

**DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSALS
TO THE ZIONIST CONGRESS XXXVII**

COMMITTEE #1: NON-STOP ZIONISM



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1.1. The Declaration of Independence as a Zionist Tool

Submitted by ARZENU,

The International Federation of Reform and Progressive Religious Zionists

Whereas the Declaration of Independence is the charter for the redemption of the Jewish people through the creation of an inclusive and democratic Jewish State; and

Whereas the Declaration of Independence states that the State will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the Prophets of Israel; will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race, or sex; will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; and will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and

Whereas there is clear evidence that these objectives toward which we continue to aspire have not yet been fully realized,

Therefore the Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves that:

1. The World Zionist Organization implement programs intended to teach and educate Israelis and Jews around the world about the fundamental principles embedded in the Declaration of Independence and to fulfill the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, specifically with regard to ensuring complete equality of social and political rights to all of its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race, gender, or sexual orientation.
2. The World Zionist Organization is mandated to implement programs to fulfill the ideals of the Declaration of Independence with specific attention to those that guarantee religious freedom and equal treatment for all streams of Judaism.
3. The World Zionist Organization is mandated to implement policies to ensure that all National Institutions operate in accordance with these goals and ideals.
4. The World Zionist Organization is mandated to implement programs that ensure that all Zionist federations operate in accordance with these goals and ideals; and
5. To insure that any Zionist federation not complying with these guidelines receive no funding or support from the World Zionist Organization and that all penalties approved in February 2015 by the Zionist General Council are applied.
6. The World Zionist Organization calls upon the Government of Israel to support the WZO in the above initiatives by allocating appropriate funds for these projects to be implemented successfully.

1.2. Non-Stop Zionism

Submitted by Ms. Chaya Cohen; Etz World Labor Zionist Union

Whereas in recent years there has been a growth of post-Zionist voices from within sections of Israeli society and the Diaspora; and

Whereas the challenges confronting the Jewish people continue to increase, including virulent Antisemitism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel; and

Whereas there is a state of crisis in Diaspora Jewry, involving escalating assimilation and alienation from Jewish identity,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. To establish Aliyah to the State of Israel and the continued ingathering of the exiles as the Zionist movement's ultimate value.

2. That Jewish-Zionist education shall be at the center of Zionist activity in the Diaspora and in Israel, with an expansion of Hebrew language study, as the national language of the Jewish people.
3. To enhance the activities of the Magshimim youth movements and the expansion of activity among students on campus.
4. To empower and extend those programs building a connection between Israel and the Diaspora.
5. To call upon the young generation in Israel and the Diaspora to participate in the Zionist act of settling the Galilee, the Negev and the Jerusalem region.
6. To enhance the recognition that there are varied streams of Judaism, religious and spiritual, within the Jewish people and that it is imperative to work to raise the level of mutual recognition and tolerance, and towards their equal status within the Jewish people in the Diaspora and Israel.
7. The Zionist Congress XXXVII addresses the Israel Government, the Jewish Agency, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, Keren Hayesod and the leadership of Diaspora Jewish communities to mobilize in cooperation, in order to contend with the aforementioned challenges.

1.3. Zionism in Israeli Society

Submitted by Members of the Ohavei Zion Faction, World Sephardic Zionist Organization

Whereas, within extreme sectors of Israeli society, a trend is developing to transform Israel into “the state of all its citizens”, which trend represents an existential threat to the future of the Jewish state and the entire Zionist enterprise; and

Whereas we are witnessing to the fact that Zionism without Judaism and connection to tradition weakens Zionist identity and the connection to the people and the Land; and

Whereas we are witness to anti-Zionist and post-Zionist phenomena, in particular among lecturers and students at leading universities in Israel and around the world,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

1. To engage in advocacy and educational activities among Israeli youth to counter the trend to transform Israel into a state of all its citizens and to ensure that every high school graduate in Israel visits Jerusalem, the Knesset and Jewish heritage sites.
2. The WZO will promote initiatives that aim to return youth and the public at large to the Jewish bookshelf, promote the study of Judaism, Land of Israel, and the history of the Jewish people.
3. The WZO will promote the establishment of Zionist entities at universities and will initiate Zionist activity in institutes of higher education.

1.4. WZO Involvement in Israeli Society

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas the nature of Israeli society, and the integration of olim into it, are major concerns of the Zionist movement, as stipulated in the Jerusalem Program adopted by the ZGC 34/2, and

Whereas numerous resolutions regarding these areas have been passed by Zionist Congresses and the Zionist General Council but have not been acted upon, and

Whereas the World Zionist Organization currently has no mechanism for furthering the objectives of such resolutions, particularly those dealing with legislation in the Knesset,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

That the Zionist Executive and the Presidium of the ZGC jointly establish a **Forum on the Character of Israeli Society and its Relationship with the Diaspora** that will, among other things, serve as the lobby of the WZO to advance legislation and cooperation with the Government of Israel in order to actualize the platform of The Jerusalem Program, including the preservation of Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State, the recognition of the multi-faceted nature of the Jewish people, and the fashioning of Israel as an exemplary society.

Be it further resolved that the Executive examine the feasibility and efficacy of retaining a professional lobbyist to advance the objectives of the Zionist movement.

1.5. Increased Support for the Magshimim Youth Movements

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

Whereas the Magshimim youth movements were established in the Diaspora, founded upon the Zionist vision, as manifested in the settlement of Israel and cultivation of the land; and

Whereas the youth movements have always labored for human improvement and *Tikkun Olam*, and believe and strive to educate the succeeding generations in the values of pluralism, Zionism and democracy; and

Whereas the Magshimim youth movements today still maintain a collective lifestyle that is consistent with the ideological lifestyle upon which they were established; and

Whereas the Magshimim youth movements to this very day are settling in the socio-economic and geographical periphery throughout Israel; and

Whereas the Magshimim Zionist youth movements in Israel and around the world represent an important component in the ideological and values-based continuity of Israel,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. To continue to work to promote the activities and existence of the Magshimim Zionist youth movements and to increase their budgets by no less than 25% and to conduct negotiations with the movements on the manner of implementation of this resolution.
2. To connect secular society in the Diaspora via secular activity centers and to conduct joint seminars: encounters between Israeli youth movements and Diaspora youth.

1.6. Use of the “Hagshama Department” branding alongside the Department for Diaspora Activities

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

To return to the use of the brand name of “The Hagshama Department” while finding a way to mention “The Department for Diaspora Activities.”

1.7. Appropriate Response to Nationalism, Racism and Fear of the Other

Submitted by the World Meretz Union Faction

Whereas Zionism is a movement that advocates the principles of justice, equality and democracy, as detailed in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization; and

Whereas, for many years, the Jewish people suffered persecution, genocide, pogroms, and many became refugees in different countries; and

Whereas the Jewish people's tradition commands us to be fair and equitable towards gentiles residing in our midst:

In Mishneh Torah by the Rambam, Laws of Kings and Wars, Chapter 8:

"Anyone who accepts the Seven [Noachide] Laws and is scrupulous in their observance – shall thus be considered one of the Righteous Gentiles and shall have a share in the world to come. And whoever accepts and observes them because the Holy One Blessed be He commanded the Torah and communicated to us by the hand of Moses, our Teacher, that the sons of Noah had been so commanded previously. If, however, he observes them out of intellectual conviction – then he is not a resident alien, nor is he one of the Righteous Gentiles or their Sages." (From which implies that asylum seekers, Muslims and Christians of African origin – are thus resident aliens.)

Shemot (Exodus) 22:20

"And a stranger shall you not wrong, nor shall you oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:34

"As the home-born shall be the stranger who lives with you and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt, I am the Lord, your God."

