

## Letter From Executive Board

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Executive Board of the 7th Session of the United Nations General Assembly's Emergency Special Session, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all delegates participating in this historic committee. We are honoured to have you join us for this prestigious Model United Nations conference.

Our committee's focus for this session will be the Question of Palestine, specifically addressing the events leading up to and including the freeze date of **June 25, 1982**. As a Historic Committee, we aim to recreate that specific period's political atmosphere and dynamics. It is important to note that any events occurring after the freeze date will not be taken into consideration during the committee proceedings. This unique format offers an opportunity to explore the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the context of that era.

In a Historical Committee, delegates are encouraged to conduct thorough research, analyze the historical context, and represent the viewpoints, policies, and interests of the respective countries or individuals they embody. We expect delegates to engage in critical thinking, foster nuanced debates, and navigate the geopolitical realities of the time. This approach enables a more authentic experience, where delegates can enhance their negotiation, diplomacy, and consensus-building skills within a challenging historical context.

Throughout the committee sessions, you will have the chance to interact with fellow delegates, engage in lively debates, and work together to find

comprehensive and just solutions to the Question of Palestine. The Executive Board is committed to providing guidance, support, and facilitating the committee's proceedings to ensure a fruitful and enriching experience for all participants.

We encourage you to make the most of the research material available and actively engage in dialogue with fellow delegates, fostering a productive and collaborative atmosphere. Your active participation and contributions will play a significant role in the success of this committee and the overall conference.

Once again, we extend our warmest welcome to all delegates of the 7th Session of the United Nations General Assembly's Emergency Special Session. We look forward to your presence and active involvement in the committee.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you throughout the conference.

### **About the United Nations General Assembly's Emergency Special Session**

The United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session (UNGA ESS) is a significant forum within the United Nations (UN) framework that serves as a platform for addressing urgent and critical matters of global concern. This session is distinct from the regular sessions of the General Assembly and is convened in response to emergencies that require immediate attention and collective action from the international community. In this introductory document, we will explore the purpose, mandate, historical context, and procedures associated with the UNGA Emergency Special Session.

The ESS is convened under the authority of Article 20 of the United Nations Charter, which empowers the General Assembly to meet in special session

upon the request of the Security Council or a majority of member states. The decision to call for an emergency session is driven by the recognition that extraordinary situations require swift and coordinated responses to prevent further escalation and protect the welfare of nations and people involved.

The UNGA Emergency Special Session is a mechanism designed to respond swiftly to pressing global issues that demand the attention and action of the international community. Unlike the regular sessions of the General Assembly, which occur annually, the Emergency Special Session is convened on an ad hoc basis when a situation arises that requires immediate discussion, decision-making, and coordination among member states.

The primary mandate of the UNGA Emergency Special Session is to address urgent matters of international peace and security, as well as other pressing global challenges. It provides a platform for member states to engage in in-depth deliberations, exchange views, and collaborate on finding appropriate solutions to the specific emergency at hand. The discussions and decisions made during these sessions can have a direct impact on the direction of international relations and the actions taken by member states. The Emergency Special Session is typically convened at the request of the UN Security Council when it determines that a situation poses a threat to international peace and security. However, the General Assembly itself can also initiate the convening of an Emergency Special Session if one-third of its member states or the majority of the UN member states deem it necessary.

This demonstrates the inclusive and responsive nature of the session, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in addressing emergencies. The UNGA Emergency Special Session has played a crucial role in addressing various global crises throughout history. One notable example is the Emergency Special Session on the Question of Palestine, which has been convened

multiple times to discuss the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and seek a just and lasting solution. The Emergency Special Session serves as a platform for member states to express their concerns, present proposals, and engage in dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to complex conflicts.

Furthermore, the UNGA Emergency Special Session has been convened on other occasions to address urgent issues such as armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and threats to international security. These sessions provide an opportunity for member states to collaborate, share experiences, and develop strategies to mitigate the immediate challenges faced by the international community.

During the Emergency Special Session, member states follow established procedures for conducting discussions and making decisions. The session is chaired by a designated representative who facilitates the proceedings and ensures that all participants have the opportunity to express their views. Deliberations can include formal speeches, interactive debates, and consultations among member states, with the aim of reaching a consensus on the most appropriate course of action to address the emergency.

Decisions made during the Emergency Special Session can take various forms, including resolutions, declarations, or recommendations. These outcomes carry significant weight and provide guidance to member states and other UN entities regarding their responsibilities and actions related to the emergency situation.

In conclusion, the United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session serves as a critical forum for addressing pressing global challenges that require immediate attention and collective action. Through its deliberations and decision-making processes, the session aims to find solutions, promote international peace and security, and facilitate cooperation

among member states. The Emergency Special Session stands as a testament to the UN's commitment to confronting emergencies

## **Introduction to the Agenda**

In this section, we will provide a detailed introduction to the two key components of the agenda for the United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session: the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the 1982 Lebanon War. We will explore the historical context, significant events, and the circumstances that led to the calling of the emergency session.

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is a complex and deeply rooted issue that has spanned several decades, with its origins tracing back to the early 20th century. It encompasses a wide range of political, territorial, and humanitarian challenges, as well as diverse perspectives and aspirations of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

The conflict revolves around the competing claims for self-determination and statehood between Israelis and Palestinians. It involves contentious issues such as the status of Jerusalem, borders, the rights of refugees, security concerns, and the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the region.

Until June 25th, 1982, the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict witnessed numerous significant events that shaped its course. These include the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Arab-Israeli Wars, the Six-Day War in 1967, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, and ongoing negotiations and attempts at peace, such as the Camp David Accords in 1978.

