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**Prime Minister's Office  
Government of Israel**

**Joint Statement Following the Meeting of the Israeli Palestinian Steering Committee**

The Israeli and Palestinian Steering Committee, headed by Dov Weisglass and Saeb Erekat, met in the last few days, expressed the commitment to the full implementation of the Road Map commitments and the Sharm El Sheikh understandings, and reiterated the commitment to stop violent activities.

In order to prepare the agenda for a successful and productive meeting between the two leaders it was decided to resume work of the joint committees in order to advance the issues on the agenda including:

- Resume the work of the joint security committee to discuss inter alia the handover of additional Palestinian cities and their surrounding areas to PA control.
- Resume the work of the fugitives and deportees committee
- Resume the work of the prisoners committee.
- Resume the work of the steering committee.

During the preparation meetings, issues related to the Disengagement Plan were discussed including the Rafah Border Crossing, the movement of people and goods between Gaza and the West Bank and between the Palestinian territories and Israel, the status of the areas in the northern West Bank from which Israel exited, and the issues related to the Gaza airport.

It was decided that the expert teams from both parties will meet regularly to intensify the discussions and reach agreements regarding all the above mentioned issues according to the parameters that were outlined in the Quartet Envoy's, James Wolfensohn, letter to the Prime Ministers.

It was agreed that the two leaders would meet on a regular basis in order to personally accompany and review the process and solve disagreements through negotiations and discussions. It was also agreed that the committees would meet frequently so that during the coming meeting between the two leaders they can review the progress that has been achieved on these issues.

Israel specified its intention to initiate steps to ease the humanitarian and economic conditions of the Palestinian population.

It was agreed that following the return of the Palestinian President from Washington D.C. the two leaders would meet in order to review the progress made by the committees.