

**MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. BOUNNHANG VORACHITH
PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY
WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29th November), and this year is the year to Mark Fifty Years of Occupation, the Lao People's Democratic Republic avails itself of this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, and through Your Excellency to the Palestinian People, our support, greetings of solidarity and warmest congratulations.

The Commemorative meeting for the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People emphasizes the importance and urgency of finding a lasting solution to address the question of the plight of the Palestinian people who live through the prostrated turmoil over 5 decades. The Lao PDR strongly supports the engagement of many world leaders and call on the parties concerned to return to the peace talks as soon as possible. It is important that the close engagement of the international community be sustained, to make sure that the parties live up to their commitments, negotiate in good faith, transparent and refrain from steps which can jeopardize the peace negotiation.

In this connection, the Lao PDR joins the international community to call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all its unlawful occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, place a complete and indefinite freeze on all settlement activities, and respond favorably and in good faith to the international consensus in order to pave the way for an environment conducive to the pursuit of peace as well as for salvaging the prospects of achieving a Two-State solution as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council resolutions and other relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Lao PDR reaffirms its longstanding solidarity and unwavering support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for dignity, justice and their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel, with internationally recognized borders.

Finally, the Lao PDR would like to take this opportunity to wish the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People every success in its noble endeavour.

Vientiane, 06 November 2017