

RESOLUTIONS  
*OF THE*  
ZIONIST GENERAL  
COUNCIL XXXVI/4



**Jerusalem,  
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# RESOLUTIONS OF THE ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL SESSION XXXVI/4

## Young People, Zionism, Israel, and Everything in Between

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## **1. Lack of Involvement and Impact of the World Zionist Organization on Jewish Agency Programs in Israel for Young People from the Diaspora**

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council 36/4 expresses its deepest concern on the absence of involvement and significant impact by the Zionist movement on Jewish Agency programs to organize and bring to Israel large numbers of young people from the Diaspora (Birthright Israel, etc.); and

**Whereas** the Zionist movement and its branches in the Diaspora are not involved and not partners in the cultural and educational activity of the graduates of the said Jewish Agency programs,

**The Zionist General Council 36/4 resolves:**

To charge the Presidium of the Zionist General Council and the Executive to hold a substantial discussion very soon about the status and impact of the World Zionist Organization upon Jewish Agency programs to bring young people from the Diaspora to Israel, and to present its recommendations with a period of 60 days.

## **2. Call by the Young Generation for Recognition of and Support for all the Major Streams**

**Whereas** the Young Generation believes that Israel's Declaration of Independence is an inspirational document that describes the aspirations and hopes of a democratic and inclusive people; and

**Whereas** we believe that the task of implementing those aspirations and hopes remains incomplete,

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the World Zionist Organization in cooperation with the Unity of the Jewish People Committee of the Jewish Agency calls upon the Government of Israel to move immediately to provide full recognition and equitable support for all the major streams of Jewish practice.

## **3. Call by the Young Generation to Adopt the Sharansky Kotel Proposal**

**Whereas** the young Zionist generation is concerned about freedom of religion in Israel; and

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council supports giving all Jewish young men and women the possibility of exercising their right to pray according to their beliefs at the Western Wall; and

**Whereas** today this right is not available to everyone wishing to pray according to their beliefs at the Western Wall; and

**Whereas** the issue of the right to pray at the Western Wall has become central to the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora; and

**Whereas** the Israeli Declaration of Independence promises freedom of religion to all citizens of the country; and

**Whereas** the Chairman of the Jewish Agency in response to a request by the Prime Minister of Israel has formulated a proposal which answers the needs of all of the streams; and

**Whereas** to date the Israel government has not adopted the Sharansky proposal:

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the Zionist General Council calls upon the Government of Israel to adopt the Sharansky proposal, including:

1. The Western Wall site will be expanded and within it a large third egalitarian prayer section will be erected which has access to the Western Wall and which forms a third section for pluralistic prayer within the Western Wall complex and stands beside the existing sections for men and women;
2. There will be a common entrance to the three prayer sections;
3. The egalitarian section will be open to the public 24 hours a day, every day of the week, free of charge; and
4. The Western Wall site will be managed jointly by representatives from all streams of Judaism.

**4. Call by the Young Generation to Adopt a Program to Fight Racism**

**Whereas** the young Zionist generation is disturbed by the phenomenon of racism in Israel; and

**Whereas** the goal of the World Zionist Organization is to fortify the State of Israel which is founded on the vision of the prophets for justice and peace; and

**Whereas** in recent years there have been numerous incidents of racist incitement in Israel and violent acts of a racist and terrorist nature; and

**Whereas** until now the law enforcement agencies have not responded with the requisite assertiveness to these ever increasing incidents; and

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council is concerned by the increasing phenomenon of racism within Israeli society which threatens the State of Israel and its future; and

**Whereas** the World Zionist Organization desires to support the Government of Israel which has decided to make the fight against racism its main priority,

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the Zionist General Council calls upon the Government of Israel to adopt a program to fight racism that includes the following:

1. An assertive and uncompromising campaign against the phenomenon of racist violence which will lead to the prosecution of those guilty of such acts;
2. Prosecution for contravention of the law of public figures who incite racism in an ongoing and consistent manner;
3. Ongoing educational activities in the framework of the educational system on the topics of co-existence and tolerance, racism and its implications, including meetings between Israeli children and youth from all sectors of society in Israel; and
4. Implementation of government coalition agreements calling for the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to fight racism.

## 5. Call by the Young Generation for Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Divorce

**Whereas** the young Zionist generation in Israel and the Diaspora supports freedom of marriage; and

**Whereas** the institution of marriage is central to Jewish identity, culture and religion; and

**Whereas** the Jewish citizens of the State of Israel can marry only according to Orthodox religious dictates; and

**Whereas** according to this situation the right to marry is negated for couples coming from different religions; from individuals who do not profess to belong to any religion; from same-sex couples; and

**Whereas** couples that wish to marry in civil ceremonies – whether by force or by choice – are unable to do so; and

**Whereas** hundreds of thousands of olim cannot exercise their basic right to marry in Israel; and

**Whereas** the State of Israel is bound to the principles of justice and equality; and

**Whereas** Israel alone is the only democratic country which so limits freedom of conscience and marriage of its citizens; and

**Whereas** the status of the "Civil Unions" in its present version does not provide a satisfactory solution,

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the Zionist General Council calls upon the Government of Israel to work to pass legislation which allows freedom of marriage and which recognizes religious marriage of all the streams, as well as civil marriage and divorce, as is the case in all other democracies.

