



**EGYPT**

**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdel Aziz  
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
To the United Nations**

**Before  
The Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed)  
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem  
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**New York  
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**Check against delivery**



Mr. President,

I would like to start my statement by expressing Egypt's appreciation to your kind initiative to call for the convening of the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Israeli Illegal Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in a response to several demands presented by leaders and head of states from varied geographical and political groups. I would like also to express our support to the statements of Morocco on behalf of the Arab Group, Cuba on behalf of the Non Alignment Movement and Uganda on behalf of the Group of Islamic States, and to thank the Secretary General for his swift and active endeavor from day one of the crisis and his current visit to the Middle East, starting by Egypt, pushing for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1860 and the achievement of ceasefire.

The resumption of the Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Israeli illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory comes in a dangerous time where the Gaza Strip witnesses a continuation of the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian People despite the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860, which calls on both Israeli and Palestinian parties to stop the ongoing humanitarian tragedy, indicating number of main clauses in response to the Arab Ministerial Committee, represented in: the immediate and durable ceasefire leading to the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the lifting of siege, the sustained opening of the crossing points to let humanitarian and economic assistance get through, to reduce pressure of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and to establish a mechanism for the protection of the Palestinian Civilians, to monitor the implementation of cease fire by both parties and to facilitate movement through the crossing points, in addition to the support of international and regional initiative aiming at achieving this, on top of which the Egyptian Initiative aiming at resorting calm and re-launching a credible and serious peace process.

The resumption of the General Assembly Tenth Emergency Special Session comes together with Egypt's persistent endeavors to implement the initiative launched by H.E. President Hosni Mubarak, in parallel with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1860, carrying out Egypt's historical responsibility towards the peace process and the brother Palestinian people, and endeavoring for the needed complementary between international and regional efforts aiming at stopping the blood effusion in the Gaza Strip and providing the necessary arrangements and guaranties to implement Security Council Resolution 1860, which welcomed the Egyptian initiative and efforts in all fields.

The Egyptian initiative aims to address seriously and swiftly the fierce humanitarian situation that civilians suffers on the ground, through exerting efforts on three main access: First, the agreement of Israel and the Palestinian factions to an immediate ceasefire for a specified period to allow the opening of corridors for humanitarian relief assistance and to permit the pursuit of efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. Second, calling on both Israeli and Palestinian parties to meet immediately to conclude arrangements and guaranties to prevent the recurrence of the present escalation and to address its causes. Third, calling on the Palestinian Authority and all Palestinian factions to respond with efforts to bring about Palestinian reconciliation under the auspices of Egypt. Egypt continues its intense negotiations with both Israeli and Palestinian sides to start the implementation of its initiative in the nearest possible, to spare blood and to break the closed cycle of violence and military activities.

Mr. President,

The Arab group referred from the first day of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip to the Security Council, which expressed from the outset a clear international will demanding the halt of aggression in a press statement calling unanimously for ceasefire. The Security Council re-expressed the above-mentioned will in Resolution 1860. The Security Council adopted Resolution 1860 by fourteen in favor and one abstention, but the United States, which absented, emphasized clearly in an explanation of vote after the vote by the Secretary of State its commitment to the resolution and support to the immediate ceasefire and the regional ongoing efforts.

Despite that the Security Council Resolution realizes only the minimum of the Arab demands, we welcomed its adoption on the Arab level, as an important step leading to the balanced implementation of numerous mutual commitments, first the immediate ceasefire from both sides. Today we renew, from this tribune, our full support to Security Council Resolution 1860 and our call for its implementation and exerting urgent efforts to achieve the immediate halt of violence and military activities and to re-open permanently the crossing points according to the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, as well as the permit of immediate access for all forms of humanitarian and economic assistance to Gaza, in order to keep the calm and to prevent recurrence to the present situation and to move effectively towards a comprehensive and credible peace process bases on the vision of the two states solution, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002.

Arab and international frustration is mounting everyday in light of the thousands of Palestinians falling victim to the massacre carried out by the Israeli war machine. In addition, the Security Council stands incapable of putting an end to the killing of innocent people, the destruction of infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and of providing the necessary protection to United Nations premises in Gaza. This is in particular with regard to the UNRWA premises, the humanitarian assistance storage facilities and schools, which Israel targets in defiance of the international organization and its collective will. All this makes it incumbent on the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Secretary General to unify efforts to ensure the full and honest implementation of the clauses of Security Council Resolution 1860, in order to preserve the organization's credibility, to strengthen its role in protecting the Palestinian people and in pressuring Israel to cease its violations of international law and international humanitarian law, and defying the will of the international community.

The pretext of self-defense does not justify Israel using excessive and disproportionate military force and internationally banned weapons against Palestinian civilians, particularly in light of the stipulations of international law and international humanitarian law regarding the safety and protection of civilians during war times. This also does not justify the killing of children in UNRWA schools, and does not justify bombing reporters and media locations with the aim of preventing them from transmitting the real picture of the brutal acts that Israel is carrying out. Therefore, in light of the international consensus that strives to invigorate the concept of "the responsibility to protect" based on paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The application of this concept should be extended to include the civilians of the Palestinian people under occupation. In accordance with the Security Council resolution, we should work towards establishing an international force to protect the Palestinian people in Gaza, monitor the cease-fire on both sides and to facilitate movement through the crossings. This should be in complimentarity with the Human Rights Council's decision of the 12th of this month that calls for an immediate and just investigation of the international crimes that have been committed and bringing the perpetrators to trial.

Accordingly, Mr. President we call on the General Assembly to convey a clear and strong message in support of Security Council Resolution 1860. We also request that a draft resolution be presented by the President of the General Assembly that reflects the support of all Member States to the Security Council

resolution, the efforts aimed at implementing it, and the full compliance of both Parties and member states to what it contains. We fully trust that the General Assembly will shoulder its responsibility and adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize through this forum that Egypt, which opened the door to peace in the Middle East, and supported the Palestinian cause from the beginning will continue to support the Palestinian people in order to overcome their predicament and to counter the grave challenges facing them internally and externally. This includes achieving Palestinian reconciliation, as a central goal to overcome these challenges and to agree on a clear political horizon that contributes to international and regional efforts to stop the aggression. This aims at creating the appropriate circumstances to push forward the peace process in order to establish the independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital on the West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, which constitute the land of the independent Palestinian States. One people will live on this land and they are the Palestinian people with all their factions and political, ideological and conceptual affiliations. We fully trust that the international community represented in the General Assembly will support our efforts and the efforts of the Security Council and other active parties in order to achieve that goal.

Thank you,