

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Message of

**H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas
President of the State of Palestine
Chairman of the Executive Committee of
the Palestine Liberation Organization**

on the occasion of

**the International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People**

25 November 2013

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi, President of the Security Council,
H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to convey to you the greetings of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people, and to all our friends participating in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People around the world. We commemorate this occasion one year after the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, on 29 November 2012, of the historic resolution to raise the status of Palestine to a non-member observer State in the United Nations. Of course, our objective and endeavor remain full membership in the United Nations, which is our people's legitimate and legal right.

We underscore, in this regard, the call in General Assembly resolution 181(II) - by which historic Palestine was partitioned - for consideration to be given to the application for membership in the United Nations by either State. We recall further that Israel's admission to the United Nations in 1949 was accompanied by two conditions: its commitment to resolution 181(II) and the establishment of the Palestinian State, as well as to resolution 194(III), which was reaffirmed in the Arab Peace Initiative, with regard to reaching a just and agreed solution to the plight of Palestine refugees.

On this day, we renew our deep gratitude to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, as well as to all our brothers, sisters, friends and freedom and peace-loving peoples around the world, who continue to steadfastly stand by our people. We are grateful for their solidarity and support of the Palestinian people's legitimate national aspirations for the achievement of their freedom and independence and a just and lasting peace. Despite all the challenges, hardships and setbacks, we continue to have faith that a just peace can be achieved in our region and that right must prevail. Therefore, we appeal to you to continue to stand firmly for peace, for the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the right to self-determination, which the Palestinian people have too long been denied. It is high time to find the political will to act decisively for the realization of the inalienable rights of our people, including to independence in their State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception, the United Nations has defended our cause, keeping it a priority on the agenda of the international community, has extended a helping hand to our people, and has legislated resolutions and recommendations that constitute the foundation that can not be bypassed in the search for just, lasting and comprehensive solution. The permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until this question is satisfactorily resolved in all its aspects. In this regard, we express our deep appreciation of the efforts of H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the efforts of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, its Chair, H.E. Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo of Senegal, as well as the Bureau, and all Members and Observers of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, aimed at promoting realization of the rights of the Palestinian people and ensuring the achievement of a just, lasting peace.

Today, we also reaffirm our gratitude for the strong and principled resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other organs and bodies of the United Nations, including the International Court of Justice, all of which have contributed to safeguarding the rights of our people over many decades and addressed all facets of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, including, *inter-alia*, the Palestine refugees issue, the right to self-determination, the status of Jerusalem, the illegal Israeli settlement campaign, the unjust blockade imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip, and the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Here, we regret the lack of implementation of the countless resolutions regarding the question of Palestine, a fact that has clearly compounded the conflict over the many decades, inflicting grave hardships on the Palestinian people and the continued denial of their rights. This regrettable reality confirms the widespread conviction that there is indeed a double standard when it comes to United Nations resolutions regarding Israel, which are not implemented, allowing Israel to continue behaving as though it is a State above the law.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marked the passage of 46 years since June 1967, when Israel forcibly occupied the remainder of historic Palestine - the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. We stress that this injustice must end and this military occupation of our land and our people must end. We reiterate our urgent calls to the international community to act forthwith to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with its legal obligations, relevant United Nations resolutions and international commitments and to cease its violations of international law and its illegal, aggressive and destructive policies and practices.

The insidious Israeli settlement campaign and the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of our

State, must be completely halted. The demolition of Palestinian homes and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and properties must stop. Construction of the apartheid annexation wall must be ceased. Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails must be released. The unjust, inhumane blockade imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip must be lifted. The illegal actions and measures to Judaize East Jerusalem and alter or erase the Christian and Muslim Palestinian presence and identity in the Holy City must come to an end. All acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilian population must be stopped.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The State of Palestine continues to act with utmost responsibility to serve its people and uphold its legal obligations and international commitments. It has consistently acted in good faith for the sake of peace, repeatedly reaffirming its adherence to the longstanding parameters of the peace process - embodied in Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap - and its adherence to the two-State solution for the realization of an independent, sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

We have expressed our readiness for decades to reach a solution to the conflict with Israel that conforms with international resolutions and initiatives through the establishment of our Palestinian State on only 22 percent of the territory of historic Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to reach a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III).

We reaffirm these commitments and that readiness once again today. Despite diminishing hopes and the critical situation on the ground due to Israeli violations, we remain committed to the two-State solution, committed to the resumed negotiations - with full recognition for the vital support of the United States, the Quartet members, the League of Arab States and all other concerned countries, and our hand remains extended in peace. This is why we took the decision a few months ago to partake in a new round of negotiations with the Israeli side aimed at resolving all the final status issues and concluding a comprehensive and final peace agreement.

I assure you that we have begun these negotiations and that we shall continue them in good faith and we are committed to foster the most conducive atmosphere for the continuation of these negotiations in a meaningful and credible manner in order to reach a peace agreement that redresses the historic, unprecedented injustice that has befallen the Palestinian people since *Al-Nakba* of 1948 to the present day. We seek a peace agreement that leads to complete end to the Israeli occupation and the independence of the State of Palestine on all the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; a peace agreement that ensures security and dignity for our people; a peace agreement that provides a just and agreed upon solution to the plight of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III), as called for by the Arab Peace

Initiative. In this regard, we stress that this historic initiative, which was widely received by the international community, constitutes a real opportunity for the accomplishment of a comprehensive regional peace, which gives Israel recognition by the Arabs in exchange for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and implementation of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this day, which marks the sixty-sixth anniversary of the adoption of the partition resolution in 1947, the Palestinian people look forward with great hope to the future. They are determined to remain steadfast on their land and to realize their inalienable rights, confident that the international community will not allow the current opportunity to be lost to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on all tracks, starting with the core and basis of this conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is an opportunity to open a new era of cooperation and coexistence in the region where there is hope, peace, security, and prospects for a better future for all our children.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.