peace based on the two-state solution. The current "de facto annexation" is seen as a deliberate Israeli government policy that Japan should condemn in the strongest terms.
6. Japan is encouraged to continue and expand its economic support for the PA and UNRWA with particular emphasis on the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), seen as coming under threat due to Israeli-imposed restrictions.
7. The PA-PLO aspire to see direct bilateral relations with Japan expanding into new areas without linkage to relations with Israel.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1520736/middle-east>

## Palestinians welcome Japan offer to mediate in Palestine-Israeli conflict

DAOUD KUTTAB

July 04, 2019

AMMAN: Palestinians welcomed the initiative made by Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono in the exclusive interview he gave to Arab News about his country's interest playing the role of an "honest broker" in helping to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Saeb Erekat, the secretary of the executive committee of the PLO, told Arab News that Japan is a country that has shown a 'tremendous commitment' to peace and the two-state solution.

"They have invested in the development of institutions in Palestine and have kept a position against Israeli settlements," Erekat said. "We welcome their position which is consistent with the peace plan presented by President Abbas before the Security Council in February 2018, calling for a group of countries to facilitate the peace process as we are not going to accept the United States to play this role."

Ibrahim Milhem, spokesperson of the Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, noted that the premier met a Japanese delegation that included the Middle East peace envoy Masahiro Kono and Japan's head of diplomatic mission in Ramallah Takeshi Okubo. In a statement after the meeting on Wednesday, the Palestinian prime minister noted his appreciation of the bilateral relations between both sides. "Shtayyeh praised the continuous political and economic support from Japan, especially their support in the building of the institutions of the state of Palestine," the statement concluded.

Ahmad Deek, political affairs advisor of the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, said that the ministry "welcomes" the calls made by the Japanese foreign minister. In answer to a question by Arab News, Deek said, "we welcome the suggestion made by the foreign minister because we believe that any movement is helpful." Deek noted that Palestinians yearn for peace and welcome support from "our international friends so long as it is not limited to only the Americans."



Hanna Issa, director of Islamic-Christian Commission for Support of Jerusalem, said that Japan's position is the correct one. "Both the Israeli and American positions are constantly changing and therefore it is important to have a country that is neutral like Japan, which supports the two-state solution and has shown its backing on projects in support of Palestinian statehood."

The Japanese delegation to Palestine has met a number of senior Palestinian officials and observed Japanese funded projects. Japan is a major supporter of Palestinian agriculture through its efforts to help agricultural exports, especially from the Jordan valley area. They also attended the first conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian development (CEAPAD) held in Palestine.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad Malki opened the conference, stressing that CEAPAD is an effective model for building bridges of communication and transferring successful experiences in East Asia to Palestine to support the two-state solution.

Malki said that the initiative of the CEAPAD conference gives hope to the Palestinian people, especially in light of Israel's control over the Palestinian economy. He added that with the help of the countries participating in the conference they hope to move from a state under occupation to a developed country achieving development freely and with dignity.

The first CEAPAD conference was first held in the Japanese capital Tokyo in 2013; the second was in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in 2014 and the third in the Thai capital Bangkok in 2018.

CEAPAD member states include Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, the Sultanate of Brunei and Palestine. The observer countries and organizations are: South Korea, Egypt, Jordan, the International Quartet, UNRWA and the Islamic Development Bank.

<http://www.mofa.pna.ps/ar-jo/mediaoffice/politicalstatement/malki-receives-the-japanese-parliamentary-delegation-headed-by-chairman-of-the-committee-on-foreign-affairs-and-updates-him-of-the-current-situation-in-palestine>

## Malki receives the Japanese parliamentary delegation, headed by Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and updates him of the current situation in Palestine

August 18, 2019

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr. Riad Malki, on Sunday, received the Japanese parliamentary delegation headed by the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Japanese Parliament Mr. Kenji Wakamia in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Takeshi Okubo, as well to Director of Asia Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Consultant Rana Abu Hakima, and briefed them on the latest political developments in Palestine.



At the beginning of the meeting, Maliki welcomed the guest delegation and praised the depth of bilateral relations between Palestine and Japan, praising Japan's efforts in building Palestinian human capacity and building and developing the institutions of the Palestinian state, and its efforts to support the Palestinian people and its

leadership, and their initiatives He also thanked Japan for its continued support to UNRWA, especially after the us aid was cut off. Malki also reiterated the Palestinian side's appreciation for Ambassador Okubo's efforts and activities in order to advance bilateral relations between the two countries, in addition to the efforts of the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) and Japan's efforts in the framework of the East Asian Conference to support development in Palestine (CEPAD), adding that Palestine is counting Japan as friends should build the state and make progress in the peace process.



