



# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

**WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)**

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*For information*

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## PLENARY MEETING

### Israel (State of)

RESPONSE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO DOCUMENT 195 ("CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
WORK OF THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:  
ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE")

#### 1 Introduction

The State of Israel strongly regrets the attempt at politicization of the work of the WTDC and BDT which is evident in Document 195 ("Contribution to the work of the WTDC: Assistance to Palestine"). In order to refrain from fueling these unnecessary and damaging fires, which detract time and energy from the true work of the WTDC and BDT, Israel wishes only to clarify the factual situation which has been so erroneously presented in Document 195.

#### 2 Terminology

Israel has stated its position on the use of the term "Palestine" on many occasions in ITU **fora**. To briefly reiterate, UN practice reserves the use of the term exclusively as an appellation of the PLO observer delegation to UN bodies. The term has no geopolitical or territorial connotations. Use of the designation "Palestine" within the UN system is thus strictly restricted to identification of PLO observer delegations.

#### 3 Plenipotentiary Resolution 32 (Kyoto, 1994)

Israel wishes to remind the WTDC that it is a signatory and sponsor of Resolution 32 of the Kyoto Plenipotentiary, and fully supports the implementation of that Resolution.

#### **4 The Interim Agreement**

The bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in the framework of the Interim Agreement in the sphere of telecommunications have been marked by concrete achievements and an atmosphere of positive professional cooperation. It is counterproductive to needlessly criticize these successes by presenting a one-sided, politically-motivated picture to the WTDC.

#### **5 Inaccurate representation of facts**

As to the points raised on the second page of Document 195, Israel would like to respond as follows:

**5.1** Development of infrastructure in the areas under the civilian control of the Palestinian Authority was specifically transferred to the Palestinian Authority under the Interim Agreement: Israel is no longer responsible, or even authorized to take responsibility, for installation of PSTN lines.

**5.2** Microwave frequencies for links between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were requested by the Palestinian Authority only several weeks ago, in the forum of the JTC. Israel has agreed to permit these links. The relevant technical details have been mastered only in the past few days, and Israel will assign frequencies accordingly.

**5.3** The Palestinian GSM system is the subject of a detailed agreement between the two parties to the Interim Agreement, which was submitted in final draft form to the Palestinian side last week: Israel is currently awaiting acceptance of the final draft by the Palestinian side, or comments on the draft. It is important to note that the Palestinian side issued the tender for the GSM system without coordination with Israel, and in violation of the Interim Agreement. Moreover, Israel has assigned to the Palestinian Authority, for use in the GSM system, more frequencies than were required by the Interim Agreement, in order to support the establishment of a more efficient system.

**5.4** Israel has repeatedly requested the Palestinian Authority to supply it with the required technical specifications relevant to the assignment of the broadcasting frequencies mentioned, so that the commitments of the Interim Agreement may be fulfilled. The Palestinian Authority has stated explicitly that these assignments are not top priority at present, and have not forwarded the requisite details.

#### **6 Inaccurate quotation**

Surprisingly, the Interim Agreement is clearly misquoted by the sponsors of Document 195. Article 36 (D)(5) (c) states:

"The provisions of subparagraphs (a) and (b) above will be applied between the sides until such time as the two sides agree upon installation and operation of an 'international gateway', as well as the international code, for the Palestinian side and the actual commencement of operation of the said gateway."

Document 195 contains an incorrect version of this article.

## **7 The Conclusion of Document 195**

The points raised in the Conclusion of Document 195 have been thoroughly addressed by the State of Israel in Document 152, and Israel reiterates its positions therein presented.

## **8 Conclusion**

Israel strongly objects to the adoption by the WTDC of any resolution, recommendation, or other expression of intent, which is in opposition to the positions expressed by Israel regarding an international code for the Palestinian Authority, independent registration of frequencies by the Palestinian Authority, call signs for the territories under the civilian control of the Palestinian Authority, and change in status of the PLO observer delegation at the ITU.

Finally, the State of Israel hopes to continue the positive and professional working relationship which has been created between Israel and the Palestinian Authority within the framework of the JTC established under the Interim Agreement. The cooperation manifested in this bilateral forum has proved to be beneficial to both parties to the Interim Agreement.

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