



14 November 2019

Excellency,

As we observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, allow me to express the concern of the Republic of Malta at the continued lack of progress in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Republic of Malta continues to voice its ardent belief that a just, fair and mutually agreeable solution to the Middle East conflict must be based on internationally recognised parameters, culminating in a Two-State Solution with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both Palestine and Israel.

While welcoming initiatives to revive the Middle East Peace Process, I also firmly believe that any viable peace plan must take into consideration the legitimate aspirations of both Peoples. It is crucial for the region that the Palestine and Israel resume meaningful discussions, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive peace agreement, with the support of the international community. In this context, I wish to reiterate my Government's readiness, to support any initiative that aims to breathe new life, in concrete and tangible terms, in the peace process with the scope of advancing the prospects of peace through the revival of negotiations at the earliest possible date.

Settlements outside of the 1967 border remain illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make any resumption of talks impossible. We note with grave concern the announcements made by Israel over the past year on the expansion of activity, together with the ongoing demolitions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem.

Intra-Palestinian reconciliation also remains a determining factor in achieving the Two State Solution. We welcome the announcement made by the President of Palestine for imminent elections in the hope that tangible steps of reconciliation among the different Palestinian factions.

Above all, whereas the dire humanitarian situation, particularly in Gaza, needs to be addressed with the utmost urgency, the Republic of Malta continues to stress the need for all parties to exercise restraint and to ensure that citizens' lives from both Palestine and Israel are not subjected to any threat to their security, to violence or peril.



I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my Government's support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian People and my hope that the coming year will provide a decisive turning point allowing for long-lasting peace and security in the region.



Joseph Muscat
Prime Minister

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