

**RECOMMENDATION 15**

**In order to encourage all possibilities for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Government of Canada should consider how Canada can play a stronger role in supporting:**

- **good governance, social development and educational efforts, working with pro-democracy partners in the region;**
- **conflict resolution, community dialogue and confidence-building measures that strengthen civil society;**
- **peace building initiatives, including facilitating, sponsoring and hosting peace activities in the region, in addition to playing a more active role in advancing the established Roadmap process for political negotiations.**

The Government firmly supports the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles signed on September 13, 1993. These should lead to a comprehensive agreement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including the right of all countries in the region to live within secure and recognized boundaries and the requirement for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967. The Government also firmly supports the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty of March 26, 1979 and the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of October 26, 1994.

The Government supports the performance-based Quartet Roadmap to peace to which PM Sharon and PM Abbas pledged support at the Aqaba Summit in 2003.

The Government does not recognize permanent Israeli control over the territories occupied in 1967 (the Golan Heights, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip) and opposes all unilateral actions intended to predetermine the outcome of negotiations, including the establishment of settlements in the territories and unilateral moves to annex East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. The Government considers such actions to be contrary to international law and unproductive for the peace process.

Concrete examples of Canadian policy in action:

- support for efforts by the Quartet (the US, the EU, the UN, and Russia) to encourage Israeli and Palestinian application of the Roadmap in accordance with the Aqaba Summit pledges of PM Sharon and PM Abbas;
- creation of a Special Coordinator, Middle East Peace Process;
- Canada has become the lead country in the process of achieving a viable and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, primarily as Gavel Holder of the Multilateral Refugee Working Group (RWG). In this capacity, we have established a community of Canadian and international experts on the refugee issue, maintained solidarity of purpose amongst the international community, and have worked to put in