

Permanent Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN UNION to the
United Nations

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**STATEMENT AT THE 289th MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE**

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. AMINU BASHIR WALI,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP FOR THE
MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

In my capacity as the Chairman of the African Group, I warmly congratulate you on the efficient manner that you have conducted the business of the Committee on the Exercise of the Rights of Palestinian People since your election as the Chair on 12 March 2004. At the same time, I will like to assure you of the full support of the African Group in your activities.

Mr. Chairman,

As we celebrate today the 30th Anniversary of the General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) which established this important Committee, I will like to stress that it has made tremendous contributions to the peace process in the Middle East. Africa shares the aspiration of the Committee and the UN in the region. This is the reason why the OAU and now the AU had issued several resolutions in support of the rights of Palestinian people, including recent decision EX.CL/Dec.210 (VII) taken during the last summit in Sitre, Libya.

Mr. Chairman,

The demands of Palestinian People are just and legitimate; this is why Africa expresses its full support for this struggle. Palestinian People have inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent State.

Mr. Chairman,

Africa urges the international community to firmly support an internationally promoted solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the Arab Peace initiative and the Road Map which remains the only viable plan for robust, just, and comprehensive peace in the region.

In this connection, Africa welcomes the understanding between the Palestinian and Israeli elaborated in the Sharm al-Sheik (Egypt) document, which addresses the cessation of violence as a first important step towards the implementation of the Road Map. Africa calls on both parties for full commitment to its implementation in order to create the necessary conditions for further negotiations, including the total withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of prisoners. Also, there is need to end expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Mr. Chairman,

Africa commends the practical and courageous steps that have been taken by the Palestinian leadership, especially the holding of democratic municipal elections, the reform and streamlining of Palestinian security forces and the conduct of a national dialogue with Palestinian factions.

Finally, Africa appeals to the International Community and the Quartet to provide necessary political and financial support and to work with the Palestinian Leadership for accelerated implementation of the Roadmap and to undertake necessary measures to reinvigorate dialogue and negotiations, in order to salvage the peace process.

I thank you