

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE BY H. E. COMRADE EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE: 28 NOVEMBER 2018

On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend warm greetings to all Palestinians on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for organizing this year's special commemorative meeting of the Committee, and their untiring efforts to serve the cause of the Palestinians throughout the years. Let me also congratulate the State of Palestine, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, for being elected the 2019 Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China.

This year's commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is taking place at a time when the Palestinians are facing numerous challenges and when there is no end in sight for resolving the Palestinian question. It is the obligation of the international community to more resolutely safeguard and support the Palestinian just cause. The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe reaffirms its support for and solidarity with the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people, and calls for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine.

The increasingly dangerous situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is alarming as there is an escalation of violence. Israel's settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues unabated, and remains a cause for concern, which needs to be addressed. The Republic of Zimbabwe wishes to express its deep concern about the continued Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, and condemns in strongest terms the loss of life of Palestinian civilians including women and children.

We call upon all parties to act in a responsible way and refrain from actions that undermine the prospects for successful negotiations. We are convinced that just and lasting peace can only be achieved through peaceful negotiations. It is important that negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis should resume without any preconditions. The United Nations should play a pivotal role in future negotiations.

The Government of Zimbabwe believes that the two-state solution is the only way to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It is now time to end the conflict by establishing an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which will co-exist with the State of Israel in peace.

We note with great concern that UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) continues to face financial difficulties, and join others in calling upon the international community to contribute generously to sustain UNRWA's vital and essential operations to assist millions of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Without the UNRWA's assistance, Palestinian refugees would not be able to achieve their full development potential.

His Excellency E. D. Mnangagwa
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE