

# THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERZLIYA CONFERENCE

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## Simulation Scenario: U.S. Positions

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- What is the position of the U.S. regarding the international convention sponsored by the UN to reach political agreements in Syria and Iraq?**
  - The U.S. agrees on need for a pledging conference to deal with the humanitarian issues, both with respect to short- and long-term issues.
  - There is a need for greater specificity re the other goals of the conference:
    - The U.S. supports the Geneva II process, and thus any UN meeting would need to be consistent with that process and seek to elaborate/implement its provisions.
  - Any UN conference should not conflate the Syria and Iraq issues.
    - The Iraqis themselves must come together and decide how to move forward, before any conference is contemplated.
- How does the U.S. see the solution of the Syrian crisis?**
  - The U.S. supports the Geneva II process and, in line with decisions of the ISSG, expects the political transition in Syria to begin on August 1.
  - This also requires the cessation of hostilities and full humanitarian access.
- How does the U.S. see the solution of the Iraqi crisis?**
  - There is an existing framework agreed by all the parties in Iraq, and this should continue to guide the future of Iraq toward a lasting internal political settlement.
  - Focus on the immediate task of stabilizing the situation in Mosul, ensuring security and public order, preventing sectarian violence, and working out governance arrangements.
  - Given the dire economic straits of the Kurds, special attention should be directed at allocating enough resources to redress the economic crisis affecting the Kurdish population.

**☐ How does the U.S. see the solution of the humanitarian crisis (refugees) in the Middle East?**

- More attention needs to be devoted to (a) dealing with the immediate requirements of refugees and internally displaced persons, and (b) dealing with the longer-term consequences of the refugee crisis.
- There are three interconnected issues:
  - Humanitarian requirements to be addressed in a pledging conference.
  - Reconstruction.
  - Repatriation of refugees.

**☐ What is the position of the U.S. regarding the foundation of an independent Kurdistan?**

- The U.S. does not support the creation of an independent Kurdistan state, which the U.S. believes will be a source of tension and destabilization in the region, and which could lead to a region-wide war.
- Rather, the U.S. supports increasing autonomy for the Kurdish population in the states where they currently reside, and attention to Kurdish economic requirements.

**☐ What is the position of the U.S. regarding the inclusion of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict in the international convention that will discuss the Syria and Iraq crises? (Abu Mazen wants to include the issue in the conference.)**

- The U.S. continues to support movement toward ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of a two-state solution.
- The U.S. does not believe injecting the Israeli-Palestinian issue into a regional conference dealing with Syria would be effective.

**☐ On related issues:**

- The U.S. believes it is imperative to de-escalate the potentially dangerous situation around Raqqa, where Syrian forces are besieged by coalition forces that liberated the city.
  - Syrian forces should be allowed to exit the area peacefully, leaving coalition forces in place.
  - These coalition forces should ensure law and order and security in Raqqa.
  - The U.S. should coordinate with allies to ensure governance until the Syrian crisis is resolved.
- Because of ISIL's international terror activities, the international coalition under U.S. auspices should continue its anti-ISIL activities across a wide range of activities.
  - Special attention should be paid to Libya where ISIL appears to be trying to reconstitute its territorial base.
- Attention should be directed at the Golan Heights where Hezbollah and IRGC forces are digging in, thus escalating against Israel.
  - Iran should be told to withdraw IRGC forces and to urge Hezbollah to return to Lebanon.