

REPUBLIC OF CUBA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Unofficial translation

Havana, 23 October, 2019

Excellency,

On behalf of the Cuban people and Government, I have the honor to address the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

This date brings to our minds the day when the General Assembly adopted, in 1947, resolution 181 (11) on the partition plan for Palestine, an event which resulted, one year later, in the Al Nakba tragedy where more than three fourths of the Palestinian territory were seized by force, 531 Palestinian cities and villages were destroyed and 85 percent of the population was expelled or displaced throughout the Middle East. Consequently, millions of Palestinian refugees are currently dispersed throughout the Middle East.

Cuba has always expressed the strong and historical solidarity and support to the just cause of the Palestinian people and will continue to endorse the admission of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. We ratify our unrestricted support for a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the establishment of two states, which allows the Palestinian people to exercise the right to self-determination and to establish a sovereign and independent state based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital and the refugees' right to return.

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

We reiterate our call for an immediate end to the long and illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and the blockade of the Gaza Strip. We strongly reject the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force, by Israel, against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and particularly in the Gaza Strip, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Humanitarian Law.

Moreover, Cuba reaffirms its rejection of the illegal construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as the demolition and the confiscation of Palestinian-owned properties. This situation calls for urgent measures, which ensure the full respect for International Law, and particularly, the Fourth Geneva Convention.

A comprehensive, just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Palestinian question will not be possible as long as Israel continues to violate its obligations under the International Law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations, including the Security Council resolution 2334 (2016).

The Security Council must fulfil its responsibility under the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security and take, without further delay, practical steps to bring an immediate end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories and to its aggressive policies and colonizing practices. Similarly, the request for the recognition of Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations, submitted since 2011, must be spoken out and accepted without further delay.

We express deep concern over Israel's decision not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in the city of Hebron.

We reject the unilateral action by the United States Government, to recognize the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, as well as the elimination of financial support to the Relief and Works Agency for the

Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, all of which further exacerbates tensions in the region and worsens the precarious humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees.

The international community cannot remain impassible in the face of the outrages and violations committed against the Palestinian people. For this reason, Cuba demands and supports all actions that allow 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.

On this significant day, Cuba reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and its determination to continue to support Palestine in its legitimate struggle.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Your Excellency, to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)
Marcelino Medina Gonzalez
Minister a.i