Resolution EC 2405 – 1

Unflinching Support for the State and People of Israel

The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Jerusalem, Israel, 23 May 2024,

RECORDS that the WJC Executive Committee is meeting for the first time since 7 October 2023.

EXPRESSES PROFOUND OUTRAGE that on October 7th, 2023 - a day of infamy - Hamas perpetrated unprovoked and barbaric attacks on Israel and its citizens and residents, killing 1,200 men, women and children, including babies, the elderly and survivors of the Shoah, taking over 240 hostages into Gaza. Even today 129 hostages remain illegal captives of, or have been killed by, Hamas. The resulting deaths, long term injuries, trauma, mental anguish and displacement have taken a significant toll on the Israeli population.

UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNS Hamas, a notorious terrorist organization, for planning and perpetrating the deadliest, most depraved and vicious attack on Jews since the nightmare of the Shoah;

EMPHATICALLY REAFFIRMS its unconditional and unwavering support for the State of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people and the rights of the State to exist within secure and defensible borders with the ability to exercise its rights to self-defense and for its citizens, as with citizens of other nations, to live in peace and security;

EXPRESSES DEEP GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION for the members of the IDF, police and the first responders who repelled the attack, rescued as many as possible and prevented the enemy from penetrating even deeper into Israel;

DEEPLY LAMENTS the current humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip whilst acknowledging Israel’s focus on taking all practical measures to safeguard civilian life in a theatre of asymmetrical urban warfare Hamas and Islamic Jihad wage war against Israel utilizing a vast underground tunnel network and schools, mosques, apartment buildings and hospitals, while committing war crimes by deliberately and cynically using civilians of Gaza as human shields.

ACKNOWLEDGES THE REALITY of Hamas’ culpability in conducting a murderous attack inspired by religious extremism within Israel of such barbarity and cruelty, in the full and certain knowledge that Israel, like any other nation even in lesser circumstances, would retaliate.

CONDEMNS Hamas for an 18-year tyranny during which significant amounts of funds and materials donated for legitimate purposes, have been misappropriated to
construct a mammoth tunnel network, to purchase rockets and other weapons of war, build rocket launching sites and other infrastructure, with the active assistance of NGOs who provide funding for those illicit purposes.

**FULLY ENDORSES** Israel’s goal of eliminating the existential threat posed by Hamas and liberating the hostages, even though doing so has been and will continue to be at great cost to Israel, its people, and its economy;

**VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNS** the role played by Iran both in sponsoring its proxies of terror – Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthi rebels - and in launching over 300 drones and missiles in a direct and unprovoked attack on Israel;

**STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the inaccurate and inappropriate reliance on the Genocide Convention by the Republic of South Africa and other anti-Israel activists in instituting proceedings in the International Court of Justice and expresses outrage at the use of those proceedings as a propaganda tool with the objective of delegitimizing Israel and inciting global antisemitism on the utterly false basis that Israel is guilty of the heinous crime of genocide;

**ACKNOWLEDGES** the recent statement by Joan Donoghue, the President of the ICJ at the time of the Provisional Measures ruling in that case clarifying “but it (the ICJ) did not decide – and this is something where I am correcting what is often said in the media - the ICJ did not decide that the claim of genocide was plausible... the shorthand that often appears, that there is a plausible case of genocide is not what the court decided”;

**FURTHER CONDEMNS AS OUTRAGEOUS,** the recent request of the Prosecutor, for warrants to be issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the arrest of Israel’s Prime Minister and Defense Minister, alleging the commission by them of war crimes in the prosecution of Israel’s war of self-defense against Hamas and in doing so, by effectively and grotesquely equating Israel, the Middle East’s only democracy, with Hamas, proscribed as a terrorist organization, the Prosecutor is not upholding the rule of law but simply prosecuting propaganda warfare.

**EMPHASIZES** the imperative for moral clarity within the international community and its leadership, which with some notable exceptions has been sorely lacking, in acknowledging both the shocking and appalling events of October 7th and Israel’s need to defend itself and to eradicate the existential threat posed by Hamas especially given the repeated proclamations by Hamas’ leaders that such attacks will happen “again and again and again”;
APPEALS to all states that have not done so, to designate Hamas in its entirety as a terrorist organization and to condemn the role of Iran in aiding and abetting Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and other terrorist groups;

REITERATES THE URGENT NEED for the international community take immediate action and call for the unconditional release of all the hostages;

DEDICATES itself and its members’ communities to continue to confirm the State of Israel and its people as being central and essential to Jewish life and Jewish continuity;

RECOGNIZES that since and because of the events of October 7th the prospect of a two-state solution in the near term, has been severely diminished but confirms that, notwithstanding the current absence of a partner with Israel for peace, the previously stated position of the WJC on the two-state solution remains unchanged.

PRAISES WJC’s Mission Impact initiative which has brought legal scholars, U.S. Federal Judges, leaders from the German Football league and other young leaders to Israel to learn firsthand of the horrors of October 7th and the challenges facing the State of Israel.