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Recommended Policy Directions

Geopolitics

The current geopolitical reality, which leaves Israel with no existential threats at this time, presents a window of opportunity for a new strategic approach. This is a period in which the State of Israel can plan strategically and shape political processes with deep significance to its resilience and future.

Two areas that should receive priority in this regard are:

1. Opening a new page in relations with the United States (given the upcoming administration change and the tensions during Obama's tenure, and the development of threatening trends that could erode the triangular relationship: Washington – Jerusalem – the U.S. Jewish community).
2. Crafting and initiating a diplomatic process that will allow Israel to maintain its Jewish identity and prevent it from becoming a bi-national state.

Legislative Initiatives Against BDS

Sixteen U.S. states have passed or are close to passing anti-BDS legislation. Thus far, these efforts have been largely successful. We offer the following recommendations moving forward:

1. The success of anti-BDS legislation and its momentum should be utilized to create a new and modern narrative for reinforcing Israel's legitimacy.
2. Continuing legislative efforts should be encouraged, but limited to states where success is expected. In states where such legislation is in doubt, the boomerang effect must be considered.

American Jewish Orthodoxy

Twenty-seven percent of U.S. Jews under 18 live in Orthodox households, and two-thirds of Orthodox Jews are Haredim. It is critical to engage Haredi Jews with the mainstream Jewish community. They should be persuaded to assume leadership positions and shoulder part of the responsibility for the future of the Jewish people. Both sides must collaborate despite deep divisions, especially in regard to Women and the LGBT community.

All endeavors should be characterized by mutual respect and every effort should be made to downplay differences and tensions, which are obstacles to cooperation.

1. The organized Jewish community should approach the spiritual leadership of the Haredi sector for their endorsement of collaborative efforts. The Haredim should be encouraged to assume significant roles in politics, public service, and communal leadership. Internal demographic trends create a real need for the religious community to deal with the challenges faced by the general Jewish community and Israel in addition to specific Haredi concerns.
2. The Haredi sector should be assisted by the broader Jewish community in developing and implementing programs for serious college preparation (with advanced degrees in mind) and for mid-career management training.

Demography

Strengthen Jerusalem's Jewish majority with measures that can be carried out separately or simultaneously.

1. Implement measures that narrow the balance of internal migration, such as job creation and the availability of affordable housing – especially for younger, recently graduated professionals (in the spirit of the recent June 2, 2016 government decision on the occasion of Jerusalem Day). We also recommend strengthening the image of Jerusalem as a safe, developing, pleasant and safe place to live.

In parallel, the government should take steps to raise and ensure the quality of life of its non-Jewish citizens, especially in East Jerusalem. Non-Jewish Jerusalemites must be better integrated into the city's social, economic, and cultural fabric in order to ensure peace and quiet.

2. Consider redrawing the municipal borders of Jerusalem either westward or eastward:
 - Alternative A: Shifting the border westward by annexing existing Jewish residential areas;
 - Alternative B: Narrowing the current northern and eastern municipal boundaries by moving the security barrier to exclude some Arab neighborhoods and villages on its eastern side. This could be done without altering Israel's sovereign status over these areas. Any unilateral step that would remove tens of thousands of Arab residents from the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem would need to be implemented in a cautious manner,

safeguarding employment status, welfare rights and the ability to maintain connections with relatives who will continue to reside within Jerusalem proper.

Material Resources

Jewish organizations should adopt more uniform reporting and accounting protocols to support accurate aggregation and in order to better understand patterns of Jewish philanthropy and the allocation of funds by Jewish organizations and federations so as to foster improved policy-making.