**Unofficial Transcript**

**65th General Assembly**

**Statement by Indonesia**

**Agenda item 37 “Question of Palestine”, November 29, 2010**

INDONESIA: Mr. President, Let me begin by expressing my delegation’s appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its annual report (A/65/35), and to the Secretary-General for his reports on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine (A/65/380 and Add.1) and on the situation in the Middle East (A/65/379 and A/65/380 and Add.1).

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

One year after we last met to deliberate on these two agenda items the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East the dynamics on the ground in the Middle East, with particular reference to Palestine, have not changed. The harrowing story of appalling and still deteriorating humanitarian conditions all over the occupied Palestinian territory continues.

In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Palestinians continue to be deprived and to suffer socio-economic dislocation and hardships. Obstacles and blockades that prevent access by the Palestinian people to their resources remain firmly in place. Mobility restrictions and closure policies imposed by Israel have affected them socially as well as economically. Palestinians have had difficulties in accessing essential emergency humanitarian assistance. That collective punishment of an entire people is simply unjustifiable and should not stand. One of the greatest challenges facing the Palestinian people is the unending growth in settlements. Israel’s settlement policies and practices which are aimed at altering the demographic composition, physical character and status of the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem are nothing but blatant violations of international law.

Israel’s determination to continue such obnoxious policies as illegal settlements, construction of the separation wall and restriction of the Palestinian people’s rights is the greatest obstacle to establishing a physically viable, sovereign and independent Palestinian State, and thus to achieving peace. The Middle East conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, remains unsettled despite many efforts made in various quarters. It remains the most volatile conflict in the world today and continues to pose a clear danger to international peace and security.

The intractability of the conflict is a matter of deep concern to my delegation. We believe that unprecedented steps should be taken by all parties concerned to end it. Hopefully sooner, not later, there will come a moment when a once-and-for-all solution to the conflict is agreed on and found acceptable by all parties. At the present stage, however, it is hard to imagine the victory of peace emerging from an extraordinary, one-time, lofty solution. We can always hope for an Oslo or Madrid or Annapolis type of effort, but at this moment we have to appreciate and encourage positive developments, on any scale, that keep the peace process in motion.

Indonesia therefore joins others in keeping a close eye on the direct political negotiations that resumed between Israel and the Palestinians in September. We hope all the parties will take advantage of the opportunity and not let it slip from their grasp. We are therefore greatly concerned about Israel’s failure to extend the moratorium on settlement construction, as that is an obstacle that the direct talks may not be able to surmount. If Israel has a genuine commitment to peace, not mere propaganda statements, it must stop all settlement construction, expansion and planning in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and dismantle the settlements built there, in compliance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Israel must avoid putting any obstacles in the way of achieving peace and must operate within the ambit of international law, not outside or above it. A truly comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires a solution not only to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, but also on the Israel- Lebanon and Israel-Syria tracks. On the Israel-Lebanon track, much remains to be done in order to realize the goals of a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution, as envisioned in Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). As one of the major troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, Indonesia will continue to support the early achievement of those goals. Meanwhile, it is also obvious that negotiations on the Israel-Syria track require new vigor if they are to recommence. Signs of reinvigoration through indirect talks are now discernible, however, and we encourage them. A comprehensive peace in the Middle East must have progress on those two tracks, based on the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

For far too long the Middle East conflict has been a blemish on international peace. For far too long it has been an obstacle to the creation of a peaceful and livable region. For more than 60 years, the illegal Israeli occupation has made the region a theatre of tension and violence. The international community must raise its voice and rise in cooperation to ensure that Israel stops its inhuman policies and to bring the illegal Israeli occupation to an end.

Today’s observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People therefore provides an opportunity for the international community to reflect on its role in and contributions to advancing the objective of a two-States vision. It is the day when the international community reaffirms its commitment to the Palestinian people and to the establishment of an independent, viable and sovereign State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with its neighbors. Indonesia, for its part, is committed to the efforts to find a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive settlement to the conflict, based on the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by expressing our fervent hope that 2011 will be the year that the international community will fulfill its obligation to the Palestinian people, and a year of remarkable progress and transformation in the history of the Middle East.

 I thank you, Mr. President.