



Trump's 20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza: Implications for Palestine

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Abstract:

The decades' stricken issue of Palestine gained great momentum about two years and three months ago when tension got escalated between Hamas and Israel. The conflict has been lingering on for the last few decades but no viable solution has been carved out for the resolution of the dispute. Since then thousands of Palestinians have lost their lives besides getting injuries and loss to their infrastructure. Trump's personal interest in the dispute has given it more momentum, vitality and projection at the international level by announcing his 20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza covering almost all aspects of the core issues between Palestine and Israel. The plan is a more comprehensive strategy encompassing governance and reconstruction, security and the future political horizon. Main objective of the study is to analyze the 20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza by Donald Trump, US President, for the resolution of conflict between Palestine and Israel and its implications for Palestine. Findings of the research study emphasize that resolution of conflict is fraught with many issues and challenges but sincere and dedicated efforts may help in bringing peace and stability in the Middle East.

Keywords: Gaza, Peace, Palestine, Trump, Efforts, Implications

Introduction

The recent escalation of tension has created embarrassment in the Middle East since Palestine is still bearing the pangs of war. Israel reopened the Rafah Border between Gaza and Egypt on a trial basis as thousands of sick and wounded Palestinians need medical care abroad on urgent basis (Mohamed, 2026). US President, Donald Trump has formed a 'Board of Peace' under his chairmanship and has sent invitations to countries of the world for joining the board of peace (Dawn, 2026). Trump has also clarified that countries wishing to get permanent membership of the Board of Peace will be required to pay \$1 billion during the first year of the board, known as the 'Board of Peace' (Dawn, 2026). The body was initially envisioned as a mechanism to bring peace in the Palestinian territory as a result of Israel's war while its charter does not restrict its mandate solely to the occupied Palestinian area (Dawn, 2026). Several countries of the world including Pakistan have been approached to join the board. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahbaz

Sharif accepted the invitation by participating in the initiative with the aim of ‘achieving lasting peace in Gaza’ (Dawn, 2026). The board will be headed by the US President, Donald Trump and will be described as an ‘international organization’ seeking to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in the areas affected or threatened by the conflict (Boxerman & Kershner, 2026). The board will be entrusted with the functions of undertaking peace building measures as enshrined in the International law. Despite all efforts for bringing peace and stability in the Gaza, Israel has killed at least 509 Palestinians and wounded 1,405 others since the start of the Ceasefire in Gaza (Mohamed, 2026). Since the war began on October 7, 2023 Israeli genocide has resulted in the killing of 71,769 Palestinians and wounding of 171,483 people while 1,139 people have been killed from the Israeli side and 250 taken captives (Mohamed, 2026). It is important to mention that in one of the deadliest attacks on Palestine at least 31 Palestinians including six children have been killed in the aerial attacks on Gaza City and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip (Caolán Magee, 2026). The violence came a day before when the Israel re-opened the Rafah Border for the first time after May 2024 (Caolán Magee, 2026). The Gaza Peace Plan promises to end the war in Palestine but it institutionalizes endless external control (Ahmetašević, 2026). The design of the plan provides for Palestinian governance based on the international standards. But it is still a dream to be realized unless peace and stability can be brought to the people of the Middle East. It is also worth mentioning that Bosnia faced the same fate when it became a semi- protectorate, a territory governed from the outside in the name of stability and without democratic sovereignty in which decision making power still lies with people who cannot be questioned (Ahmetašević, 2026). Governing bodies of Gaza where the Board of Peace would be chaired by the US President, Donald Trump through the exercise of his veto power and granting membership to states on permanent basis by contributing \$1 billion would strengthen some of the members of the board at the expense of other where equality may not be maintained.

Trump’s 20-Point Plan for Gaza

United Nations approved Resolution 2803 (2025) in September 2025 which endorsed President Trump’s Comprehensive Plan for the establishment of the ‘Board of Peace’ in Gaza to bring peace and stability in Palestine (Barron, 2026) & (Khuchandani, 2025). Since the initial announcement, ‘Trump’s Comprehensive Plan’ has been fruitful in achieving the ceasefire and the hostage exchange (Barron, 2026). On September 29, 2025 US President, Donald Trump along with Netanyahu announced the “20-Point Gaza Peace Plan” to bring an end to war in Gaza (Barron, 2026). The plan called for the immediate ceasefire and release of Israeli hostages within 72 hours through agreement by Hamas and Israel. US President Donald Trump congratulated the formation of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, which proved to be a vital step forward in implementing step two of the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict; a 20-point roadmap for lasting peace, stability, reconstruction and prosperity in the region (House, 2026). Trump’s 20 Point Peace Plan has now the weightage of the UN Security Council and support from the world leaders who have joined the ‘Board of Peace’. The 20 Point Peace Plan by Trump is a comprehensive strategy for bringing peace and security in the Gaza Strip. The peace plan can be categorized into four main phases; point 1-8 dealing with immediate steps, point 9-14 pertains to governance and reconstruction, point 15-17 speaks about security while point 18-20 talks about the political horizon of the Middle East.

Immediate Steps: Points 1-8

The first eight points define phases meant to stop the war, provide relief and set the stage for phases that follow. The first two points opine that Gaza will become a de-radicalized, terror-free zone and the reconstruction of Gaza will serve the interests of its population, who have faced persistent hardship and troubles (Barron, 2026). Point third sets the conditions for the ceasefire of October 8, 2025: once both the sides have accepted the plan, military operations would be frozen, Israeli forces would withdraw to the ‘Yellow Line’, separating the Israeli-held areas of Gaza from the rest of the territory and hostages to be released (Barron, 2026). Point fourth opines that within 72 hours of Israel’s public acceptance of the peace deal, Hamas would return all hostages, both alive and deceased. Point fifth conditionalizes the hostages’ release to prisoner exchange resulting in the release of 250 life-sentence prisoners and 1,700 Palestinians detained by Israel since the war broke out (Barron, 2026). Points sixth to Point eighth relate to the issues of post-ceasefire scenario in the Middle East. Point sixth offers amnesty to members of Hamas and other armed groups who opt for peaceful co-existence and disarmament and provides safe passage to those who exit Gaza (Barron, 2026). Point seventh and eighth talk about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza urging that once the plan is accepted full aid will be delivered immediately in Gaza including reconstruction of the entire infrastructure. Point eighth also defines the independent bodies as the agencies of the UN, Red Crescent, and international institutions, which would be approved for the use of entry and distribution of aid (Barron, 2026).

Governance and Reconstruction: Points 9-14

Points 9-14 elucidates the vision of Trump administration for the difficult governance and reconstruction outlined in phase two and beyond. Point ninth enshrines that Gaza will be governed temporarily by a technocratic, political, apolitical Palestinian committee, with no defined timeline for its implementation (Barron, 2026). The committee will comprise qualified Palestinians and international experts with oversight from a Board of Peace to be presided over by Trump and assisted by heads of state and other members (Barron, 2026). Point tenth talks about “Trump Economic Development Plan” for building Gaza comprising a panel of experts who have helped develop ‘modern miracle cities in the Middle East’ with the aim of attracting investment, and creating job opportunities (Barron, 2026). Point eleventh deals with proposing a special economic zone in Gaza with having favorable tariffs and access rates negotiable with participant countries. Point twelfth pertains to giving the right of living in Gaza and no one will be forced to leave Gaza while those wishing to depart will have the liberty to do so or return. This enshrine upon the efforts for encouraging the people to live in Gaza by building a better Gaza (Barron, 2026). Point thirteenth rules out the role of Hamas and factions in the governance of Gaza and that all military infrastructure including tunnels and weapons will be destroyed with all weapons removed (Barron, 2026). Point fourteenth requires regional partners for guaranteeing that Hamas and other factions comply and that new Gaza will be free of posing any threat to the neighbors.

Security: Points 15-17

Point 15-17 talks about the critical stabilization and security components of the transition (Barron, 2026). Point fifteenth introduces the role of International Stabilization Force (ISF) comprising the United States, the Arab, and international partners for establishing a body with the aim of maintaining stability in Gaza and providing training to the police force of Palestine. Point sixteenth bars Israel from either annexing or occupying Gaza and favors in granting it a status of independence (Barron, 2026). Point seventeenth speaks about the scenario of a

condition where Hamas delays or rejects the proposal for peace and stability (Barron, 2026). A brief view of this phase shows the significance of security over which the whole edifice of the region is erected. The formation of International Stabilization Force comprising the US, the Arab countries and the international partners would definitely do great service in maintaining peace and security in the war-stricken areas of Gaza. Moreover, the ISF would also be empowered to provide training to the law enforcement agencies of Palestine, which would help them grow and gain more strength and power. This phase also rules out the possibility of either the annexation or the occupation of Gaza by Israel.

Political Horizon: Points 18–20

Point 18-20 speaks about the long term future of Palestine and Israel. Point eighteenth focuses on the interfaith dialogue aiming at shifting mindsets and narratives between Palestine and Israel while emphasizing the element of tolerance and peaceful co-existence (Barron, 2026). This point though very much essential but difficult to operationalize as mindset and religious, cultural narratives can be changed with difficulty. Point nineteenth relates to gaining of strength by Gaza urging that once Gaza has gained advancement in redevelopment, this may lead to the path of self-determination (Barron, 2026). Point Twentieth commits the United States for establishing a formal dialogue between Palestine and Israel to establish a long-term political horizon for peaceful co-existence. This phase is very crucial in shaping the future politics of Palestine and Israel through the aspects of interfaith harmony, change of mindsets and reshaping of the narratives leading towards the establishment of cordial and harmonious relations between Israel and Palestine. It is also a matter of fact that religious and cultural dogmas can be changed in a very difficult way but the matter of national interest and security can help in inculcating the spirit of tolerance and giving space to the people.

Board of Peace for Gaza

The establishment of the Board of Peace for Gaza is one of the most important developments of the Gaza Peace Plan. The board is open to membership of all where invitations have been sent by the US President for getting membership. US President has invited countries to pay 1\$ billion in exchange for a permanent seat on a newly proposed initiative known as the 'Board of Peace' (Dawn, 2026). The body was initially envisioned as a mechanism to bring peace in the Palestinian territory as a result of Israel's war while its charter does not restrict its mandate solely to the occupied Palestinian area (Dawn, 2026). Several countries of the world including Pakistan have been approached to join the board. Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif accepted the invitation by participating in the initiative with the aim of 'achieving lasting peace in Gaza' (Dawn, 2026). The board will be headed by the US President, Donald Trump and will be described as an 'international organization' (Tariq , Amair, & Bano, Gaza Peace Plan: Myth or Paradigm Shift, 2025), seeking to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in the areas affected or threatened by the conflict' (Boxerman & Kershner, 2026). The board will be entrusted with the functions of undertaking peace building measures as enshrined in the international law (Tariq , Hameed Ullah , & Gul, 2026). Since the composition of the Board of Peace is a new concept with Trump as the chairman of the board with numerous powers for maintain peace and stability in Gaza. But it is also a fact that the board is in its embryonic stage and nothing can be predicted in advance regarding its proper functioning. The constitution of board has also faced criticism from different quarters regarding the functioning of a US-led mechanism in Gaza. It has also been criticized on the inclusion of several Israeli supporters in the board of peace, as well as, participation of Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin

Netanyahu, who faces arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (Staff, 2026). Gaza resident, al-Sandawi, told Al Jazeera in the Gaza City that Netanyahu is the cause of the war. The Palestinian Health Ministry has reported that about 466 Palestinians have been killed during the Israeli attacks on Gaza since the US-brokered ceasefire came into force in October 2025.

Discussion and Conclusion

US President, Donald Trump has been a key role player in the ceasefire in Gaza and though his Twenty Point Peace Plan leading towards the prospects of peace and stability in the Middle East. US President, Donald Trump's 20- Point Gaza Peace Plan is a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza Conflict, has a great significance for peace and stability in the Middle East (Khuchandani, 2025). It is through his personal efforts that the Board of Peace for Gaza has been established and upon invitation the board was joined by many heads of states and governments. Though the Plan appears at its face to bring peace and stability in the Gaza Strip with the aim of self- determination for the Palestinians yet it may be more than the peace process in Gaza. The plan gives a very detailed picture of the various steps involved in the long lasting peace in Palestine but it is still too early to predict something in advance as unpredictability may overpower the entire edifice of the peace plan. The most important thing is the security aspect coupled with the financial obstacles that may hinder the peace process or change in mindset and ideological aspect may also put great resistance in the way of harmonizing the relations between Israel and Palestine. The contending parties may not agree on some of the points of the peace plan or world public opinion may change the whole scenario. One of the greatest risks may come from the primary actors such as Israel, Hamas and the Egypt and may fail to reach agreement on all the terms and conditions of the peace plan since the national interest of in party may go in contradiction with the interest of the other party. Proper functioning of the Gaza Executive Board, the Board of Peace or the role of International Stabilization Force may not produce the efficacious results in achieving the required and expected results. The Board of Peace though has been joined by many countries of the world yet the composition of the board itself and invitation by the US President for joining the board makes it more personal. The condition of contributing \$1 billion during the first year of the board to gain permanent seat in the Board of Peace may not be in the true spirit of equality as financial contribution would give more strength and greater role to a particular class of people. The whole process of Gaza Peace Process is tied to single character which may be another hurdle in the way of its proper functioning and harmonious working. A single figure that has initiated the process of peace building in Gaza and carried on with his 20-Point Peace Plan to carve out a viable solution to the issue of Palestine through the establishment of Board of Peace and the invitation to join the board are great initiatives. But to act as the chairman of the Board of Peace even after leaving the office of Presidency and even the power to nominate his own successor or asking for invitations from the heads of the states to contribute to the board may be another area of concern. The granting of permanent seat in the Board of Peace on contribution of \$1 Billion is another opportunity to the well-off nations and may be another blow to the system of fairness and equality among the nations of the world.

The Board of Peace may prove to be another substitute of the United Nations since the veto power of the US President, Donald Trump, in his capacity, as chairman of the Board of Peace may veto or override the decisions of the members present during voting. The powers and functions of Trump would delimit the powers and functions of the Executive Board of Gaza and the Board of Peace may not prove in favor of the Palestinian people or even the Israel. Since this may strengthen the position of Trump by promoting his own vision and may affect the process of

peace and stability in the Middle East, hence linking the peace efforts to his personal legacy. The board would strengthen the position the US role in the affairs of the world politics and may prepare the world for another unipolar regime. The existence of unipolar world would either prove to be disturbing for the smaller and weaker states or would strengthen these smaller states *vis a vis* the stronger states if peace and stability can be achieved in the Middle East. But that is still to be proved by the time and resolution of the decades' stricken dispute between Palestine and the Israel that has suppressed the right of self-determination of the former.

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