

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary, Blinken,

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus, we greatly appreciate the partnership between the Administration and the Congress in preserving and strengthening the critical United States-Israel relationship. We are firmly committed to the historic and unshakable bonds between the two countries, which are based on the deepest of shared values and interests. We know that you agree.

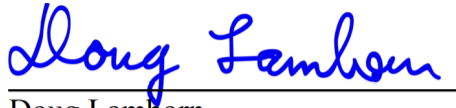
In this context, we wish to express our concern about two particular resolutions that will be voted on this fall by the United Nations General Assembly. As you well know, Israel is subjected to a yearly barrage of hostile actions and condemnations by the UNGA. While most of these actions are simply declaratory without significant consequences, two are of critical importance, namely the annual resolutions that approve the continued functioning and activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), and the Division for Palestinian Rights (DPR). These two money-wasting institutions do nothing to advance the cause of peace, and, on the contrary, represent a significant obstacle to reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. There is no parallel in the UN system to these unique, nefarious bodies. The Committee organizes anti-Israel conferences around the world and disseminates large quantities of propaganda material which delegitimizes the State of Israel. Among other things, it explicitly endorses the so-called “right of return” for over five million descendants of 1948 Palestinian refugees, a scenario which, if implemented, would alter the demographic nature of Israel and cause the end of Israel itself as a Jewish state. These resolutions are regularly ratified by a UN General Assembly vote.

Fortunately, support for these dubious entities have been declining steadily. Last year, only 91 countries voted in favor of continuing the work of CEIRPP and only 82 in favor of DPR—in each case considerably less than half of the UNGA membership. This reflects a growing recognition among governments that CEIRPP and DPR’s brand of biased criticism against Israel, which is based on standards not applied to any other UN member state, are unproductive and do nothing to promote peace.

The Middle East has changed considerably since 1975. The Abraham Accords have shown that there is a path forward to peaceful coexistence and cooperation that will benefit the entire region, including the Palestinians. Direct, good faith negotiations are the only constructive avenues to Israeli-Palestinian peace. Institutions like the CEIRPP and DPR serve no useful purpose while exacerbating tensions and resentments. The Department of State very appropriately places the resolutions approving the CEIRPP and DPR and continuing their mandates on the annual limited list of “important” resolutions and counsels all countries to vote against them. We appreciate that the US, year in and year out—under Administrations of both parties—strongly opposes these resolutions. We believe it is time to move more rapidly toward retiring CEIRPP and DPR and ask the Department of State to make that a diplomatic priority: to urgently press other countries with whom we cooperate to join us in voting against these harmful resolutions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress