

**The Final Statement**  
**The Fifth National Civil Peace and Rule of Law Conference**  
**“Towards a Palestinian State of Law and Social Justice”**

The Civil Coalition for Strengthening the Civil Peace and Rule of Law conducted its fifth annual Conference, entitled: “Towards a Palestinian State of Law and Social Justice,” under the patronage of His Excellency, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday, 24th of November, Wednesday, 25th of November, and Thursday, 26th of November. The Conference was broadcasted on satellite and local TVs, such as Wattan TV and Al-Najah News Agency.

The Conference focused on the need to address the repercussions of civil peace violations in order to strengthen the rule of law and its implementation within a comprehensive vision that is based on partnership between the government and all components of the Palestinian society, including: civil society organizations, municipalities, local bodies, trade unions, chambers of commerce, women and youth centers, as well as reform committees and clerics in formulating, adopting and implementing public policy. The participants in the Conference discussed three researches on the status of civil peace in Palestine, such as the increase of the tribal committees’ power and its impact on civil peace, the role of local governance in bridging the jurisdictional gaps mainly in C Areas, the civic values of the Palestinian state and the need for a new social contract.

The participants further discussed the transformations that the Palestinian society encountered over the past years, such as the decline of national identity in favor of tribal committees and the role of local communities located in C Areas in implementing public policies in local councils. They also highlighted the impact of these policies on civil peace and ways to enhance it and mechanisms for promoting citizens’ participation in creating and implementing programs for local authorities. Additionally, the participants stressed the necessity of effectively implementing a new Palestinian social contract that affirms individual rights and equality between men and women in the enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

In light of the participants’ interventions, the Conference concluded the following recommendations:

- The necessity to end the Palestinian political division, restore unity and hold general elections (presidential, legislative and local). The continuity of judicial reform by strengthening its independence and increasing its efficiency in order to reduce the tribal committees’ presence in arbitration and litigation.
- The promotion of citizenship in the Palestinian society by accepting personal differences, enhancing dialogue and raising awareness on the values of justice.
- The judicial and law enforcement authorities must take a firm position against the legal violations that occur during tribal solutions by implementing the law and imposing order.
- Reform committees’ outputs must be consistent with Palestinian laws, as they are considered to provide assistance in the promotion of civil peace and are not a substitute for law enforcement authorities or courts.
- All efforts must be unified to develop the pillars of a democratic Palestinian state that guarantees freedom of expression, pluralism and active citizenship, to enhance civil peace and the rule of law, to achieve justice and equality and to confront cases that violate the law.
- The holding of a national conference with the participation of all social components in the Palestinian society and political factions.

- Respecting the constitutional and legal dates for the presidential, legislative and local elections, including student, labor, union and chambers of commerce elections in order to enhance the democratic character of the political system and maintain the peaceful transfer of power.
- The necessity of conducting structural reforms in the Palestinian security services, renewing the military and security doctrine, which is based mainly on strengthening the civilian character of the Palestinian political system, and increasing the powers of the Independent Commission for Human Rights through a law regulating its work.
- Local government bodies in Palestine must provide citizens with all the necessary information related to their plans and programs and develop and institutionalize voluntary practices initiated by citizens in order to increase their participation through the creation of permanent advisory councils, local committees and permanent or temporary specialized committees.
- The development of shadow councils that aim to support female members of local government bodies in the Palestinian society and empower women in order to increase their participation in the electoral process, candidacy and voting.
- The promotion and institutionalization of local emergency committees, which were created in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, to enhance civil peace in local government bodies, especially those located in C Areas.