## 6. The Development of Young Leadership

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the great importance of encouraging the young generation in Israel and the Diaspora towards activity within the institutions of the Zionist movement and local community organizations,

**The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves that:**

1. The Zionist Executive shall promote the implementation of Congress resolutions in the matter of the integration of young people in the organization's institutions and shall ensure that resources are allocated for this purpose.

2. The World Zionist Organization shall work to establish a Training Center for development of programs for young leadership from Israel and the Diaspora, with a view to strengthening the bond between Israel and the Diaspora and enhancing commitment to joint activity. The Zionist Executive shall act in order that the Government of Israel will be a central partner in this project.

The *Magshimim* movements, the youth movements, student organizations, Jewish and Zionist communities and Federations, and other entities in Israel and the Diaspora, shall be partners in development of the program.

The program development necessitates a comprehensive, integrated and interdisciplinary approach, for which purpose there will need to be an integration of all the units under the Executive, including the Departments (Diaspora Activities and Israel Activities) and the frameworks for religious affairs in the Diaspora.

## 7. Encouraging Aliyah among the Young Generation

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the great importance of encouraging Aliyah in compliance with previous resolutions adopted in the institutions of the Zionist movement; and

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council views the encouragement of Aliyah among the young generation to be of particular importance,

**The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves that:**

1. The World Zionist Organization shall work to encourage Aliyah throughout the Diaspora, and particularly among the young generation, and shall allocate resources for this purpose.
2. The World Zionist Organization shall work to establish cooperation with government bodies and with the Jewish Agency, in order to increase the number of *olim* in every location, and particularly among the young generation.
3. The World Zionist Organization shall prepare a special work program relating to the encouragement of Aliyah in countries where an urgent need has emerged for this, and shall raise all necessary resources for the purpose of intensive activity in such locations.

## 8. Reinforcing the Hebrew Language among the Young Generation

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the great importance of the induction of the Hebrew language in all Diaspora Jewish communities as a central instrument for the reinforcement of the connection between the parts of the Jewish people in every location, the reinforcement of Jewish identity, Jewish peoplehood, and the reinforcement of the connection with the State of Israel, and as an essential tool in improving integration of Aliyah,

**The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves:**

1. To charge the Zionist Executive with the preparation of a detailed work plan and to ensure its implementation forthwith.
2. To allocate and raise resources for the implementation and conduct of the program within the Hebrew Language Promotion Unit.
3. To examine existing programs intended for preparation for Aliyah and activities among the young generation, and to prepare supplementary programs if they are required.
4. To promote the issue of training new teachers of Hebrew as a second language and to enhance the level of existing teachers.

## 9. Encouragement of Youth towards Zionist Activity (Youth Congress)

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the great importance of encouraging the young generation towards activity within the institutions of the Zionist movement,

**The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves:**

1. To convene an International Zionist Youth Conference once every five years.
2. To charge the Zionist Executive to establish conditions of participation for delegates to the conference.

## 10. Reinforcement of Zionist Identity among the Young Generation

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the great importance of the reinforcement of the young generation's Zionist identity and connecting them to the root foundations of the Zionist idea,

**The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves:**

1. To charge the Executive of the Zionist Organization with the development of programs to promote Zionist education in Israel and the Diaspora in formal and informal frameworks, in cooperation with the Israel Government and other entities in Israel and the Diaspora engaged in this area.
2. To train teachers in Israel Education and to improve the level of existing teachers.
3. To develop programs and encourage the organization of educational tours for youth and students from Israel and the Diaspora around sites relating to the early Zionist period and along the "Journey in Herzl's Footsteps".
4. To allocate resources to promote these issues.

## 11. Funding Income for the WZO

**Whereas** the financial stability of the World Zionist Organization requires transparency and public accountability in all of its operations; and

**Whereas** budgetary discipline is critical to the establishment of trust between and among the professional and lay leaders of the World Zionist Organization; and

**Whereas** in a time in which the World Zionist Organization is seeking to raise funds from its global constituency so as to provide the necessary means to fulfill its mission, there must be both the appearance and the reality of tight fiscal controls; and

**Whereas** it is essential that it be ascertainable at all times that the World Zionist Organization is utilizing all funds in a manner consistent with its mission and its Zionist principles; and

**Whereas** Section 30 of the *World Zionist Organization Constitution* assigns to the Zionist General Council and the Congress the authority to determine all financial matters, either directly or through the Zionist General Council's Committee for Budget and Finance,

**Therefore be it resolved:**

That the following principles shall apply to any and all World Zionist Organization budget and finance issues:

1. The WZO can only receive and/or implement a budget either allocated and/or donated funds so long as the purpose/s for the allocation and/or donation and the method/s of implementation are in full accordance with the principles of the WZO. Any restriction of the authority of the Zionist Executive to set such principles, or to supervise and control the manner in which such funds are utilized, constitutes an unacceptable precondition.
2. The Zionist Executive bears responsibility to safeguard and realize this principle during each fiscal year, and the Zionist Executive is mandated to report in writing to the annual meeting of the Zionist General Council on its implementation.

