

## **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

**27 November 2019**

### **Message of Solidarity from the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana**

Guyana joins the international community in observing the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and reiterates its unwavering support for the full exercise of freedom and the right to self-determination by the people of Palestine.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People provides an opportunity for the world to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people are yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, specifically, the right to self-determination, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to a homeland.

The Government of Guyana notes with concern that more than seven decades after the displacement of the Palestinian people, the humanitarian and developmental impact of the ongoing conflict continues to bring pain and suffering to the people of Palestine.

The budgetary shortfall faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to be a source of great concern to us, as it is significantly affecting the capacity of UNRWA to provide much needed emergency relief and improved living conditions for Palestinian refugees, including health and social services, decent accommodation and access to education, all of which contribute to the dignity of the Palestinian People. We appeal to Member States and to the wider international community to continue to provide generous support. Guyana remains committed to making our annual financial contribution to assist UNRWA in carrying out its crucial mandate.

Guyana formally recognized the State of Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign State on 13 January 2011 and diplomatic relations were established in 2013. It was our hope that increased recognition of Palestine would contribute to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sadly, this is still to become a reality.

Guyana holds firmly to the belief that constructive dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities is pivotal to advancing the peace process and to the realization of the two-state solution as the legitimate end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this regard, we call on all actors to refrain from actions that would frustrate the possibility of progress and urge both Parties to take steps to move the peace process forward and to bring an end to the injustice that the people of Palestine continue to suffer. Further, the Government of Guyana appeals to the international community to act responsibly at all times and to support the peace process, while keeping the well-being of the Palestinian people at the forefront of all decision-making and actions.

The Government of Guyana reiterates its recognition of Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign State based on its pre-1967 borders and reaffirms its commitment to the realization of an independent State of Palestine peacefully co-existing alongside the State of Israel. Guyana remains in solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle to achieve this goal and will continue to support all efforts leading to its full realization.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

26 November 2019