بِسِّ جُلِنَّهُ ٱلرَّحْمَنِ ٱلرَّحِيهِ

Istana Nurul Iman Negara Brunei Darussalam





## MESSAGE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH, SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

27TH NOVEMBER, 2019

On this occasion, the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam join me in reaffirming our long-standing support and solidarity with the Palestinian people and their inalienable right to self-determination.

Brunei Darussalam remains deeply concerned with the humanitarian and economic situation in Palestine as a result of continued unlawful actions of the Occupying Power which include the building and expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Occupying Power has continued to disregard the repeated calls of the international community to adhere to international law and all resolutions of the United Nations (UN) concerning Palestine, which threaten the lives and livelihood of the Palestinian people.

We uphold the resolutions of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Palestine including Resolution 1/16 adopted by the OIC Council Foreign Ministers on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 that rejects and condemns any intention to annex parts of the West Bank. We call for efforts towards a two-state solution to be re-invigorated, respect for international laws and all relevant Security Council Resolutions, particularly those that preserve the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The situation in Palestine particularly in the Gaza Strip remains dire. The Palestinians, like others, have the right to economic and social development under the universal call of the Sustainable Development Goals that demand for no one to be left behind. We reaffirm our strong belief that a just, lasting and comprehensive solution will ensure genuine progress towards peace and stability in the region.

We are heartened to see increased recognition of the State of Palestine in the international arena, such as the historic election of Palestine as the Chair of the G77 and China in 2018. This is testimony of the capacity of the State of Palestine to contribute substantively at the international level. We urge the international community to build on the momentum of these achievements to further strengthen efforts towards attaining recognition for Palestine's right to statehood.

We appreciate the work of the UN Secretary-General and relevant UN agencies in ensuring the issue of Palestine remains at the forefront of the UN's undertakings. We commend the vital role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing the much-needed assistance to the Palestinian people.

It is our sincere hope that the aspirations of the Palestinian people for a fully independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerussalem as its capital, will be realised.

SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH OF BRUNEI