



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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#### *Message of solidarity on the occasion of the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”*

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I, reaffirm, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia, our unequivocal commitment and full solidarity to the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination and sovereignty of the Palestinian People.

Until the occupation and repressive practices in the Occupied Territories are halted, this day should continue to serve as a regrettable reminder that the question regarding Palestinian people and Palestine is yet to be resolved.

For more than 52 years the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, has known nothing else but continued gross human right violations with impunity, despite repeated calls for an end to the ongoing unjust and dire situation under which the people of Palestine live every day. These indeed constitute grave breaches of the international humanitarian and human rights law, relevant UN resolutions, particularly resolution 2334 (2016), and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and are tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We are also concerned that private businesses have been involved in Israel's settlement policies, benefiting from Israel's unlawful confiscation of Palestinian land and other resources. Business activities taking place in or in contract with Israeli settlements violate the Hague Regulations of 1907, which prohibit an occupying power from expropriating the resources of occupied territory for its own benefit.

Moreover, the events of recent days, which we witness reflects another round of deadly and destructive violence and loss of human life. I am delighted that the ceasefire agreement has been reached between Palestinian factions and Israel, thanks to the mediation efforts of Egypt.

We call on Israel, the occupying power, to take bold steps and adhere to the long-established and agreed parameters for a two-State solution, which will ultimately pave the way for a future of peace, security and dignity for Palestinians, Israelis, and the entire region. Therefore, a return to

the table of negotiations to ensure two States living side-by-side, based on the pre-1967 borders in accordance with international law and UN resolutions, is the only way to ensure peaceful relations between Israel and Palestine.

The United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) plays a fundamental role in the region. The Agency provides services to 5.4 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza. The well-being, development and protection of the Palestinian refugees severely depends on the existence of the Agency, which represents a stabilizing element in the region that continues to be the victim of violence. Therefore, we reaffirm Namibia's support for the Agency and expressed appreciation for renewal of its mandate this month.

I wish to conclude by reaffirming Namibia's full support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, its unconditional admission of Palestine as a full Member of the UN and its Agencies, in order to secure its long overdue rightful amongst the global community of nations.

I wish to convey our best wishes and warm greetings to the People of Palestine.