65th General Assembly

Statement by Egyptian Representative

Question of Palestine

Introduction of draft resolutions

November 30, 2010

EGYPT: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the General Assembly considers today the agenda item pertaining to the situation in the Middle East, emphasizing its inherent role in addressing the conflict and constant tension in the Middle East region resulting from Israel’s illegal occupation of the Arab Occupied Territories since 1967 and its refusal to accept the will of the international community and to implement the relevant UN resolutions and international law and international humanitarian law regulations despite all regional and international efforts exerted to reach a lasting and justly negotiated solution that allows for achieving a lasting, just peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the conflict.

Undoubtedly, the Middle East is passing now through an extremely dangerous phase as a result of the intransigent positions of the Israeli government. We have witnessed lately increased pattern of Israeli violations of international law, expanding settlements illegally, particularly in and around East Jerusalem with the end of so-called moratorium on settlements. That is despite the calls by all stakeholders, including the UN, the Quartet and the EU and others to do otherwise.

Israel’s violations have been on the rise -- of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law, which were manifested in many practices, like the detainment of nearly 10,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails and detention facilities without any legal basings, the continuation of building the racist separation wall contrary to the advisory opinion of ICJ, the tight siege of Gaza, the Gaza Strip by Israel contrary to Security Council Resolution 1860 and GA Resolution ES10/18, the barriers and checkpoints in the West Bank.

The Jewish loyalty oath passed recently by the Israeli cabinet aiming at isolating the Arab-Israeli population of Israel in addition to the last Knesset legislature setting stringent new conditions before any withdrawal from the Occupied Arab Territories annexed to Israel and many other violations that -- time will not permit us to list them all.

What is really disappointing is the fact that all of the above-mentioned violations are linked to Israel’s disparate quest to foil all attempts to resume the direct negotiations which has been agreed and condoned by the Palestine side, and also suggests that Israel is unwilling to reach any peaceful settlement, which will result in dire consequences for the whole region, and indeed the whole -- the world, not only confined to the Israelis and Palestinians alone.

Given the above, the international community represented in the General Assembly has demanded today more than ever before to provide political support to efforts aiming at resuming the negotiating process to emphasize the illegality of acquiring others’ territory by force and to compel Israel to implement its commitments and to enter into serious negotiations on the six core issues leading to a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on all tracks on the basis of the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative, the road map and relevant UN resolutions.

By the same token, the international community represented in the General Assembly must also stress and confirm the illegality of own measures taken or will be taken by Israel aiming at changing the legal status or the facts on the ground in the Occupied Syrian Golan, and that all those measures, including the last bill by the Israeli parliament, are void and null and illegal, as they represent a clear violation of all pertinent UN resolutions.

The General Assembly also should demand the full commitment of -- by Israel to implement Security Council Resolutions 497 of 1981 and the full withdrawal from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the 4th of June 1967 borders in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. President, to express the international community’s rejection of -- to Israel’s continued occupation and illegal practices in the Occupied Arab Territories and profess the grave deterioration in the peace process, the sponsors present this year to the General Assembly under Agenda Item 36, “The Situation in the Middle East,” two draft resolutions on Jerusalem and Syrian Golan. The first draft resolution, Jerusalem, contained in Document L18, reaffirms the relevant GA and Security Council resolutions remain the main terms of reference for the special status of the occupied East Jerusalem, which repeatedly confirm the renunciation and repudiation of all legislative administrative measures and actions undertaken by Israel, the occupying power, aimed at the alteration of the character and legal status of the city. Moreover, the draft confirms that any just and comprehensive solution to the question of Jerusalem must include provisions of international guarantees ensuring the freedom of belief and religions to its inhabitants detached from settlement activities, unlawful attempts done by Israel to impose Jewish character on the city, and violations to the right of the Palestinians to worship and repeated aggressions on Al Aqsa Mosque and threats to its structures as well as the excavation in the Old City in Jerusalem, including in and around the holy places.

The second draft resolution on the Occupied Syrian Golan reaffirms Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981. It underlines the deep concern by the General Assembly regarding Israel’s continued noncompliance to its implementation. It also confirms the applicability of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Syrian territory occupied since 1967 and the legitimacy of both decision -- of both the decision to apply Israeli laws on this territory and the settlement activities. The draft resolution also renews calls upon Israel to withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, the resumption of direct peace negotiations on the Syrian track.

The sponsors are of the view that it’s high time to deal with the question of the Middle East comprehensively. Peoples of the region which still suffer from the scourge of war and aggression aspire to achieve peace, stability and coexistence. They cannot be achieved without a political will and serious commitment from Israel to realize its full withdrawal from all Occupied Palestinian Arab Territories based on the principle of land for peace, international law, the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map, and on the basis of all terms of reference stated in the Madrid principles and relevant Security Council and GA resolutions.

To achieve all this, the sponsors look forward for the support of all states members of the GA to vote in favor of these two draft resolutions and support the important goals contained therein in order to reaffirm the firmness of the international will to achieve the set goals and to uphold the lofty objectives and principles of the charter