

Annex A

Statement delivered by H.E Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of
Palestine

19 May 2020

Translated from Arabic¹

In light of the provisions of the Israeli government coalition agreement, which stated that “the Prime Minister will be able to bring the agreement that was reached with the United States on applying sovereignty starting on 1 July 2020 to the Cabinet and the Knesset”, and the speech of the Prime Minister of the occupation government at the Knesset the day before yesterday, which was devoid of any commitment to the signed agreements, declaring instead the application of Israeli sovereignty on the Israeli settlements. The Prime Minister of the occupation government reiterated this declaration in his first Cabinet meeting, considering annexation a priority for this government, which means annexation by the occupying Power of parts of the territory of the State of Palestine, based on the so-called "deal of the century" that we reject in its totality. This would entail the annulment by the occupying Power of the Oslo Accords and all other agreements concluded with it, after years of disregard for all these agreements and for all UN resolutions and international law;

Following the US administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel, moving its embassy there, and declaring the so-called "deal of the century", that served as basis and set the stage for the Israeli annexation declaration, which constitutes a grave breach of UN resolutions and international law, as well as this administration’s support to Israeli settlements and Israel’s colonial occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine;

Given our unshakeable faith in, and our firm commitment to, the right of our people to pursue their national struggle to end occupation and achieve their independent, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a solution to the question of refugees in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant UN resolutions, and the release of the Palestinian prisoners from Israeli detention centers and jails;

¹ This translation is provided by the Government of the State of Palestine for clarification purposes in the context of the proceedings before the International Criminal Court.

Given also our commitment to achieve just and comprehensive peace in fulfilment of the two-State solution, based on the Arab Peace Initiative and UN resolutions, notably Security Council resolution 1515, which endorses the Arab Peace Initiative, and resolution 2334 that pertains to Jerusalem and settlements, and General Assembly resolution 194 regarding Palestine refugees, as well as General Assembly resolution 67/19 on the status of the State of Palestine in the United Nations;

Abiding by the decisions of the National Council and Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian leadership has today decided the following;

First: The Palestine Liberation Organization and the State of Palestine are absolved, as of today, of all the agreements and understandings with the US and Israeli governments and of all the commitments based on these understandings and agreements, including the security ones.

Second: The Israeli occupying Power has to immediately shoulder all its responsibilities and obligations before the international community as an occupying Power in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, with all that it entails, based on international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which holds the occupying power responsible for the protection of the civilian population under occupation and their property, criminalizes collective punishment, prohibits theft of resources, appropriation and annexation of land, prohibits forced transfer of the population of the occupied territory and the transfer of the population of the occupying Power (the settlers) to the land it occupies. All these are grave breaches of the Convention and constitute war crimes.

Third: We hold the US administration fully responsible for the injustice befalling the Palestinian people and we consider it a primary accomplice of the Israeli occupation government in all its hostile and unjust decisions and measures against our people. Yet we welcome the position of the other US stakeholders that reject the policies of this administration that are hostile to our people and their legitimate rights.

Fourth: We decide today to pursue signing accession instruments allowing the State of Palestine to join international organizations and conventions that we have not yet joined.

Fifth: We reaffirm our commitment to UN resolutions and international law, as well as to the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and

relevant regional organizations to which we are member. We also reiterate our firm commitment to combating international terrorism in all its forms and regardless of its source.

Sixth: We reaffirm our commitment to a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the two-state solution, and our readiness to accept the presence of a third party on the borders between the two parties, through negotiations held under international auspices (the International Quartet plus) and through an international peace conference, on the basis of the UN resolutions and international law.

Seventh: We call on the countries of the world that have rejected the so-called “deal of the century” and US and Israeli policies and measures that violate UN resolutions, international law and the signed agreements, to not only reject and condemn but also adopt positions to deter such actions and to impose serious sanctions to prevent the occupying Power from implementing its plans, and continuing its denial of the rights of our people. We also call on the countries that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so promptly to preserve the prospect of peace and to uphold UN resolutions and international law. We further call for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on providing international protection to our people in their occupied State. We will continue pursuing accountability for the crimes committed against our people by the Israeli occupation before all international institutions and courts. In this context, we stress our trust in the independence and credibility of the International Criminal Court.

Eighth: We salute once again our people, in Palestine and in the diaspora, for their resilience, steadfastness and struggle, and for their embrace of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We pledge to our honoured martyrs, our brave prisoners and our heroic wounded to remain faithful to our oath until victory, freedom, independence and return are achieved, and till we raise together the Palestinian flag over the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in our Jerusalem, the eternal capital of our Palestinian State.