



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

*“The Question of Jerusalem after 50 years of Occupation and 25 years of the Oslo Accords”*

Rabat, 26 - 28 June 2018

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## OPENING SESSION

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck**

Chairman

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights  
of the Palestinian People

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Jerusalem, home to three major religions, and revered by peoples worldwide, lies at the heart of any resolution to the question of Palestine. Given its utmost significance, Jerusalem is considered a final status issue to be resolved through direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law.

Recent developments have brought us to a critical juncture and threaten to erode the long-standing international consensus for a two-State solution. The decision of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the move of some embassies in Israel to Jerusalem are violations of multiple Security Council resolutions that risk perpetuating the illegal actions of Israel, the occupying Power, including the unlawful annexation of East Jerusalem. The Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, has strongly urged the Government of the United States and other governments that took such decisions to rescind these steps.

The United Nations has repeatedly condemned all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and has stated that it will not recognize changes to the 1967 lines other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations. A comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure universal human rights including freedom of worship to the residents of Jerusalem, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by people of all religions and nationalities. The Committee continues to engage with Member States to maintain the international consensus in this regard, and has reiterated its stance in statements to the Security Council. Recently, we also met the Secretary-General to stress the need for protection of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, and fully supported the GA resolution adopted on 13 June, calling for the protection of Palestinian civilians.

We as the international community, have an obligation to support the Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem morally and politically, through diplomacy, and materially, through promoting right-based development.

This conference is an opportunity for us to understand the situation on the ground in East Jerusalem, identify practical means to support resilient development in the city, and most importantly to listen to the aspirations of the youth of East Jerusalem. We hope that this forum will stimulate new thinking on how the international community can support the Palestinian community in East Jerusalem.

This Conference is part of the Committee's annual programme of work. Since 2014, the Committee, with the support of the OIC, has organized four annual conferences on the Question of Jerusalem, one of the most important and sensitive issues of the conflict. Thus far in 2018, the Committee has also undertaken delegation visits to Panama and Uganda; organized the two-day United Nations Forum to mark 70 years of the 1948 war at the UN Headquarters in New York; held expert briefings and continued to build the capacity of Palestinian civil servants. In all these activities, the Committee values its collaboration with civil society organization. We welcome you to participate in upcoming events of the Committee including events to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Committee's mandate calls on us to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people. This conference is a step in that direction. I invite you all to actively participate in the discussions over the next three days.

Thank you very much.

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