<http://www.mofa.pna.ps/en-us/mediaoffice/ministernews/statement-by-dr-riad-malki-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-expatriates-of-the-state-of-palestine-before-virtual-side-event-the-importance-of-upholding-the-principles-of-self-determination-and-non>

## Statement by Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine before virtual side event: “The importance of upholding the principles of self-determination and non-discrimination justice for the Palestinian people”

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Statement by Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine before virtual side event: “The importance of upholding the principles of self-determination and non-discrimination justice for the Palestinian people”**

So today, I put before you actionable steps that you can take to help end Israel’s illegal occupation and dismantle its apartheid regime in Palestine. These steps are:

1. Recognize that Israel’s occupation of Palestine is illegal. This is a necessary first step;
2. Foster support and mobilize solidarity amongst UN Member States, political groupings and peoples for Palestinian rights;
3. Challenge Israel’s colonial-apartheid regime, including through defunding it by stopping all arms trade and military “assistance” to Israel;
4. Boycott all products produced on stolen Palestinian land or by illegally exploited Palestinian natural resources, including water;
5. Boycott all companies and institutions that profiteer from the entrenchment of Israel’s colonial regime;
6. Take bilateral and multilateral action to isolate the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime, including comprehensive and mandatory sanctions;
7. Support the State of Palestine’s legal endeavors to hold Israel accountable for its crimes, including by considering actions at the ICC and ICJ;
8. Hold states that continue to support and fund this illegal situation to account, morally, politically, and legally;
9. Question Israel’s credentials to the UN and other international organizations;
10. Reanimate political and multilateral process based on international law and UN resolutions.

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/10491/September-26,-2018-Dr-Ashrawi-%E2%80%9CIt-is-incumbent-upon-the-international-community-to-curb-Israeli-lawlessness-and-end-its-occupation-of-Palestine%E2%80%9D>

## Dr. Ashrawi: “It is incumbent upon the international community to curb Israeli lawlessness and end its occupation of Palestine”



September 26, 2018,

Dr. Ashrawi received Japanese parliamentarians Taichiro Motoe and Yusuke Nakanishi yesterday who were accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Okubo and staff from the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine at the PLO Headquarters in Ramallah and welcomed them to Palestine.

Dr. Ashrawi extended her appreciation to the Japanese government for its continued support of Palestine, as well as its consistent financial contributions to UNRWA.

The discussion focused on the latest political developments and Israel’s systematic violations of international law and conventions, including the escalation of its illegal

settlement activities in and around occupied Jerusalem, its plans to destroy the Palestinian Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar, the extra-judicial executions of Palestinians, the illegal siege of Gaza, and collective punishment measures.

In that context, Dr. Ashrawi stressed, “Such egregious violations require serious and effective multilateral international action. **We call on the Japanese government to support our efforts in that regard. We also urge Japan to play a proactive political role in order to ensure an end to the occupation and to establish the independent and sovereign state of Palestine on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.**”

The meeting also reviewed the US administration's fateful alliance with Israel, which provides it with blanket support for its illegal and immoral behavior and war crimes against the Palestinian people. In that regard, Dr. Ashrawi said, “The US administration’s recent destructive and irresponsible moves threaten to plunge the entire region into chaos, violence and instability.”

Both parties also reviewed the positive relations between Palestine and Japan and discussed ways to create even greater understanding and cooperation between the two peoples and countries.

<http://www.dci.plo.ps/en/article/3769/September-15,-2015-Dr-Ashrawi-meets-with-newly-appointed-Japanese-Representative-to-the-State-of-Palestine-Takeshi-Okubo>

## Dr. Ashrawi meets with newly appointed Japanese Representative to the State of Palestine Takeshi Okubo



September 15, 2015

PLO Executive Committee Member Dr. Hanan Ashrawi met with newly appointed Japanese Representative to the State of Palestine Takeshi Okubo at the PLO Headquarters in Ramallah and welcomed him to Palestine.

**Both parties reviewed relations between Palestine and Japan, and Dr. Ashrawi expressed her appreciation to Japan for its support of Palestinian institution- and nation-building and its continued projects and initiatives in Jerusalem and in Area C.**

**She also called on Japan to terminate projects and activities with links to the military occupation of Palestine and to the illegal settlements and to implement sanctions against Israel for its continued violations of international law and conventions.**

Dr. Ashrawi provided an assessment of the alarming and worsening conditions on the ground, in particular the escalation of Israeli policies and practices of violence and terror against the Palestinian people, their resources, and their holy sites in Occupied Jerusalem, including the deliberate assaults on Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Palestinian worshipers:

“Israel is flagrantly provoking grave violence and a holy war throughout an already-volatile region. We call on the United Nations Security Council to convene an emergency meeting in light of the disastrous situation and undertake serious punitive measures against Israel before it is too late.”

In addition, both Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Okubo discussed matters related to the future Palestinian National Council meeting, reconciliation and future Palestinian moves in the international arena.





The **Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research** explored Palestinian-Japanese relations by establishing a joint Palestinian-Japanese working group made up of experts and academics to engage in a dialogue on the various facets of the relationship with the aim of proposing a joint vision on how to strengthen and advance that relationship in a manner that helps it meet the challenges of the future. This initiative sought to examine *Japan's role in the Middle the Middle East by focusing on Japanese-Palestinian Relation through a Joint Japanese-Palestinian second track policy workshops and consultation.*

The dialogue took place in two online workshops to discuss the current relationship and explore ideas and policies for the future. In addition, the effort included the preparation and publication of various background reports and working papers addressing some aspects of the current relationship. PCPSR also issued two reports summarizing the presentations and discussion of the two workshops as well as the recommendations of the second workshop.

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