*Unofficial Transcript*

SYRIA

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Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation extends great thanks to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and it's chairman, to the Division of Palestinian Rights in the secretariat, to the special information program on the question of Palestine of the DPI for their efforts in order to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy relevant to the question of Palestine. Those resolutions that call for an end to the tragedy of the Palestine people which suffers daily -- has been suffering daily for more than six decades of occupation, murder, oppression and racism.

These resolutions also call for the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate, inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and all of its national territory, while guaranteeing the right of the refugees to go back to their homeland in accordance with resolution 149 of 1948 -- 194, I’m sorry -- of 1948.

Mr. President, the international legitimacy this morning renewed its expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people and its commitment to the support of the cause of the Palestinian people in its struggle against the Israeli occupation and for the restoration of its full legitimate rights, undiminished rights. Such solidarity and support have a special significance especially at this time after the submission of the internationally supported Palestinian application for admission to the United Nations as a full-fledged member on the one hand, and while the suffering of the Palestinian people has reached a catastrophic phase on the other hand.

This presages dire consequences in view of the continued state terrorism practiced by Israel, the occupying power, against the Arab population in the occupied Palestinian territories, and it's continued policies of aggression and racism and its systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian rights in a blatant defiance and cynical disregard for the will of the international community and its resolutions with the blind support and direct protection by some influential states in this international organization.

This places the entire international community before an acid test and greatly undermines the prestige and credibility of the United Nations and the principles which form its underpinning. Hence, it's no longer acceptable or comprehensible for the United Nations to stand idly by and fail to assume its responsibilities for the question of Palestine through the implementation of its relevant resolutions.

Mr. President, the United Nations, including the Security Council, still has a chance to prove that it is capable of assuming its role and responsibilities under the charter and that is capable of preventing a small number of states that protect Israel under -- in this house of international legitimacy -- to obstruct the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through supporting the just Palestinian demand for the recognition of the independent state of Palestine along the 4, June 1967 line with East Jerusalem as its capital and according it full membership in the United Nations, especially after Palestine has attained full membership in UNESCO.

Here we would like to recall the General Assembly resolution 273 of May 18 1949 set the conditions for accepting Israel into the membership of the United Nations as its commitment to the principles of the charter and respect for relevant United Nations resolutions, asserting the right of the Palestinian people to the establishment of its independent state and the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland from which they were forcibly evicted by the Zionist gangs. This was affirmed by resolution 194.

In addition to the fact that the General Assembly took note when accepting Israel's membership in the United Nations, the statements and explanations of Israel's representatives before the special political committee and its commitment to the implementation of such resolutions. That is, gentleman, Israel's membership in the United Nations was contingent on its commitment to the relevant United Nations resolutions. However, this commitment regrettably has been conspicuously absent in the international mechanisms for holding Israel to account with the public support of some states that call themselves major powers.

This has encouraged Israel to persist in its cynical disregard for international legitimacy and to reject peace as a state above the law and not -- and exempt from accountability. This has encouraged it to continue its aggressive practices, including the internationally condemned settlement campaign which never ceased all over the Palestine, especially in occupied Jerusalem in a way targeting its existence and its cultural and civilizational [sic] identity.

Most recently, the consent to build 5057 new settlements in East Jerusalem and 673 units in the West Bank, and also the announcement by the government of the Israeli occupation two weeks ago of its intention to build more than 50,000 housing units in the settlements of East Jerusalem, all of this in the context of its unprecedented campaign to Judaize the holy occupied city in addition to the inhuman embargo imposed on the Gaza Strip since the Israeli aggression in 2008 when Israel committed war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law, tantamount to crimes against humanity, in addition to its systematic policies of aggression of murdering civilians, including women and children and the pursuit of the policy of collective punishment and the arrest of thousands of innocents, including the democratic members of the Palestinian parliament and violating the sanctity of the Islamic and Christian and holy sites and the attempts to Judaize them; most recently, the project to demolish the historic Mughrabi gate in the Al-Aqsa mosque.

Finally, we affirm the need for international legitimacy to take concrete and serious steps commensurate the atrocities perpetrated by Israel and compelling it to put an end to the killing machine, aggression and the settlement campaign and to lift immediately the cruel embargo imposed on the Palestinian people in Gaza and to put an end to its occupation of the occupied territories and to withdraw therefrom the 4 July 1967 and the establishment of the Palestinian -- of the independent Palestinian state with holy -- Al-Quds Al- Sharif as its capital. Thank you, Mr. President.