

SPECPOL
Security on the Korean Peninsula
Portugal
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Portugal is deeply concerned about the security situation on the Korean peninsula and the potential for conflict and tensions that it poses throughout the region. Like much of the international community, Portugal maintains a position of neutrality regarding the ongoing security issues on the Korean peninsula. Portugal has supported and continues to support the peaceful resolution of the conflict through diplomacy. Portugal has also continued to emphasize the importance of upholding international sanctions against North Korea in response to its nuclear weapons program. Portugal believes that a peaceful solution to the ever-growing tension on the Korean peninsula is of the utmost importance and that all parties involved in keeping the peace on the Korean Peninsula should work tirelessly towards this goal.

Per working towards resolving this pressing issue, Portugal has stood behind the efforts of the international community to promote dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict. Portugal has helped contribute to an international effort known as the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission, which helped to maintain the armistice that initially ended the Korean War. This commission also serves as a center for communication and cooperation between the Koreas as well as the rest of the region. Portugal has also long been a supporter of the work being done by the Six-Party Talks. These talks have been working to bring together China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, and the United States in an ongoing effort to find a peaceful resolution to the growing tension throughout the region. In addition to these initiatives, Portugal has supported several other resolutions and statements issued by the United Nations and other international organizations calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict on the Korean peninsula and urging all parties to refrain from actions that could further escalate the situation. Portugal has also been a part of collaborative projects between the Portuguese Red Cross and the Korean Red Cross to improve humanitarian assistance in the region, as well as helping to promote dialogue between the two Koreas. At the same time, Portugal acknowledges the right of all countries to self-defense and has condemned any act of aggression between the two Koreas.

While a path forward is certainly achievable, it does not mean it will be without obstacles. The biggest obstacle that Portugal believes is currently in the way of resolving the tension in the region is North Korea's continued isolation, which is preventing the growth of trust and interaction between the two Koreas. Portugal calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from actions that could further escalate the situation and to instead engage in dialogue and negotiation. Portugal calls on all parties involved in resolving this conflict to make its swift end of the utmost importance. With these goals in mind, Portugal believes it is possible to find a peaceful and lasting solution.

SPECPOL

Settling the dispute over the Gaza strip

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Portugal has been heavily invested in the situation in the Gaza Strip and its impact on the lives of the Palestinian people. We believe that the Israeli occupation and blockade of Gaza must end immediately and that a sustainable solution must be found to end the conflict in the region. Portugal believes that the key to resolving this pressing conflict is establishing a two-state solution, with a sovereign and independent State of Palestine living alongside the State of Israel, with secure and recognized borders for both nations. This solution can only be achieved through both nations agreeing to negotiate diplomatically and find a resolution.

With these goals in mind, Portugal has supported the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state. Portugal also supports the efforts of the international community to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including through the work of the United Nations and the Middle East Quartet. Portugal has also supported the United Nations in its efforts to facilitate peace negotiations through the Good Offices Mission of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. Portugal also supports the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to help open up dialogue between the two states. This work has been in an attempt to combat the severe humanitarian crisis, with the Gaza strip experiencing high rates of poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity. This crisis has created a desperate situation for the civilian population living there, making it difficult for them to support peace initiatives. Along with these actions, Portugal has also supported initiatives to promote economic and social development in the region. Portugal calls on all parties to refrain from violence and to respect international humanitarian law. At the same time, Portugal recognizes the right of Israel to security and condemns any act of terrorism or violence against civilians. It is essential to call on all parties to refrain from actions that could further escalate the situation and to engage in dialogue and negotiation to find a peaceful and lasting solution.

While peace between the two states is becoming increasingly likely, several challenges will still need to be overcome in order to achieve it. One of the biggest challenges Portugal expects to face is the lack of trust between Israel and Palestine, which has built up over decades of conflict and violence and has led to deep mistrust between the two states, making it difficult to reach the level of cooperation necessary for peace. Portugal will continue to work with its partners in the international community to address the needs of the Palestinian people and to support efforts toward lasting peace in the region.

Korea:

<https://www.unc.mil/Organization/UNCMAC-S/>

<https://dprkorea.un.org/>

Gaza Strip:

<https://www.unrwa.org/>

<http://old.agora-parl.org/news/portuguese-parliament-calls-govt-recognise-palestinian-state>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/country/portugal/>