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**United Nations General Assembly
Tenth Emergency Special Session**

**ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM
AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY:
DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/ES-10/L.21) [5]**

**Statement by
Ambassador John Mourikis
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations**

**NEW YORK
Friday, January 16, 2009**

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Greece welcomes the initiative undertaken by the President of the General Assembly to call this emergency meeting on this very sensitive and important issue.

At the outset, I would like to state that Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

We have been deeply concerned, from the very beginning for the present crisis, by the tremendous humanitarian disaster inflicted on innocent Palestinian civilians by the escalation of violence, by the tragic events that are posing an imminent danger to the stability of the whole region.

We would like to express our deep and profound sorrow for the victims and to stress our belief that no solution can be found and no peace can be achieved, as long as violence, atrocities and attacks on civilians persist.

We strongly believe that on this crisis, the International Community should speak with one voice, condemning all acts of violence that result to the loss of life of innocent people. We fully support Security Council Resolution 1860 and we call on all sides to work immediately and constructively for its full implementation. We recall that no military solution can prevail in Gaza, nor any security interests can ever be safeguarded by violence and terror.

The immediate ceasefire is the first step towards this direction.

We believe that the peace process should be intensified. In this regard, we fully support the comprehensive process launched in Annapolis, the most recent initiative of Presidents Sarkozy and Mubarak, as well as the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The International Community should spare no effort to bring about a just, viable and long due solution to this problem.

When faced with this tragic humanitarian situation in Gaza, we should do our utmost in assisting the innocent civilian population. Greece has been among the very first countries to send humanitarian aid to the region, and we stand ready to contribute even further.

Mr. President,

We believe that there must be an end to this vicious circle of violence, which has tremendous cost in innocent human lives and risks to destabilize the whole region.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of all acts of violence and terror, and those who support them. We also strongly condemn and deplore the targeting and bombing, by the Israeli Forces, of civilian infrastructure, UN buildings and media facilities.

The diplomatic efforts should continue and should be intensified as the only means to bring about results in defusing the crisis and opening a window of hope for the future.

The flow of humanitarian aid should reach unimpededly the civilian population. The international humanitarian law should be respected by all, in all cases and under all circumstances.

The immediate ceasefire is imperative.

We call upon all parties to comply with Security Council resolutions and show respect for human lives, and to pursue efforts so that peace and stability finally come to the region.

Thank you Mr. President