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PRESS RELEASE:

Youth Question Economic Viability of Two-State Solution

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Divided Opinions on Two-State Solution: Reflective of the mood of the general public, Palestinian youth are divided in their attitudes towards a two-state solution. In a February 2017 poll, conducted among Palestinians in the West Bank under the age of 30, participants are split almost evenly, with 47 percent supporting and 48 percent opposing a two-state solution. Though the current figures indicate conflicted opinions, they also indicate youth have warmed to the idea over time. Last year, only 41 percent of youth expressed support for a two-state solution, compared to 56 percent who expressed opposition.

Skepticism of Economic Viability of Palestinian State: Among the youth who are not supportive, 42 percent of them justify their opposition on the basis that “facts on the ground would [not] support an economically viable Palestinian state.” A further 16 percent express opposition because they would prefer “one state with equal rights for both Palestinians and Israelis.” A year ago, 15 percent of Palestinian youth expressed similar sentiments. Support for confederation with Jordan and/or Egypt also remains relatively equal to the levels observed a year ago, drawing support from 13 percent of youth.

Support for Approach of Mahmoud Abbas: When assessing the preferred means to achieving statehood, support for Mahmoud Abbas and his approach has risen. Among youth, 41 percent express support for the approach of Abbas, an increase from 31 percent a year ago. In contrast, support for Hamas has decreased, falling from 25 percent to 19 percent.

Belief in Economic Dividends of Peace: If peace were to be achieved between Palestinian and Israelis, 32 percent of West Bank youth today believe the most beneficial dividend would be economic cooperation between the two sides. Approximately 9 percent believe Israeli economic assistance to develop the Palestinian economy would be the most beneficial, followed by 4 percent who identify educational exchanges.

When examining these findings, it should be noted that an estimated 70 percent of the Palestinian population in 2017 is less than 30 years old, the overwhelming majority of who were not yet born when the Oslo Accords were signed and the Palestinian Authority established.

RESULTS

1. Personally, do you support the concept of a two-state solution to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	50.2%	44.6%	47.4%
No	45.2%	50.2%	47.7%
Don't know	4.6%	5.2%	4.9%

a. If no, why?

	Male	Female	Total
I would prefer one state with equal rights for both Palestinians and Israelis	18.2%	14.5%	16.2%
I would prefer confederation with Jordan and/or Egypt	13.3%	12.6%	12.9%
I do not believe that facts on the ground would support an economically viable Palestinian state	41.3%	42.8%	42.1%
I do not believe Israelis want to live side-by-side with an independent Palestinian state	4.2%	6.3%	5.3%
Other	23.1%	23.9%	23.5%

b. If no, should the PA be dissolved?

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	32.9%	31.5%	32.1%
No	61.6%	56.8%	59.1%
Don't know	5.5%	11.7%	8.8%

2. Personally, and regardless of progress to date, which of the two approaches to achieving a just solution to the Palestinian cause is closest to your beliefs?

	Male	Female	Total
The approach of Mahmoud Abbas	42.7%	39.4%	41.0%
The approach of Hamas and Islamic Jihad	16.1%	21.5%	18.8%
Don't know	41.2%	39.1%	40.1%

3. If peace were to be achieved between Palestinians and Israelis, from the following list which would you find most beneficial?

	Male	Female	Total
Economic cooperation with Israel	32.2%	31.1%	31.6%
Technological assistance from Israeli companies to develop the Palestinian economy	8.4%	8.6%	8.5%
Educational cooperation and exchanges with Israeli universities	4.6%	4.0%	4.3%
Cultural and social exchanges between Palestinian and Israeli youth	1.9%	3.1%	2.5%
Athletic competition between Palestinians and Israelis	.6%	.9%	.8%
Don't know	44.6%	44.9%	44.8%