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**Special Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of
The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

**To mark 40 years of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory,
including East Jerusalem**

New York, 7 June 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to express my delegation's gratitude and appreciation to you for convening this meeting to mark one of the most tragic sagas of history.

First and foremost, our sympathy is for the Palestinian people who continue to be battered by this seemingly unending conflict. We praise their enduring passion and determination to explore peaceful solution through negotiations despite the turbulent road to peace in the 40 years of the horrendous Israeli occupation.

Before we continue, we align ourselves with the statements delivered by the delegation of Cuba on behalf of the NAM, and by the delegation of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation highly appreciates the commitment of the United Nations as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, to addressing new and emerging threats to peace and security. Sometimes, the Council even

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treats some issues with more haste than the situation deserves. It is with concern that we observe that this same commitment is lacking in the search for a solution to the Palestinian issue. Progress towards peace in this conflict has been difficult largely because the Council has demonstrated little interest in compelling Israel to fulfill its obligations to Security Council resolutions. It might be said, in this respect, that Israel is emboldened and encouraged by this attitude of the Council.

The situation in the Middle East is an issue of paramount importance to international community. This is because of the repercussion of the illegal Israeli occupation over the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem since 1967 has made it the most volatile situation on the globe today.

The circumstances for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories have regrettably worsened due to the intensification by Israel of its aggression and occupying tactics, choking their lives.

The withholding of revenues, the regular incursions inside the Palestinian territory, the wanton assassinations, and the detention of elected members of the Palestinian government and legislature cause untold misery. Moreover, the check points and the associated daily humiliation, as well as the construction of wall surrounding the Palestinian territories have made the Palestinian people living under an open air of massive imprisonment, paralyzing their economic and social activities.

Such circumstances lead to the deterioration in the humanitarian condition of the Palestinian people. We condemn these harsh militaristic policies of Israel, which contravene the international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

We believe that such acts by Israel will not assist the international efforts to promote a comprehensive and just solution for the issue, as envisaged by the countless UN resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

If peace is to be achieved, we must continue to be optimistic, and take one step at a time. Therefore, my delegation is pleased to welcome the establishment by the Palestinians of a National Unity Government, and their determination to nurture the peace process through political negotiation. We hope that this positive development at the leadership level would encourage the reconciliation process at the grass roots.

Ultimately, the peace can not be realized only through diplomacy. It requires the commitment of the parties to conflict to exercise restraint and avoid any action that complicates matters further. In this regard, we welcome the regular meetings between leaders of the Palestine and Israel. However, as we have witnessed so many times, without an active engagement by the international community, especially by those countries that have a direct influence on the parties concerned, it would be naïve to expect tangible results.

In this respect, we stress the vital role of the Quartet in reviving the peace process, and in implementing the Road Map in a faithful manner. The Quartet should be bold and determined in its efforts to establish an independent state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, co-existing in peace and security with Israel and other neighbors. This should be based on the relevant resolutions of the UN, particularly through “land for peace” formula as stipulated by resolution 242 (1967) which was adopted to halt the conflict 40 years ago.

It is essential that the efforts of Quartet are also complimented by the regional stakeholders. We believe that the Arab Peace initiative of 2002 reaffirmed by the Arab League Summit held in Riyadh recently, offers a great opportunity for normalcy in the Middle East. It is a home-grown formula affirming the regional countries to take care of their own matters for achieving abiding peace in the region.

At the same time, we should not fail to address the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people. It is vital that the international community supports the Palestinian government by providing financial and material assistance to overcome difficulties caused by the occupation by Israel.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Indonesia once again reiterates its call for the early establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian State with the right of return of every Palestinian refugee to his or her homeland, living side by side in peace with Israel as outlined in the Road Map of the Quartet and the relevant UN resolutions.

We firmly believe that it is in the best interest of peace and justice in the region that Israel be made to honor its obligations to these commitments.

Thank you.