

H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Ankara, 28 November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to salute the glorious struggle of our Palestinian brothers against the occupation, oppression and destruction; and I would like to once again express our strong support for this noble resistance on behalf of myself and my Nation.

As long as the Palestinian People are deprived of their right to live with dignity in their own land, it is not possible to come up with a just and lasting solution for the Question of Palestine. Turkey stands by the brotherly Palestinian People at full strength to eliminate this injustice.

Israel ignoring all warnings of international community, tries to perpetuate the occupation, and flagrantly restricts the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian People. The so-called “Nation State” law, which caused disputes in international circles and even in Israeli politics, is the latest example of Israel’s discriminative and racist policies against Palestinians.

Turkey will continue to support the efforts for the settlement of Question of Palestine by the establishment of a State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital within the 1967 borders and based on the established UN parameters and the Arab Peace Initiative. A permanent peace cannot be ensured in the Middle East unless an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine is embodied, and the Palestinian People embrace independence in their own land. In this delicate course, it is of utmost importance that countries who have not yet recognized the State of Palestine take the necessary steps and support the Palestinian Authority.

Israel defying the international law and UN Security Council resolutions systematically destroys the basis of a two-state solution through its illegal practices, particularly its settlement activities. The international community must definitely reject any peace plan disregarding the existing parameters.

We never accept Israel’s aggressive activities violating the sanctity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif and recently increasing attempts to change Jerusalem’s historical and legal status. The Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference on Al-Quds convened in Istanbul on 13 December 2017 was the embodiment of the rightful reaction and the conscience of the international community. We once again emphasize the

importance of the UN General Assembly's resolution of 21 December 2017, which calls on Member States not to transfer their embassies to the occupied city of Jerusalem and we invite members of the international community to avoid actions against this resolution. We, as the Chair of the Islamic Summit, will continue to follow this issue in the upcoming period and we will continue to safeguard the rights of Jerusalem.

Israel supports the inhumane blockade imposed on Gaza with its violent, repressive and oppressive policies. Just this year alone, hundreds of innocent civilians lost their lives and thousands of our Palestinian brothers were injured due to Israeli attacks in Gaza. The international community bears great responsibility to prevent these attacks and to hold perpetrators responsible. Accordingly, it is important to implement measures contained in the UN Secretary General's report on the protection of Palestinian civilians. Turkey will sustain its efforts for its Palestinian brothers' to embrace a life with dignity, particularly through the prevention of violence and the removal of the blockade.

We are following with appreciation the efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People towards protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian People. I hereby wish your Committee success, and emphasize once again that we will continue our support for the Palestinian cause and our strong solidarity in every field with the brotherly Palestinian People and I reiterate my best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the Palestinian People, on behalf of myself and my Nation.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of Turkey