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## Resolution – Israel-Palestine

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains, regrettably, one of the world's most intractable political conflicts and the central problem of the Middle East. After nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation of Palestinian land (beyond the 1967 de facto borders), the LWF Council, meeting in Wittenberg, Germany, 15-21 June 2016, continues -- with many people of good will -- to seek out signs of "hope in a hopeless situation".

We commend the recent decision of the European Union to label products from the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories to create awareness that safeguards the commitment to a two-state solution, based on the 1967 borders.

Despite a number of efforts, the well-known core issues that would be part of a final status agreement are still unresolved – borders, security, settlements, movement and access, refugees, mutual recognition and the status of Jerusalem.

The Council calls on our member churches to encourage their governments to commend the recent initiative of the Government of France to hold an international conference by the end of 2016 to discuss a plan, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as on the Arab Peace Initiative (API). The API commits 57 Islamic and Arab countries to accept normalized diplomatic relations with the State of Israel if it allows for a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders. The Council asks the churches to invest in peace in this and other ways.

The Council calls on the international community, for the sake of the whole world as well as those parties to the conflict, to redouble their efforts to reach a final status solution based on peace with justice.