



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

STATEMENT BY

**MR. JUSTIN SERUHERE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EMERGENCY SESSION OF
AGENDA ITEM 5:
ILLEGAL ISRAEL ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND
THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

FRIDAY, 16 JANUARY 2009

**201 East 42nd Street, Room 1700, New York, New York 10017
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THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EMERGENCY SESSION ON THE
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JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN
TERRITORY, NEW YORK 16 JANUARY 2009**

Mr. President,

We thank you for calling this meeting and express our support to your statement as well as that of the Deputy Secretary General.

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is deeply concerned with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the conflict between Israel and Palestine exacerbated by the raging armed conflict in the Gaza strip. For the past weeks we have been witnessing the suffering of civilians being caught up in the conflict. We have a saying that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that is being hurt, and in this conflict it is the women and the children who are suffering the most. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is a cause for concern. It is thus important for the International community to act in unity and swiftly to de-escalate the crisis and ease the suffering of the people of Gaza.

Mr. President,

The government of Tanzania thus calls for immediate cease-fire and cessation of all hostilities between the two parties, to allow for a negotiated solution to take place to end the conflict as well as to allow for the flow of humanitarian assistance. The United Republic of Tanzania calls for a solution of two States, Palestine and Israel living together in peace and security. We believe that the United Nations, through the Security Council has a central role to play in ending this crisis. We support the work of the council and urge for an appropriate consensus on the way forward to be reached immediately.

Mr. President,

Resolving the Palestine question is essential to the attainment of durable peace in the Middle East. Time for the UN and the International community to act on the crisis in Gaza and secure a solution to the Palestinian question is now not tomorrow. It is as imperative as it is doable.

I thank you.