Policy Recommendations for the U.S.

Seek a U.S.-Israel Agreement on a Partial Settlement Freeze

The U.S. should identify the settlements most threatening to a future two-state outcome and pursue a strict freeze on construction within these areas.

Outside of any agreement, the U.S. should:

Clarify Enduring U.S. Support for a Two-State Outcome

Continue to voice support for two states and oppose all actions that make reaching an eventual two-state outcome more difficult.

Acknowledge Both Peoples’ Attachment to the Land

Demonstrate sensitivity to religious and nationalistic attitudes to the land by acknowledging the historic attachment of both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples.

Codify Updated Parameters on the 1967 Lines and Mutually Agreed and Equal Land Swaps

Introduce equal land swaps as a tenet of U.S. policy and commit to compensating the Palestinians fairly for any settlements annexed under a future agreement.

Reassert U.S. Opposition to Settlements

Reverse pro-settlement Trump-era policies and restore pre-Trump positions on settlement-related resolutions at the U.N.

Calibrate Response to Settlement Building While Continuing to Oppose All Settlement Construction

In the absence of a bilateral U.S.-Israel agreement, continue to oppose all settlement building, but calibrate a response that is proportional to the potential damage to a two-state outcome.
U.S. Policy on West Bank Settlements

Settlement Policy Under a U.S.-Israel Agreement
- Sensitive settlement plans west of barrier
- 1.9% area: exempt from freeze
- Settlements in the 1.9% area: authorized construction
- Settlements west of barrier: exempt from freeze (within narrowly defined built-up areas)
- Settlements west of barrier: freeze
- Settlements east of barrier: freeze and voluntary evacuation

Settlement Policy Outside of a U.S.-Israel Agreement
- Sensitive settlement plans west of barrier: most vehement U.S. objection to construction
- 1.9% area: less vehement objection to construction
- Settlements in the 1.9% area: little U.S. objection to construction
- Settlements west of barrier: less vehement objection to construction
- Settlements west of barrier: vehement objection to construction
- Settlements east of barrier: most vehement objection to construction