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The peace process is entering its eleventh month without any meaningful advance. And the hopes and expectations which were raised just before this sixth round about what was described as a change in Israeli policy have not -so far- materialized.

We feel that it is about time - if we want really to realize the objectives of the peace process - to spell out clearly and without ambiguity, in an even and balanced document, the basic principles without which no peace can prevail, as well as the obligations and commitments of the two sides in fulfillment of those principles.

The document which we present today observes closely such criteria and aims at enabling the two sides to have before them a constructive and well-balanced text which responds to the basic legitimate requirements of both sides. It is not a response to the two papers presented previously by the Israeli delegation because the said papers were either a mere listing of Israeli demands and preconditions or an inaccurate assumption of "commonality of views."

Nor does the proposed document deal with every element relating to the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, due to the fact that these other, no less essential elements, such as withdrawal from the other occupied Arab territories; Palestinian national rights; settlement activities in other occupied territories; and the right of return of Palestinian refugees, are under discussion in other Arab-Israeli bilateral groups and their solutions are essential for the achievement of a really comprehensive peace.

Thus, the draft declaration which we present is a fair and equitable document which does not neglect any of the vital concerns of the parties. It is a real challenge for a peace which is just, comprehensive, and lasting.

**Draft Declaration
of Principles**

1. The Objective of Peace

Both sides declare their determination to establish a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region through the full implementation - with good faith and without delay - of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning Arab land in exchange for peace.

2. Comprehensiveness of the Solution:

Both sides recognize that for peace to be real and durable, it must be inclusive of all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and comprehensive of all fronts. In consequence and although they reckon that the details of issues and problems dealt with by the various groups of the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations vary from one group to the other, they nevertheless affirm that the ultimate outcome of the peace process must lead to a comprehensive settlement to all the parties of the Arab-Israeli conflict in such a way as to achieve the above-mentioned peace objective.

3. Security:

Both sides acknowledge their mutual right to security and recognize that the security of any party cannot be claimed or guaranteed at the expense of the security of the other party.

4. Seriousness and Continuity of the Negotiations:

Both sides affirm their resolve to pursue their bilateral negotiations with seriousness and positive spirit with the aim of reaching the desired comprehensive settlement at the earliest possible time. In this respect, they express their disposition to persist in these negotiations as long as it is necessary to attain the stated objective and as long as the discussions were characterized by the seriousness and the good faith which both undertook to maintain.

5. Machinery of Implementation:

In accordance with the first paragraph of this declaration, the two parties shall immediately begin their discussions to examine the machinery and steps necessary to implement Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, within a precise and agreed timetable. Such a plan of execution must observe the simultaneity of the steps and obligations incumbent upon both parties in accordance with the principle of "land for peace" and their obligations under the U.N. Charter and the principles of International law. These steps should include mutually and equally the following, in all clarity:

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A. Total Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan occupied in 1967; the evacuation and dismantling of all the settlements which have been established on the occupied Syrian Territory since that date in contradiction to the Geneva Conventions, the principles of International law and U.N. resolutions.

B. Termination of all claims or states of belligerency between the two sides.

C. Acknowledgement and respect by the two parties of the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of each other and of all states in the area and of their equal right and the right of all States to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries in conformity with the principles of international legitimacy.

6. Working Groups:

The two parties shall constitute - within the framework of the implementation of the steps referred to in the previous paragraph - special working groups for military, technical, or any other specific purpose as shall be required for the execution of the steps of Resolution 242 mentioned above in paragraph 5.

7. Security Arrangements and Guarantees:

As an expression of their good faith and their obligation to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of each other, the two parties declare their disposition to undertake and accept the necessary measures to guarantee their security in a parallel and reciprocal manner including the possibility of establishing on both sides and on equal footing demilitarized zones or zones with reduced armaments and to obtain from the Security Council, from particular States or from both security guarantees without any prejudice to the sovereignty of any party nor to the principle of equal rights for both.

8. Respect of the International Principles and Humanitarian Conventions:

Both sides affirm their obligation to respect the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter and international legitimacy. They undertake as well to respect the Geneva 1949 conventions and all International humanitarian conventions and agreements without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

9. Registration of the Agreement with the U.N.:

The executive steps of Resolutions 242 and 338 detailed above and the obligations ensuing therefrom shall be incorporated in a peace agreement to be registered - after endorsement by the Security Council - with the General Secretariat of the United Nations Organization.