Within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, it is essential to examine the 1982 Lebanon War, which had a profound impact on the region and contributed to the urgency of the United Nations General Assembly

Emergency Special Session. The war erupted on June 6th, 1982, when the Israeli Defense Forces launched a military campaign into Lebanon.

The 1982 Lebanon War was a complex conflict involving multiple actors and interests. It began as an Israeli response to perceived threats from Palestinian armed groups operating in Lebanon, particularly the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Israeli military campaign aimed to curtail the influence of the PLO and establish security along the northern border.

The war witnessed intense fighting, with the Israeli forces advancing into Lebanese territory and besieging major cities such as Beirut. The conflict also drew the involvement of regional actors, including Syria and various Lebanese factions. The war resulted in significant loss of life, displacement of civilians, and widespread destruction.

The circumstances surrounding the 1982 Lebanon War, coupled with the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, prompted the convening of the United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session on the Question of Palestine. The session recognizes the urgency of addressing the evolving situation, protecting the rights and interests of all parties involved, and seeking ways to advance peace, stability, and reconciliation in the region.

The Emergency Special Session provides a crucial forum for delegates to engage in constructive dialogue, share perspectives, and work collectively towards sustainable solutions. It acknowledges the historical context and the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the 1982 Lebanon War, emphasizing the importance of examining the events leading up to the freeze date of June 25th, 1982.

As delegates, you have the opportunity to delve into these historical contexts, understand the intricacies of the conflicts, and explore avenues for peace. The

United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session is a platform for fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and shaping the future trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Let us embark on this journey with empathy, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to achieving a just and lasting resolution.

## **Timeline of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Leading Up to the 7th Session of the UNGA ESS**

### 1. Late 19th Century:

- 1882: The First Aliyah begins as Jewish immigrants from Europe and Russia settle in Palestine.
- 1896: Theodor Herzl publishes "The Jewish State," advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland.

### 2. Early 20th Century:

- 1914-1918: World War I impacts the region, as Ottoman Turkey, which controlled Palestine, aligns with Germany.
- 1917: The British issue the Balfour Declaration, expressing support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

### 3. 1920s-1930s:

- 1920: The League of Nations grants Britain a mandate over Palestine.
- 1922: The League of Nations approves the British Mandate for Palestine.
- 1929: Violent clashes erupt between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem, Hebron, and other cities.
- 1936-1939: The Arab Revolt takes place in Palestine against British rule and Jewish immigration.

#### 4. World War II and its Aftermath:

- 1945-1946: Jewish immigration to Palestine increases, driven by the Holocaust and Jewish displacement.
- 1947: The United Nations proposes the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.
- November 29, 1947: The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 181, recommending the partition plan.

#### 5. The Creation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Wars:

- May 14, 1948: The State of Israel is established, and the British Mandate ends.
- May 15, 1948: Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, attack Israel.
- 1948-1949: The Arab-Israeli War takes place, resulting in armistice agreements and Israeli territorial gains.

#### 6. Post-War Period and Pan-Arabism:

- 1950s-1960s: Pan-Arabism gains prominence, led by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.
- 1956: The Suez Canal Crisis occurs as Egypt nationalizes the canal, prompting military intervention by Israel, the UK, and France.
- 1964: The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded with the goal of liberating Palestine.

#### 7. The Six-Day War and its Aftermath:

- June 5-10, 1967: The Six-Day War occurs as Israel launches a preemptive strike against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.
- Israel captures the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.

#### 8. The Yom Kippur War and Peace Efforts:

- October 6-25, 1973: Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday.



- 1977-1979: The Camp David Accords are negotiated between Israel and Egypt, resulting in a peace treaty in 1979.

#### 9. Lebanon War and Palestinian Refugee Crisis:

- 1970s-1980s: Palestinian armed groups operate from Lebanon, contributing to the country's instability.
- June 6, 1982: Israel launches Operation Peace for Galilee, invading Lebanon to target PLO strongholds.
- June 14, 1982: Israeli forces reach the outskirts of Beirut, besieging the city.
- September 16-18, 1982: The Sabra and Shatila Massacre occurs, where Lebanese Christian militias kill Palestinian refugees.

#### 10. July-August 1982:

- **July 17, 1982: The United Nations Emergency Session on the question of Palestine in 1982 is convened.**

## Concluding Remarks

As we conclude this study guide for the 7th session of the United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session on the Question of Palestine, it is important to emphasize that this guide serves as a valuable starting point for your research and preparation. While we have provided a comprehensive overview of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the 1982 Lebanon War, it is essential to delve deeper into the intricacies of the topics and explore various perspectives.

We encourage all delegates to supplement this study guide with additional research from authoritative sources such as research papers, United Nations reports, scholarly articles, and historical documents. These resources will provide you with a broader understanding of the historical, political, and

humanitarian dimensions of the conflicts, enabling you to contribute more effectively to the committee discussions.

Furthermore, we urge you to familiarize yourselves with the stances and foreign policies of your respective countries regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Understanding your country's position on the issues at hand will enable you to represent its interests and contribute constructively to the negotiation process.

To aid your research, we recommend referring to the actual [resolutions](#) passed during the 7th session of the United Nations General Assembly Emergency Special Session.

Additionally, we encourage you to explore the [records and verbatim](#) of the meeting, which offer firsthand accounts of the discussions and deliberations that took place during the session. These records can provide valuable context and help shape your understanding of the committee's work.

Remember that this study guide is a tool to support your research and preparation, but it is by no means exhaustive. As delegates, you have the opportunity to bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and creative solutions to the table. Embrace the spirit of diplomacy, engage in constructive dialogue, and collaborate with your fellow delegates to seek pathways towards peace, justice, and stability in the region.

We wish you success in your endeavours and look forward to witnessing your contributions to this historic committee. May your discussions be fruitful, your resolutions impactful, and your commitment unwavering.

