

**Statement of H.E. Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh,
Prime Minister of the State of Palestine,
at the meeting of Heads of States and Governments
on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
in the era of COVID-19 and beyond,
29 September 2020**

Prime Minister Trudeau, Prime Minister Holness,
Secretary General Guterres, Excellencies...

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the
statement delivered by Guyana on behalf of the
G77 and China.

This pandemic is a threat to human life and to our
peoples' livelihoods. Its socio-economic impact
will outlast the virus. While developed countries
are in some cases more severely hit by the
pandemic itself, there is no doubt that developing
countries will be the ones suffering most from its
socio-economic fallout. In last year's High Level
Political Forum, we called for more financing for

development. This pandemic only makes our calls more pressing.

We were preparing for a decade of action to achieve the SDGs when the pandemic came to undermine what we had already achieved, deepening inequalities within and between countries, causing the poor to become poorer and women to become more vulnerable. But we cannot allow it to derail our efforts. That is why any response to the impact of this pandemic on our economies must be socially, environmentally and gender sensitive. It must be true to our pledge to leave no one behind, starting with the most

vulnerable countries and peoples in vulnerable situations.

The State of Palestine, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, spares no effort to translate the SDGs into reality, including by addressing social and regional inequalities, as well as the health and socio-economic impact of the pandemic. These efforts are carried out despite Palestine's deepening political, economic and financial challenges. While international aid continues to shrink, Palestine suffers from the fact that it has no national currency, no access to the

IMF budgetary support and no access to international capital market like other countries do.

Recently, we launched, together with the UN, an Atlas for Sustainable Development, a first of its kind effort worldwide, capturing our achievements but also highlighting the vulnerabilities we are confronted with. Progress falters in the areas in which Israel controls and limits our ability to implement the SDGs, including through its illegal control of our land, resources and borders and its subjugation of our people. Our development is not sustainable under occupation, and only ending this occupation will unleash our true potential.

This is a time for solidarity not selfishness, and this initiative, including the menu of policy options it has helped develop, embodies our collective will to address together this global threat, through national and international action. For this action to succeed, those doing better must help those struggling to cope. This is true within our respective countries and this is true globally, so no one should be left behind. I thank you.