
**Annex III to the note verbale dated 5 July 2019 from the
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

[Original: Spanish]

**Declaration of the Cuban United Nations Association in solidarity
with the Palestinian people**

31 May 2019

The Cuban United Nations Association, as an association that promotes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, representing the Cuban civil society of which it is composed, with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, reiterates its support for the Palestinian cause and rejects the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by the State of Israel against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council condemns the construction by Israel of colonial settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in violation of international law, has been violated once more, with the escalation of violence by the Israeli army, which carried out attacks in the Gaza Strip recently, injuring many and killing some 50 people during the 48-hour operation.

In addition to this escalation of violence in the area, Palestinian camps have been dismantled as a result of demolition orders, attacks and mass killings, mainly targeting young people participating in the peaceful March of Return to Gaza in defence of their inalienable right of return to their land and holy sites. Many Palestinians have been killed and thousands more injured in the space of a year since the march for their human rights began.

This alarming scenario of military actions against the Palestinian people is compounded by the increase in settler violence and the forced eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in Jerusalem. In addition, the unemployment rate in the Palestinian territories has reached 54 per cent, while 68 per cent of the population faces food insecurity and more than half are affected by poverty.

These actions, encouraged by the Governments of the United States and Israel, hinder the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have powerful repercussions that seriously endanger stability in the Middle East region and international peace and security, ignoring as they do the agreements reached for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

We reiterate the international community's call for the Security Council to uphold its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations in relation to international peace and security by taking concrete measures to compel Israel to put an end to its aggressive and colonizing policies against the Palestinian people and to hold that Government accountable for the systematic crimes and violations it has committed against Palestine.

The Cuban United Nations Association reaffirms its support for the Palestinian cause and urges the parties to the conflict to make every effort to resume and pursue a credible peace process that ensures a comprehensive, just and lasting solution based on the creation of two States, within the internationally recognized pre-1967 borders, taking into account the Arab Peace Initiative, which would allow for the recognition of agreements that guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people to its land, through the creation of a Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.