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1. I’ve attended four total Model UN conferences, two at Princeton and two at Boston University. During this time, I’ve also been a member of my school’s Model UN team, of which I was made president this year. Furthermore, I have experience in Crisis, Specialized, and General Assembly committees.

1) Israeli acknowledgement of the right of Palestinians to self-government and an end to the illegal settlement of the West Bank.

1. Secure a Palestinian commitment to the non-violent resolution of issues through sustained dialogue and unbiased third-party arbitration.
2. An end to the naval blockade of Gaza.
3. While the political reconciliation represented by the union of Fatah and Hamas is undeniably a step forward in terms of bringing an end to intra-Palestinian conflict, and therefore would seem in one sense likely to lend greater legitimacy to any Palestinian Authority in its attempts to negotiate with Israel, the political response within Israel itself may counteract any such progress. Resentment and fear of Fatah and Hamas have been growing in Israel in recent years, stoked by the rise of an increasingly radical political right, which consistently spouts Anti-Palestinian ideology and rhetoric. The effect of this shift is that the notion of concessions is an increasingly polarizing one within Israel, a development which does not bode well for the future of negotiations. Thus, it seems unlikely that the union of Fatah and Hamas offers any greater hope for progress as far as the resolution of the Palestinian question is concerned.
4. While nuance abounds when it comes to the discussion of potential resolutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there are essentially two major forms such a resolution would be likely to take. First is the possibility of the two-state solution, in which an independent Palestine emerges as an internationally recognized and sovereign nation, comprising the West Bank and Gaza. This scenario would answer calls for the Palestinian right to self-determination, and would allow Israel to continue to exist as a Jewish state. The second possibility is that of a single state, likely Israeli, spanning from the Jordan river to the coast, encompassing all of Israel, as well as the Palestinian territories. Such a state would undoubtedly present a challenge to the identity of Israel as a “Jewish State,” and without significant reforms to ensure the fair and equal treatment of individuals regardless of race or creed, would likely meet with international opposition.
5. If Israel wishes to be recognized and accepted by the international community as a “Jewish State” its first step must be to cease its encroachment into Palestinian lands in the West Bank and Gaza. This action would signal that Israel is serious about its commitment to furthering the cause of democracy in the region, and an end to settlement efforts would simultaneously allow Israel to slow the demographic shift threatening the integrity of its formulation as a Jewish state by keeping more Jews in Israel itself.