

The background of the page features a blurred image of several flags, including the Canadian flag and the Israeli flag, waving. A dark blue diagonal banner is overlaid on the top left, containing the title.

Multilateral Canada-Israel Diplomatic Cooperation

Canada's record of standing up for Israel on the international stage traces its roots to the very inception of the Jewish state, based on the universality of human rights and dignity.

Canadian Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand, Canada's representative on the UN Special Committee on Palestine, was a chief proponent of the creation of two states, one Jewish and one Arab, at the end of British rule in Palestine. Canada voted in favour of this proposal at the UN General Assembly in 1947, despite British and Commonwealth pressure to abstain, affirming the right of the Jewish people to self-determination in their ancestral homeland. The State of Israel declared independence less than a year later.

Canada has since enjoyed almost 70 years of friendship and diplomatic cooperation with Israel. Whether standing up at the United Nations in opposition to the slanderous, anti-Israel resolutions that clog its agenda, or acting as the diplomatic conduit representing Israel in Cuba and Venezuela, Canada enjoys strong ties with its democratic ally, based on shared values and shared interests.

Reflecting a mutual commitment to the values and charter of the United Nations, Canada has played an instrumental role in helping Israel to contribute fully at international institutions, counteracting efforts to exclude it from multilateral bodies. For example, at the Francophonie, Canada has worked to ensure this important multilateral group avoids the trap of singling out Israel for condemnation at its summits.

Canadian support at multilateral forums can help overcome the dysfunction perpetuated by those seeking to isolate Israel.

Canada also recently assisted in Israel's accession as a full member to the Western European and Others Group at the United Nations in Geneva, ending a situation in which Israel was the only country denied membership in the regional grouping system due to a boycott by Arab and Muslim States.

Additionally, Canada played a helpful role in the unprecedented appointment of an Israeli diplomat as Deputy Chairman of the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee, which functions as the UN's finance ministry, managing a budget of more than

\$11 billion that includes peacekeeping, development and human rights.

Continuing Canada's proud tradition of friendship and diplomatic cooperation with Israel at multilat-

eral forums can help to overcome the dysfunction perpetuated by those seeking to marginalize Israel, while at the same time advancing Canadian principles, values and interests.

KEY POINTS

- For nearly 70 years, Canada and Israel have enjoyed strong diplomatic ties based on shared values and shared interests.
- Canada has played an instrumental role in counteracting efforts to exclude Israel from multilateral bodies.
- Canada's record of standing up for Israel on the international stage traces its roots to the very inception of the Jewish state, based on the universality of human rights and dignity.
- Continued Canadian support at multilateral forums can help overcome the dysfunction perpetuated by those seeking to isolate Israel.