## 12. Internal Changes to Budget Lines

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**Whereas** in a time in which the World Zionist Organization is seeking to raise funds from its global constituency so as to provide the necessary means to fulfill its mission, there must be both the appearance and the reality of tight fiscal controls; and

**Whereas** it is essential that it be ascertainable at all times that the World Zionist Organization is utilizing all funds in a manner consistent with its mission and its Zionist principles; and

**Whereas** Section 30 of the *World Zionist Organization Constitution* assigns to the Zionist General Council and the Congress the authority to determine all financial matters either directly or through the Zionist General Council's Committee for Budget and Finance,

### **Therefore be it resolved:**

That the following principles shall apply to any and all World Zionist Organization budget and finance issues:

1. Funds will not be transferred to or from any approved budget line even within the same department of the WZO in an aggregate amount in any budgetary year of more than \$25,000 unless such a transfer is approved by the Committee for Budget and Finance of the Zionist General Council.

2. The Zionist Executive bears responsibility to safeguard and realize this principle during each fiscal year, and the Zionist Executive is mandated to report in writing to the annual meeting of the Zionist General Council on its implementation.

## 13. France\*

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council recognizes the special circumstances prevailing recently in Europe in general, and in France in particular, and recognizes the immediate necessity to work within these communities and provide a response to the challenges of the moment; and

**Whereas** the Zionist General Council determines that the Zionist Organization shall cooperate with the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency in preparing a plan for immediate intervention in France,

### **The Zionist General Council Session 36/4 resolves:**

1. To charge the Zionist Executive to prepare a comprehensive work program for activity in France, to commence 2014, and shall allocate for this purpose the requisite resources.

2. That the Zionist Executive shall present a progress report to the Zionist General in respect of this issue.

**\*see appendix/explanatory note to this resolution**



**14. Constitutional Amendment:  
The Budget of the World Zionist Organization**

Whereas **Article 30** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization* addresses the powers and functions of the Zionist General Council; and

Whereas **Section 2** of **Article 30** determines that:

"(a) The Council shall, upon proposal of the Executive, either itself or through a committee established by it for that purpose in terms of Article 31 (The Permanent Budget and Finance Committee) decide upon all budgetary and financial matters, provided such decision be not inconsistent with the decisions of Congress."

**It is therefore resolved:**

To add to **Article 30, Section 2**, of the Constitution a small paragraph (b) which reads as follows:

(b) No budget or financial expenditure shall be approved which is not consistent with the principles instructed by the Congress, or the Zionist General Council.

The paragraph currently marked as (b) in the Constitution shall henceforth be marked as (c).

**15. Elections**

**1. Attorney of the WZO**

In accordance with **Article 55** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*,

**The Zionist General Council 36/4 hereby elects** Adv. Baruch Rubin as Attorney of the World Zionist Organization, replacing Adv. Aharon Abramowitz, who resigned.

**2. Member of the Executive**

In accordance with **Article 43** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*,

**The Zionist General Council 36/4 hereby elects** Mr. Sergio Edelstein as a Member of the Executive, replacing Mr. Zvi (Quito) Hasson, who resigned.

**3. Members and Deputy Members of the Presidium**

In accordance with Article 35, Section 2 of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*,

**The Zionist General Council 36/4 hereby elects:**

**A. As Members of the Presidium:**

Adv. Sahar Pinto of the Kadima/Hanoar Hatzioni faction, replacing Ms. Shiraz Friedman, who resigned;

Ms. Haya Cohen, of the Labor Zionist Movement/Etz, replacing Professor Shimon Sheetreet, who resigned;

Ms. Chaya Pomeranz, replacing Mr. Oliver Worth, who resigned;

Ms. Galia Woloch, replacing Ms. Talia Livni, who resigned.

**B. As Deputy Members of the Presidium:**

Ms. Tehilla Reuben, replacing Mr. Marcus Frieze, who resigned;

Mr. Shmuel Margui, replacing Mr. David Koplevich, who resigned.

**4. Honorary Fellows**

In accordance with **Article 32, Section 3, sub-section (h)** of the *Constitution of the World Zionist Organization*,

**The Zionist General Council 36/4 hereby elects as Honorary Fellows:**

- Ms. Amalia Falk
- Ms. Naomi Leibler
- Ms. Miriam Roth
- Professor Yaakov Halperin

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