Unofficial transcript

Agenda item 37 “Question of Palestine”, November 29, 2012

MARTY NATALEGAWA (INDONESIA): Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, the time has come -- the time has come for the international community to set things right. No longer can the world turn a blind eye to the long-suffering of the Palestinian people, the denial of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, the obstruction of their right to self-determination and to independence. No longer can the world deny the fact that despite enormous barriers directed by the occupying power, Palestinians have diligently and with great resolve built the capacity to function as a state, ready to stand equal as any other state in this august assembly, ready to unleash its full potential as a positive force for progress. There can be no reason, therefore, why the international community cannot endorse the request to afford observer state status to Palestine, an entity that some 24 years ago the Assembly through its resolution 43/177, has acknowledged as a state.

Indonesia, therefore, Mr. President, is a cosponsor of the resolution before the Assembly today, and we reiterate the hope that Palestine's application to full membership in the United Nations will be favorably considered.

We hope that Palestine's full membership is consistent with the shared vision of a two-state solution. We believe that an independent state of Palestine with equal rights, and indeed equal responsibilities to those of other states, will contribute to attainment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Mr. President, the recent cycle of indiscriminate violence and disproportionate use of force in Palestine serves as a serious reminder of the need for an earnest resumption and acceleration of the peace process, of the need therefore to create conditions conducive to that process, ending illegal settlement activities, lifting the blockade of Gaza and thus putting to an end the inhumane policy of collective punishment, the need too for Palestine to enhance their inter-Palestinian dialogue at this very historic moment.

Mr. President, by according observer state status to the state of Palestine, we are signaling the primacy of diplomacy and the rejection of violence. We are making a strong statement on the need for mutual respect among nations. We are placing faith in the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations and we are beginning to redress a festering, historic injustice and affirm that all humankind, including the long-suffering people of Palestine, is entitled to human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thank you very much, Mr. President.