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## Resolution Commending the Israeli and Palestinian Trade Unions' Historic August 2008 Agreement

WHEREAS, The Israeli and Palestinian trade unions in the first week of August 2008 reached an historic agreement to protect the rights of Palestinian workers employed by Israeli employers; and

WHEREAS, The pact between the Histadrut and the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) calls for future relations between the two groups to be based on negotiations, dialogue and joint initiatives to advance 'fraternity and coexistence between the two peoples; 'and

WHEREAS, Under the agreement, the Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation, also will reimburse the PGFTU for the outstanding balance of union and legal representation fees paid since 1993 by Palestinians working for Israeli employers; and

WHEREAS, In the future, at least 50 percent of the representation fees paid by Palestinians working for Israeli employers will be transferred to the PGFTU, to enable both organizations to provide representation, legal and other trade union services to the workers: and

WHEREAS, Histadrut Chairperson Ofer Eini said "We are very pleased that this agreement has now been reached. Every worker, whether of Israeli, Palestinian or other origin, must have full rights to the protections offered by international labor standards. The outcome of our dialogue with the PGFTU can... help...lay the foundations for future cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian trade unions and progress in our shared quest for justice, peace and prosperity for all in the region...; and

WHEREAS, PGFTU General Secretary Shaher Sae'd stated: This removes a key obstacle to future cooperation and the full respect of the rights of Palestinian workers. Decent work is a foundation stone for political and economic justice, and we will now be in a position to devote even more attention to tackling the appalling state of the Palestinian economy and playing a fuller part in the quest for justice, fairness and democratic rights in the building of a Palestinian state, and

WHEREAS, Guy Ryder, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), praised the agreement, saying: This agreement is tremendously significant... It means that the PGFTU will be able to ensure much more effective representation for Palestinian workers, while those working for Israeli employers will also benefit. The agreement calls upon the ITUC and its affiliates to continue to support future cooperation, and we are fully committed to do this; and

WHEREAS, Both the Histadrut and the PGFTU are members of the ITUC, which represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates and

WHEREAS, in light of the U.S. Labor movements' long time ties, financial and otherwise to Histadrut and nascent ties to the PGFTU it is incumbent on us to support this historic agreement between the two parties since it is a real beacon for change in a region filled with conflict, with union members leading the way

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council formally congratulates and commends Histadrut, the PGFTU and the ITUC, and the leaders involved, for reaching this historic agreement (PGFTU Gen. secretary Shaher S'aed; Histadrut Chairperson Ofer Eini, Guy Ryder of the ITUC) and send them each a copy of this resolution with congratulations and will also send cc copies of this resolution to Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Congressional Representative Jackie Speier, and John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO.

Submitted by Francesca Rosa, SEIU 1021, and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on September 2, 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson  
Executive Director