



22 November 2018

Excellency,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Republic of Malta wishes to reiterate its primary desire to see a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, at a time when the worrying trends on the ground persist and peace prospects remain elusive.

Malta remains committed to the two-state solution through an agreement that ends the current stalemate, that ends all claims and that fulfils the legitimate aspirations of both parties. To this end, as stated on several occasions and to both parties, Malta stands ready, if both sides so wish, to support any initiative that aims to breathe new life, in concrete and tangible terms, into the peace process with the scope of advancing the prospects of peace through the revival of negotiations at the earliest possible date.

Malta also continues to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people through bilateral assistance and support both morally and financially the activities and role of UNRWA as the main provider of much needed assistance to the numerous Palestinians throughout the region.

Malta's position on other issues such as settlements and Jerusalem remain unchanged. Settlements outside the 1967 borders are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace while the future status of Jerusalem must be mutually agreed upon through meaningful peace negotiations between the two sides and consequently. It is to be underlined that any actions which undermine prospects for the two-state solution and exacerbate instability in the region must be avoided.

Recent developments in and around Gaza are extremely worrying. Escalation of violence is totally unacceptable and has only served to bring Gaza and Israel dangerously close to an all-out conflict. Our first objective is therefore for an immediate de-escalation of violence and to ensure that citizens' lives both in and around Gaza are not put further in jeopardy. Both sides have to exercise restraint at all times. The immediate priority should also be the alleviation of the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and to support intra-Palestinian reconciliation to reunite Gaza and the West Bank under one single and legitimate Palestinian authority.



Finally, as we observe this International Day of Solidarity, allow me, once again, to reiterate my commitment to continue supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian People as well as peace and security in the region.

Joseph Muscat
Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Fode Seck,
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
United Nations