



REPUBLIC OF CUBA  
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

Havana, 6 November 2017

*Excellency,*

*I have the honor to address the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, on behalf of the Cuban people and Government, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.*

*This serves as an occasion to recall the day on which the General Assembly adopted resolution 181(11) in 1947, on the partition of Palestine. This led, one year later, to the Al Nakba tragedy, in which more than half of the Palestinian territory was forcibly seized, 531 of its cities and villages were destroyed and 85% of the population was expelled or displaced. Consequently, millions of Palestinian refugees currently live scattered throughout the Middle East.*

*Cuba has had a history of strong support and solidarity to the just cause of the Palestinian people, based on a clear and unequivocal position of principles in favor of self-determination and the creation of an independent Palestinian State. We will continue to uphold the right of the Palestinian people to establish a free, independent and sovereign State with its capital in East Jerusalem and its pre-1967 borders, as well as the right of return for the Palestinian refugees.*

**H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck**  
**Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the**  
**Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,**  
**United Nations Organization,**  
**New York**



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*On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly made the historic decision to grant Palestine status of Observer State to UN. In this connection, Cuba will continue to support the admission of Palestine as a fully-fledged member of the United Nations Organization.*

*Cuba reiterates its call for an immediate end to the prolonged and illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and to the blockade of the Gaza Strip for nearly a decade, to enable free access of humanitarian aid and essential supplies and goods, as well as the movement of people from and to the Gaza Strip.*

*The two-State solution and a comprehensive, just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine will not be possible as long as Israel continues to violate International Law and the Charter of the United Nations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334(2016).*

*The Security Council must adopt practical measures without further delay to ensure that Israel puts an end to its aggressions against the Palestinian people, to collective punishments, arbitrary detentions, mass imprisonments and establishment of colonies. The request for recognition as a Member State of the United Nations presented by Palestine in 2011 must be discussed and accepted, as is the desire expressed by the vast majority of States.*

*The situation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories requires urgent measures to ensure full respect for International Law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the Occupying Power from transferring part of its own civilian population to the occupied territory.*



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*The international community must not remain unmoved in the face of abuse and violations against the Palestinian people. We support all actions that enable to set a political process of negotiation to ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and achieve a just and lasting peace for all peoples of the region.*

*On this significant date, Cuba reaffirms its unwavering solidarity to the Palestinian people and its determination to continue supporting their legitimate struggle for justice, dignity, peace in defense of their inalienable right to self-determination and sovereignty in the independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.*

*Please, Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest and distinguished consideration, as I reiterate our strong support and solidarity to the important Committee which you chair.*

*(Signed)*  
*Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla*