

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE SHARED OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES AND PERSPECTIVES

The following principles were developed jointly by a group of Israeli and Palestinian women security experts convened by The Initiative for Inclusive Security in January 2008.

1. The creation of a Palestinian state is essential to the security of the region.
2. Every person has the right to:
 - Sanctity of life;
 - Individual and collective security (i.e., no person should be threatened or hurt);
 - Basic quality of life – social, civil, and economic security and prosperity;
 - Democratic rule of law;
 - Self-determination; and
 - Public safety and security.
3. The concept of security must be broadened and all-encompassing to include:
 - Economic issues;
 - Military issues;
 - Diplomatic and foreign policy concerns; and
 - Civil society interests including democratic governance, rule of law, and social well-being.
4. Greater participation by women in the security sector would:
 - Foster a broader, more multidimensional, interdisciplinary vision of security;
 - Lead to shifts in the identification and prioritization of security threats and opportunities;
 - Alter the definition of victory to focus on achieving rapid and sustainable peace; and
 - Strengthen the ability to empathize, understand, and act on one another's perspective.
5. Civil society's role in the security sector should be enhanced to:
 - Provide input into national security agenda-setting, including a role in determining priorities for national defense and assessing threat levels; and
 - Monitor and hold the security sector accountable to society.
6. Gender equality has not been achieved by either the Israeli or Palestinian security sector. To help achieve equality:
 - Women should be involved in all levels of shaping, designing, and implementing policy, especially as it affects public safety and individual security; and
 - Women should be included in all forums and negotiations, especially in the follow-up to the Annapolis Conference. Parties to negotiations should only agree to meet their counterparts, including international sponsors, if women are represented on their delegations.