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**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**
771 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. LATIF TUAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION (resumed)**

New York, 16 January 2009

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Mr. President,

I would like to join others who have spoken before me to thank you for convening this meeting of great importance to respond to the current crisis in and around the Gaza Strip.

Brunei Darussalam is deeply concerned with the deteriorating situation in and around Gaza. The deaths of more than a thousand innocent Palestinians, and the injuries suffered by thousands more, highlight the gravity of the situation.

We add our voice in condemning the continued excessive use of force by Israel and call on all sides to exercise utmost restraint. The escalation of violence in Gaza has further deprived the Palestinian people that have already endured suffering due to the blockades.

These recent developments have undermined the gains that the international community has made to bring about a just, peaceful and permanent solution to the conflict.

Mr President,

The international community is called upon once again to act decisively and show leadership at this crucial juncture.

Security Council Resolution 1860 has sent a clear message for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire; called for sustained reopening of the crossing points; urged for the provision of humanitarian assistance, without restriction, to those in need; and welcomed all regional and international efforts underway to achieve a comprehensive peace. This important resolution must be observed.

Let us also not lose sight of the root cause of this conflict, which is the suffering of Palestinian people to regain their lost homeland. In believing

that the Two-State solution is the only viable option in this conflict, Brunei hopes that all parties would be able to work towards this goal.

In this regard, we recognize the untiring commitment and readiness of member states which have come forth to help seek a negotiated solution.

Mr. President,

Brunei Darussalam reiterates its long-standing commitment to the rule of international law under the auspices of the United Nations and adds its voice to all those calling for utmost restraint by both sides.

Once again Mr President, we thank you for convening this special session, thus giving the opportunity for the wider membership of the United Nations to exchange views on the grave situation in Gaza, that would further help regional and international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the area.

Thank you.
