



Dalia Association was established in 2007 by members of the Palestinian community from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Israel, and the Diaspora. We are diverse in terms of age, gender, religion and politics, yet we are united by our vision -- to realize our rights as Palestinians to control our resources and sustain our own development for generations to come. Our mission is to mobilize and properly utilize resources necessary to empower a vibrant, independent and accountable civil society.



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Palestinians have a right to development and rights in relation to international aid

As Palestinians, we have a right to development and rights in relation to international aid. Our rights are enshrined in international law and promoted in agreements and declarations that are ratified by most donor countries and aid actors. The applicability of specific rights varies depending on the legal status of the Palestinian community (e.g., minority citizen, resident, under occupation, refugee), types of aid (e.g., humanitarian, development), recipient (e.g., government, civil society, individual), and the historical circumstances (e.g., time of conflict).

Dalia Association believes these rights, agreements and declarations, along with international standards of best practice in development, constitute a commitment by donor countries and aid actors to Palestinians as well as other peoples in developing countries, the third world, or regions of conflict. This commitment is currently not being fulfilled, so we are calling for compliance. Making demands for reform of the aid system is not being ungrateful. In fact, it is part of being responsible partners with donors in the global movement to improve aid effectiveness and rights-based development.

Dalia Association aims to raise awareness of our rights to development and to a equitable and meaningful aid partnership between development actors and Palestinian civil society. Once we are aware of our rights, we must claim them – they will not be automatically granted to us. Claiming our rights also involves duties. It obliges us to take responsibility for our own development and not allow dependence on aid to make us passive or complicit. It also obliges us to actively seek different aid relationships and determine the best possible mix of aid delivery systems, development partners and aid outcomes. If we expect donors and aid actors to be credible, professional and effective, we must do our part to enact these values in our work too.

To promote this dialogue, Dalia Association has compiled some rights and standards for international development practice that we believe should inform our interaction with the international aid system. We welcome your feedback and participation in our efforts.

All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 1 (1966/1976)

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Signatories shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right....

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 1 (1966/1976)

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States have a positive obligation to help others gain their right to self-determination, including economic development.

UN Charter, Chapter XI: Declaration Regarding Non-Self Governing Territories, Article 73 (1945)

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“The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development...”

Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) -- General Assembly Resolution 41/128

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Equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations.

General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962

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All peoples who have not yet gained independence have the right to receive aid.

UN Charter, Chapter XI: Declaration Regarding Non-Self Governing Territories, Article 73 (1945)

Populations affected by disaster, whether natural or man-made (including armed conflict), have the right to protection and assistance.

Sphere Project (1997)

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A civilian population under occupation has the right to request and receive aid in times of military conflict.

Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 30 (1949)

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Aid actors should ensure all activities do no harm.

Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States (2005)

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The right to development imposes obligations on the international community to promote fair development policies and effective international cooperation.

World Conference on Human Rights (1993); reaffirmed by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)

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Popular participation in all spheres is an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.

Declaration on the Right to Development, Article 8 (1986)

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INGOs are accountable to their stakeholders including peoples whose rights they seek to protect and advance, partner organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, and the general public.

International Non-Governmental Organizations Accountability Charter (2005)

Economic and financial agreements between the developed and the developing countries must be based on the principles of equality and of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination.

General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962

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The provision of economic and technical assistance, loans and increased foreign investment must not be subject to conditions which conflict with the interests of the recipient State.

General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962

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“We...resolve to take far-reaching and monitorable actions to reform the ways we deliver and manage aid....”

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005)

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Donors commit to respect partner country leadership and help strengthen their capacity to exercise it.

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Article 15 (2005)

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We re-commit to reforming and simplifying donor policies and procedures to encourage collaborative behaviour and progressive alignment with partner countries priorities, systems and procedures.

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005)

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Donors will work on flexible, rapid and long-term funding modalities.

Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States (2005)

Donors will support developing countries by respecting countries priorities, investing in their human resources and institutions, making greater use of their systems to deliver aid, and increasing the predictability of aid flows.

Accra Agenda for Action, Point 8 (2008)

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Donors will deepen engagement with CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector.

Accra Agenda for Action, Point 20 (2008)

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Donors will support efforts to increase the capacity of all development actors including CSOs, to take an active role in dialogue on development policy and on the role of aid in contributing to countries development objectives.

Accra Agenda for Action, Point 13b (2008)

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Donors resolve to work together to help countries across the world build the successful future all of us want to see -- a future based on a shared commitment to overcome poverty, a future in which no countries will depend on aid.

Accra Agenda for Action, Point 32 (2008)