

H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook
Permanent Representative

10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

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Mr. President,

1. The Republic of Korea is deeply concerned over the continued violence, casualties, and suffering of civilians in and around Gaza. My delegation deplores the ongoing hostilities and would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims.
2. We are deeply disturbed by the loss of civilian life at the UN school in Jabaliya. Particularly, we are profoundly disturbed that the compound of the UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza has been shelled, which resulted in many casualties and destroyed a considerable amount of aid. We join the Secretary-General in expressing our shock and outrage.
3. My delegation believes that the international community should make every effort to help to ensure the cessation of the ongoing violence. I once again call on all parties to the conflict to implement a ceasefire, and in particular, to secure unimpeded humanitarian access to the civilian population in Gaza.

Mr. President,

4. The Republic of Korea fully supports the international efforts to bring an end to this tragic situation. In this regard, I welcome the adoption on 8 January 2009 of the Security Council resolution 1860, calling an immediate, durable, and fully-respected ceasefire in Gaza that would lead to the full withdrawal of

Israeli forces. My delegation calls upon all parties to implement the Security Council resolution, thus reaching an immediate ceasefire, allowing the passage of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, and halting the trafficking of arms and ammunitions into the territory.

5. My delegation fully supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts made by Egypt, France, and others to bring both sides together to agree on a lasting ceasefire, work for reconciliation, and resume regional peace initiatives. My delegation is deeply grateful to the Secretary-General for his efforts, which are helpful in bringing an end to the conflict and dealing with the serious humanitarian situation on the ground. I encourage all parties to redouble their thier efforts so that the current visit of the Secretary-General to Middle East will lead to a ceasefire and meaningful negotiations.

Mr. President,

6. The people in Gaza require immediate humanitarian aid. Food, medical supplies, and fuel must be delivered to Gaza. The Republic of Korea has a great concern about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and has provided 300 thousand dollars worth of emergency humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza.
7. The Republic of Korea has grave concerns regarding the negative implications this round of fighting will have on the long-term prospects for peace and stability in the region. My delegation believes that only a negotiated political solution is mutually acceptable to all parties of the conflict. The solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on the process set out in Annapolis and in accordance with the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, in particular land for peace, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the Quartet's roadmap. It must result in the establishment of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian State living side by side with Israel in peace and security.
8. The Republic of Korea has been a resolute and consistent support of the Middle East Peace process. My delegation believes that the peace process between Israel and Palestine is of critical importance to the peace and stability of the region as well as the world as a whole. We join the international community in calling upon all parties to take their differences to the negotiating table for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, working to ensure a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in Middle East.

Thank you.