Devarim (Numbers) 10:19

"And you shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.";

and

Whereas, according to data from the Migration Authority for April 2015, there are 45,711 asylum seekers and refugees living in Israel, 92% of whom are from Eritrea or Sudan; and

Whereas state persecution, civil wars, acts of genocide and other atrocities have compelled them to leave their homes and their countries of birth, in search of protection in Israel; and

Whereas between 5,000 and 7,000 of all the asylum seekers are survivors from the torture camps in Sinai and carry the scars of incarceration and cruel torture on their bodies and in their souls; and

Whereas, over the years, the asylum seekers have not had access to the recognition procedure as refugees. Even today, the level of recognition as refugees in Israel is below 1%, while in the rest of the world the percentage of recognized Eritreans and Sudanese refugees stands at 84% and 69% respectively; and

Whereas thousands of men and women asylum seekers live in various cities of Israel without any regularized status, without work permits and without access to essential health and welfare services, legal aid or housing; and

Whereas, since the government's increased stringency of policy, beginning with the operation of the "Holot" center and the reduction of activity by the Population Registry, there has been a discernible trend towards extreme desperation and a feeling of helplessness among that community. Many express their lack of sense of security and a fear for the future, as well as a sense of inability to take control and impact on the direction of their lives; and

Whereas the residents of southern Tel Aviv are in a state of distress as the result of the inappropriate integration of asylum seekers in that area and the lack of preparation on the ground to receive them in terms of budgets and infrastructure,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. That siding with and assisting these war refugees is the mission of the Jewish people and the Jewish state, because we were strangers in the land of Egypt.
2. The WZO Executive shall grant special and additional allocations to the Magshimim movements working to alleviate their conditions through informal education.

1.8. The Multi-Faceted Nature of the Zionist Movement

*Submitted by MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami
and The World Confederation of United Zionists*

Whereas, the official platform of the World Zionist movement is stated in the words of the Jerusalem Program which explicitly recognizes the multi-faceted nature of the Jewish people; and

Whereas, the Zionist movement, from the days of Theodor Herzl to the present, has been a pluralistic movement that recognizes that there is a place for diverging opinions and positions within the framework of the official platform; and

Whereas, those who seek to discredit Zionism and its ideals, often portray our movement in narrow and inaccurate terms that would undermine this commitment to diversity and inclusiveness,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII instructs the Zionist Executive to take all necessary steps to insure that the institutions, departments, committees and affiliated bodies of the World Zionist Organization and their leadership:

1. Accept and follow the principle that the only condition for participation in the Zionist movement is fulfillment of requirements stated in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization (including, in particular, Articles 2, 5, 7 and 9 thereof and acceptance of the Jerusalem Program.)
2. Respect the positive value of such diversity of opinions within the framework of the Jerusalem Program expressed by members of the Zionist movement, and
3. Refrain from any actions or communication that seek to restrict Zionism to one view or opinion, or seek to impair good faith discussion within the Zionist Movement of divergent views.

1.9. Hebrew Language #1

Submitted by the AMERICAN ZIONIST MOVEMENT

Whereas Hebrew is the modern and ancient language of the Jewish People; and

Whereas we aspire to make Hebrew the *lingua franca* of the global Jewish people; and

Whereas Hebrew is an effective tool for outreach and education about Israel, Israeli culture, and Zionism;

Whereas Hebrew is the key to unlocking the sacred texts of the Jewish people, and plays an essential role in building and affirming Jewish identity;

Whereas Hebrew education is one of the major planks of the Jerusalem Program and a unifying principle of Zionism; and

Whereas facility with Hebrew serves as an essential tool for successful Aliyah and absorption;

Whereas we note the important role played by the World Zionist Organization in the establishment of the Hebrew Language Council in North America;

Whereas the Hebrew Language Council provides programming, events and a framework to raise Hebrew higher on the agenda of the North American community, inspiring others to

support and engage in Hebrew activity and culture and reinforcing Hebrew as an essential tool for global Jewish leadership;

Whereas the Hebrew Language Council brings together thought leaders, policy makers, and institution across the spectrum of the Jewish community and serves to further engage native Hebrew speakers in North American with the organized Jewish community in a positive and affirming manner;

Whereas the Hebrew Language Council can expand the market for Hebrew resources, creating efficiencies and costs that continue to serve as barrier to use for many individuals, organizations and communities:

Whereas the Hebrew Language Council has played a vital role in bringing many elements in North America together to further the promotion and teaching of the Hebrew Language; in helping Hebrew language teachers finds ways to work together and improve their skills as Hebrew teachers; and is finding way to effectively share and leverage various relevant resources,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII hereby resolves:

1. The World Zionist Organization ensure that the Hebrew Language Council will remain active and will be a part of the Zionist Program in North America, its activities be replicated in other countries, and will be administered and operated through the local Zionist Federation;
2. The World Zionist Organization provide sufficient funding to enable the HLC and other such pilots programs to maintain its current or increased level of activity;
3. The World Zionist Organization provide redirect funding for Hebrew education materials in a manner that facilitates collaboration and decreased costs for the end-users;
4. The World Zionist Organization build upon the successes of the HLC in North America to replicate its efforts in other Zionist Federations.

1.10. A Free People in Our Land: Document of Agreement

*Submitted by Eliezer Shefer, World Organization of Orthodox Communities
and Synagogues in Israel and the Diaspora*

Whereas a tradition of cooperation in leadership and management has existed for many years among the Zionist Unions and Organizations within the elected entities and the Executive of the World Zionist Organization; and

Whereas political, conceptual and ideological differences of opinion exist between partners to the leadership of the Zionist movement,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

To charge the elected institutions to compose a **document of understanding** within three months agreed by as many of the component parts of the Zionist Executive as possible, which sets down the following principles:

1. It is agreed by the representatives of the Unions and the Organizations that one is to refrain from discussion and decisions on theologically contested issues;
2. The Congress determines that the Zionist movement is a multi-cultural movement and its members are called upon to respect one another's positions and opinions.

1.11. Unity of the Jewish People

Submitted by Members of the Ohavei Zion Faction, World Sephardic Zionist Organization

Whereas we find ourselves in a difficult era for the Jewish people and the State of Israel, with escalating Antisemitism worldwide and the growth of delegitimization targeted against the Jewish people and the State of Israel; and

Whereas cracks have recently appeared on important issues within the communities of the world, and between them and the State of Israel; and

Whereas past experience has proven that it is only possible to attain achievements and preserve the Jewish people and the State through unity of the Jewish people, reciprocal respect and unity of purpose; and

Whereas the situation in the Middle East has deteriorated over recent years and threats against the State of Israel are being heard, and whereas the support of world Jewry is vital at this time, more than ever,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves:

1. A joint forum shall be established between the World Zionist Organization and the Israel Government to coordinate activity, support Israeli Hasbara (advocacy) and the mobilization of world Jewry to help the Israel Government and the State of Israel.
2. Disputes and differences of opinion are legitimate, but should be confined within the parameters of the Jewish community, and between the communities of the world and the State of Israel.
3. The Congress is aware of the state of emergency in which the State of Israel finds itself, and it is therefore incumbent upon us to express support for the Israel Government in its fight on behalf of the people and its security.

1.12. The Restitution of Jewish Refugees' Property

Submitted by World Likud

Whereas 850,000 Jews were expelled by force and with cruelty, and uprooted from their homes in Arab lands, North Africa and the Persian Gulf, and dispossessed of their property, which was stolen from them; and

Whereas the question of the expulsion of Jews has been neglected and ignored for decades, in Israel and around the world, and as a result of which the issue of the rights and compensation of hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab lands and North Africa has also been neglected and ignored; and

Whereas at every international dialogue about human rights and agreement between Arabs and Jews it is imperative to assign precedence to this distressing international issue, viz., of human rights' violations against Jewish refugees from Arab countries,

The Zionist Congress XXXVII resolves as follows:

1. The Congress calls upon the Zionist Executive to appeal to all countries in the world to support a historic resolution adopted by the US Congress in April 2008. It recognizes: the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab lands and North Africa as a precondition for any comprehensive and just peace agreement in the Middle East; and emphasizes concern over: human rights' violations, expulsion by force, dispossession and property confiscation of Jews who were uprooted from their homes.
2. The Congress calls upon the Zionist Executive to devote its resources to promote activities for the restoration of property to Jewish refugees from Arab lands and North Africa, and to act to prevent the neglect and suppression heretofore on the issue of the Jewish refugees from Arab lands.