



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement  
by

Ambassador Munir Akram  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan the UN

in the Plenary of the General Assembly

on the

The Question of Palestine  
under Agenda Item No. 15:

New York  
30 November 2005

Mr. President,

We concur with the Security Council statement of 26 July 2005, that the situation in the Middle East including the question of Palestine remains among the most important items on the agenda of the United Nations.

Pakistan has consistently supported all bilateral and international efforts for the peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine in all its aspects. The vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, has been embraced by the entire international community. We must all work to realize that vision. Pakistan looks forward eagerly to the early establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State, thus fulfilling the decades old quest of the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

It is heartening to note that in the period under review, despite sporadic violence, a number of positive developments have taken place. These include: ceasefire and agreement to end violence, resulting in greater restraint in Israeli military activities, and decrease in the number of deaths and injuries compared to the similar period last year; withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Gaza in September 2005 and transfer of control of five West Bank cities to the Palestinian Authority; increased coordination between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority since the Sharm Al-Shaikh Summit in February 2005; the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestinian authorities for opening of the Gaza borders which will enable freer movement of Palestinians; and the release of number of Palestinian prisoners.

Mr. President,

The electoral dynamics in both Israel, as well as in the Gaza and West Bank, may also create positive momentum. Nevertheless, the challenges ahead cannot be disregarded – the continued restrictions on and suffering of the Palestinians; the continuing construction of the separation wall; continued settlement activity in the West Bank; and incidents of violence which, unfortunately, continue to occur.

What is most important, at this stage, is for both parties to demonstrate their clear commitment to implement the further steps involved in the Quartet's Roadmap, including withdrawal from the West Bank, leading to the establishment of a Palestinian State. Thereafter the so-called final status issues, specially Jerusalem and the refugees, will also need to be resolved.

Mr. President,

While continuing to implement the Roadmap and the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 242 and 338, the parties also need to take several other immediate steps.

One, assuring the safety and well being of all civilians on both sides, complete cessation of all acts of violence including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror.

Two, freezing and halting all settlement expansion activities, removing illegal settlement outposts and further construction of the security fence in the West Bank, which encroaches on Palestinian land.

Three, the continued development of the political process on the Palestinian territories and reform and re-enforcement of Palestinian institutions; and

Four, international assistance to the Palestinian people and Authority.

The international community's political support to the peace process remains crucial. Simultaneously, there is pressing need for the economic reconstruction and rehabilitation of the occupied Palestinian territories. We welcome the Gleneagles Summit pledge of \$ 3 billion in aid to Palestinian Authority. This example needs to be followed by the entire international community to assist the Palestinian Authority overcome the wide-ranging problems facing the Palestinians in the economic and social sectors.

The international community should focus its attention on the recommendations of the Quartet's Special Envoy, Mr. Wolfenson, in particular to help the Palestinian Authority overcome its fiscal crisis and achieve fiscal stabilization as well as implementation of quick impact economic programmes.

Mr. President,

For several decades, the denial of Palestinian rights, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and occupation of Palestinian territories, has radiated to create an environment of anger, insecurity and confrontation in the Middle East. The solution of the Palestine issue will produce an equally positive effect on the region, promoting the prospects of resolving other political, social and economic problems that afflict the region and advancing the aims of international peace and security.

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