

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES.

Objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and to all efforts that undermine direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a secure and peaceful settlement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and to all efforts that undermine direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a secure and peaceful settlement.

Whereas it is long-standing policy of the United States Government that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must come through direct, bilateral negotiations without preconditions for a sustainable two-state solution;

Whereas President Barack Obama expressed before the United Nations General Assembly in 2011 that “peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the

United Nations—if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now”;

Whereas Yasser Arafat committed by letter dated September 9, 1993, to then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, “The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process and to the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved by negotiation.”;

Whereas the United Nations has taken a long-standing biased approach towards Israel, confirmed in outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon’s final address to the United Nations Security Council, when he described the “disproportionate” volume of resolutions targeting Israel and stated that “decades of political maneuvering have created a disproportionate number of resolutions, reports, and committees against Israel”;

Whereas the United Nations is not the appropriate venue and should not be a forum used for seeking unilateral action, recognition, or dictating parameters for a two-state solution, including the status of Jerusalem;

Whereas it is long-standing practice of the United States Government to oppose and veto any United Nations Security Council resolution dictating terms, conditions, and timelines on the peace process;

Whereas it is also the historic position of the United States Government to oppose and veto one-sided or anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas efforts to impose a solution or parameters for a solution will make negotiations more difficult and will set back the cause of peace;

Whereas the Obama Administration's decision not to veto United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016) is inconsistent with long-standing United States policy and makes direct negotiations more, not less, challenging;

Whereas several United States administrations have articulated principles as a vision for achieving a two-state solution, including addressing borders, mutual recognition, refugees, Jerusalem, and ending all outstanding claims;

Whereas Israel is a vibrant democracy whose leaders are elected and accountable to the Israeli people; and

Whereas the Palestinian Authority must engage in broad, meaningful, and systemic reforms in order to ultimately prepare its institutions and people for statehood and peaceful coexistence with Israel: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses grave objection to United Nations
3 Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016);

4 (2) calls for United Nations Security Council
5 Resolution 2334 to be repealed or fundamentally al-
6 tered so that it is no longer one-sided and allows all
7 final status issues toward a two-state solution to be
8 resolved through direct bilateral negotiations be-
9 tween the parties;

10 (3) rejects efforts by outside bodies, including
11 the United Nations Security Council, to impose solu-
12 tions from the outside that set back the cause of
13 peace;

1 (4) demands that the United States ensure that
2 no action is taken at the Paris Conference on the
3 Israeli-Palestinian conflict scheduled for January 15,
4 2017, that imposes an agreement or parameters on
5 the parties;

6 (5) notes that granting membership and state-
7 hood standing to the Palestinians at the United Na-
8 tions, its specialized agencies, and other inter-
9 national institutions outside of the context of a bilat-
10 eral peace agreement with Israel would cause severe
11 harm to the peace process, and would likely trigger
12 the implementation of penalties under sections 7036
13 and 7041(j) of the Department of State, Foreign
14 Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations
15 Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114–113);

16 (6) rejects any efforts by the United Nations,
17 United Nations agencies, United Nations member
18 states, and other international organizations to use
19 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 to
20 further isolate Israel through economic or other boy-
21 cotts or any other measures, and urges the United
22 States Government to take action where needed to
23 counter any attempts to use United Nations Secu-
24 rity Council Resolution 2334 to further isolate
25 Israel;

1 (7) urges the current presidential administra-
2 tion and all future presidential administrations to
3 uphold the practice of vetoing all United Nations Se-
4 curity Council resolutions that seek to insert the
5 Council into the peace process, recognize unilateral
6 Palestinian actions including declaration of a Pales-
7 tinian state, or dictate terms and a timeline for a so-
8 lution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

9 (8) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
10 States to continue to seek a sustainable, just, and
11 secure two-state solution to resolve the conflict be-
12 tween the Israelis and the Palestinians; and

13 (9) urges the incoming Administration to work
14 with Congress to create conditions that facilitate the
15 resumption of direct, bilateral negotiations without
16 preconditions between Israelis and Palestinians with
17 the goal of achieving a sustainable agreement that is
18 acceptable to both sides.