

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
to the United Nations  
New York



البعثة الدائمة  
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Shamsi

Permanent Representative of  
the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

before

The 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
on the Item entitled :

The Question of Palestine

New York, 29 November 2005

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I would like to begin my statement by thanking H.E. Ambassador Paul Padji, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the members of the Division of the Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information for their valuable efforts to achieve justice for the Palestinian cause and uncover the facts about the Israeli practices that have contributed to the complexity and the continuation of this problem to the present day. On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the UAE also wishes to reaffirm its solidarity and support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their legitimate aspiration to establish an independent state, like other peoples in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of the positive developments achieved since last September, which included Israel's military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the expected outcome of these developments has not yet been fully realized due to the obstacles created by the Israeli forces, which prevented the achievement of full independence of the Gaza sector and its checkpoints. Obstacles included intensive and illegal settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and continued daily violations against Palestinians which have led to substantial losses in the Palestinian economy, health, education and tourism sectors, and increased levels of unemployment, poverty and diseases among the Palestinians.

These Israeli policies coupled with the occupation and continuing settlement activities in the Palestinian territories, have impeded the efforts and opportunities of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution for the Palestinian Question. The annual reports of the UN committees and agencies, supported by documents and statistics, continue to reflect Israel's true intentions and ambitions in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights. The reports confirmed the increasing numbers of Palestinians who were killed or injured as a result of continued Israeli strikes, the excessive use of force, the arbitrary killings, and the detention and displacement of thousands of civilians in the territories administered by the Palestinian authorities under the pretext of combating terrorism and self defense. Reports have also confirmed that the Israeli Government swept away large areas of agricultural Palestinian lands and destroyed the economic resources and properties of the Palestinians, where more than 4 thousand homes were destroyed in East Jerusalem and its suburbs during the last four years. New settlements, residential units and bypass roads were also built, and thousands of acres of Palestinian lands were confiscated and tampered with for the purpose of constructing the separation wall in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This has

resulted in isolating thousands of Palestinian, annexing their villages and separating northern and southern parts of the West Bank which eventually deprived the Palestinians from pursuing their natural right to reaching their homes, relatives and sacred sites, in violation of the resolutions of the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, and the decision of the International Court of Justice which calls for the immediate dismantlement of the separation wall which is considered illegal and has a destructive impact on the livelihood of the Palestinian people. The separation wall also obstructs any plans of establishing a viable and independent Palestinian state and achieving a settlement based on the road map which calls for peaceful co-existence between the Palestinian and Israeli states in the region.

Mr. Chairman

The United Arab Emirates reiterates its strong condemnation of the Israeli practices, including illegitimate and illegal measures taken in the West Bank and East Jerusalem which constitute a unilateral attempt to change the demographic, political and legal nature of the Palestinian territories and mark the international Palestinian borders before commencing the negotiations of the final solution. These measures constitute a blatant violation to the Road Map, international and humanitarian law and the UN resolutions and conventions including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The UAE is extremely concerned about the serious consequences of ignoring these dangerous Israeli policies which have led to fueling feelings of frustration and despair among the peoples of the region, and increased violence, tension and instability there. We, therefore, re-emphasize the common responsibility of the international community, represented by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to find a solution for the Palestinian cause. We demand the Security Council and the Quartet in particular to first pressure Israel to stop its hostile campaigns against the Palestinians and their national authority, including the measures of collective punishment, state terrorism and incitement in order to create an environment suitable for reinvigorating the peace process and resuming negotiations. In this context, the United Arab Emirates calls for the following:

- 1- Forcing Israel to coordinate with the Palestinian Authority regarding its full withdrawal from all territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, to stop its illegal settlement activities in these territories, and to dismantle the separation wall in accordance with the decision of the International Court of Justice and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations.
- 2- Providing the necessary protection to the Palestinian People, their national institutions and sacred sites, particularly Al Aqsa Mosque, against the Israeli attempts aiming at changing their religious identity. We also

demand for the international community to compel Israel to fulfill its commitments in accordance with the international laws which prevent it from changing or tampering with the geographical features and historical landmarks of Jerusalem.

- 3- The international community must provide political, financial and moral support to the Palestinian Authority, which has demonstrated its determination to fulfill its commitments in accordance with the Road Map and carrying out the necessary reforms in its national institutions, most importantly, the security institutions. These reforms will enable the Palestinian security institutions to fully and efficiently discharge their responsibilities which include the management of the next legislative elections, reconstruction of destroyed sectors, improvement of humanitarian and social conditions in the Palestinian territories, and strengthening its control over all Palestinian territories.
- 4- Reaffirming the fundamental principals of the Palestinian Question with regard to settlements, borders, refugees and the position of Jerusalem as stipulated in the international legal resolutions 181, 194, 242, 338, 1397 and 1515, which are consistent with the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by Beirut Summit in 2002.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we believe that the Israeli response to the fair demands of the Arab people will lead to achieving security and stability for the Israeli people and the entire region. In this regard, we look forward to strengthening our peace efforts in order to reinvigorate the Road Map as well as peace negotiations in the region in fulfillment of the commitments included in the international legal resolutions, and in accordance with the principle of land for peace based on 1967 borders in order to bring stability and prosperity to our region, and achieve cooperation and development for our peoples.

Thank you Mr. Chairman