

TURKEY
DRAFT STATEMENT

On the occasion of the Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian people
(29 November 2017)

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

- On the occasion of the Day of International Solidarity with the Palestinian people, I would like to salute, with all my heart, the noble struggle of brotherly Palestinian people, against occupation, oppression and destruction.**

- Palestinian issue remains to be the deepest wound in the Middle East. Occupation of the Palestinian territories is a major source of instability both in and beyond the region. The extremist groups widely exploit the deep sense of injustice and mistrust emanating from the failure of the international community to end this conflict.**

- I like to emphasize once again; an independent, sovereign and contiguous Palestine within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital is the only way for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace as well as security for both Palestine and Israel.**

- For any peace initiative to succeed we have to reinforce the parameters established by the UN Resolutions.**

- Any provocative steps that are in violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the status of Jerusalem should be avoided. All should understand that the preservation of the sanctity and the historical status of Jerusalem and Al-Haram Al-Sharif is the cornerstone of stability in the region.**

- Against this background, the crisis that broke out at Al-Haram Al-Sharif back in July, proved one more time that the current situation is not sustainable. It was only the peaceful and determined effort of the Palestinians of Jerusalem and the Palestinian leadership that brought an end to that crisis.**

- Saying this, we also keep in mind the fact that many more crises may be expected should Israel continue to expand settlements and destroy the basis for a two state solution.**

- Lately, an important step has been taken towards Palestinian unity; the reconciliation agreement signed on 12 October between the representatives of Fatah and Hamas. We welcome this development as it gives us happiness and pride to see our Palestinian brothers and sisters embracing each other. Resolution of the disagreements among our Palestinian brothers and them becoming one voice and one soul are important for the future of their just cause.

- The agreement signed clearly refers to an independent, sovereign and contiguous Palestine within 1967 borders. International community now has the obligation to respond to this determined step taken by Palestine. Palestinian people deserve a strong confirmation of the two-state vision and a genuine effort to end the humanitarian crisis Gaza had to face for the last 11 years. Here, strengthening of UNRWA should also bear priority.

- Membership of the State of Palestine to Interpol was one more welcome message from the international community putting forward a perspective for a future of inclusion and solidarity.

- Before concluding my remarks, I would like to point out that Turkey will continue and enhance its support for the growth of the Palestinian economy and the capacity-building of the Palestinian institutions.

- Turkey, with its Government and people, is standing together with the Government and the people of Palestine.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.