

US Plans First Gaza ‘Board of Peace’ Meeting as Israeli Killings Continue

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Trump presented the Board of Peace as a neutral, benevolent mechanism capable of stabilizing the world's most volatile regions. (Photos: Wikimedia. Design: Palestine Chronicle)

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Washington is preparing the first leadership meeting of the Gaza “Board of Peace” alongside a donor conference, amid skepticism over its authority and role in governing and reconstructing Gaza.

Key Developments

- First council leadership meeting expected Feb. 19 in Washington.
- Donor conference planned to fund Gaza reconstruction.
- Netanyahu may meet Trump one day before the session.
- Critics say structure risks bypassing existing UN frameworks.

The United States is preparing to host the first leadership meeting of the Gaza “Board of Peace,” a new political structure intended to oversee the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire and the enclave’s reconstruction.

Officials say the meeting is expected to take place on Feb. 19 in Washington and will include a donor conference dedicated to rebuilding Gaza after two years of devastating war. Preparations remain in early stages and may change, while the White House has not issued formal public confirmation.

Diplomatic outreach is already underway, with US officials contacting dozens of governments to invite participation and coordinate logistics.

Israeli officials indicated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is wanted by the ICC for war crimes in Gaza, may meet President Donald Trump at the White House on Feb. 18, a day before the gathering, suggesting the meeting will also serve as a high-level political consultation on the ceasefire's next phase.

The US ambassador to the United Nations said Washington aims to launch a “mutually agreed disarmament process,” including dismantling military infrastructure and tunnels inside Gaza — language that signals the body may play a direct security role in addition to reconstruction oversight.

The council, announced last month during the World Economic Forum in Davos, currently includes 27 members and has been tasked with supervising ceasefire implementation, governance arrangements and rebuilding efforts. Its mandate would extend beyond humanitarian coordination into political administration of post-war Gaza.

However, several governments have declined participation, citing the body’s broad authority and provisions granting the US president veto and appointment powers. Critics argue this could create a parallel international governance framework operating alongside — or instead of — traditional UN institutions.

The council’s charter describes it as a permanent international mechanism for managing conflict zones, and some observers interpret its creation as an attempt to design a new governance model outside existing diplomatic structures.

Implementation of the ceasefire’s second phase has progressed slowly. The Rafah crossing has reopened only partially, humanitarian access remains limited, and the Palestinian technocratic government continues operating from outside Gaza without establishing a physical presence inside the territory.

As a result, the upcoming meeting is expected to address not only reconstruction funding but also who will ultimately govern Gaza — a question that remains unresolved months after the ceasefire took effect.

The planned meeting comes against the backdrop of Israel’s war on Gaza, which has killed nearly 72,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health authorities, with humanitarian and demographic assessments suggesting the real number may be significantly higher due to thousands still missing under the rubble and deaths caused by siege conditions.

Vast areas of the enclave have been destroyed, including homes, hospitals, schools and essential infrastructure, leaving most of the population displaced and dependent on aid.

Although a ceasefire formally entered into force months ago, Israeli forces have repeatedly violated its terms through airstrikes, shootings and raids that have killed hundreds of Palestinians since the agreement began.

Humanitarian agencies say restrictions on aid entry, limited evacuation of the wounded and the continued destruction of infrastructure have prevented meaningful recovery, meaning discussions about reconstruction and governance are taking place while violence and displacement persist on the ground.