



REPUBLIC OF CUBA
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Havana, 26 November 2018

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 to the Al Nakba tragedy, in which more than three quarters 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. We reiterate the unrestricted support for a broad, just and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, based on the existence of two states, to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent and sovereign State with its pre-1967 borders and its capital in East Jerusalem, as well as the right of return for the Palestinian refugees. We will continue to support the admission of Palestine as a fully-fledged member of the United Nations Organization.

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



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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.

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 situation of the occupied Palestinian territories requires urgent measures to ensure full respect for International Law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Security Council must adopt practical measures without further delay to ensure that Israel puts an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and its colonizing practices. The Council should pronounce itself and accept, without further ado, the request for recognition of Palestine as a member State of the United Nations.

Cuba reiterates its rejection of the unilateral declaration by the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which further exacerbates tensions in the region.

We must demand the implementation of a political process of negotiations in which the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are guaranteed and a just and lasting peace is achieved for all the peoples of the region. The international community must not remain impassive.



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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 and peace.

Please, Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration, as I reiterate our resolute support for the important Committee which you chair.

(Signed)
Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla