

MALTA



Statement by

H.E. Mr. Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malta
to the United Nations

Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor to make a statement. Malta supports the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Friday, 16th January 2009

Mr. President,

United Nations, New York

During these last two days, the resumed Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly has heard repeatedly the urgent calls made by all UN Member States for an immediate cease-fire and the cessation of hostilities, the opening of all border crossings to allow the much-needed humanitarian aid to reach the beleaguered population in the Gaza Strip and the calls for a renewed effort in the search for a long-lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East with its core the Palestinian Question.

The human tragedy and the humanitarian crisis which for these last few weeks have been unfolding in and around the Gaza Strip can no longer be condoned. The crisis of the region require from all of us an immediate response in order to alleviate the innocent victims from the suffering and anguish with which they are continuously being faced. As many of the interventions in this Assembly have highlighted, violence, the firing of rockets and military operations will not lead us anywhere except to a considerable loss of life, devastation and destruction, besides the life-long traumas of the innocent victims.

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The provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) must be fully respected and implemented. In this respect, Malta feels that the situation on the ground requires that commitments made by all concerned are appropriately adhered to through an international monitoring mechanism. Malta also believes that the Middle East Peace Process based on the Arab Peace Initiative and the agreements reached at the November 2007 Annapolis Conference for a two-State solution, must once again be resumed and pursued vigorously.

Malta also continues to strongly believe that a resolution of the Middle East conflict can only be achieved through peaceful dialogue where the ultimate and principal goal is the creation of a Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

Thank you.