

**Statement by Ambassador Karen Pierce, President of the UN
Security Council**

**At the Commemorative Meeting for the UN International Day of
Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, for inviting me to address this meeting in my capacity as President of the Security Council in November.

During the past year, the Security Council has remained seized of the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council has continued to receive monthly briefings from the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and to hold open debates on this agenda item on a quarterly basis. The Council has also continued to receive the Secretary-General's reports, in briefings by the Special Coordinator every three months as well as in written form in March of this year. The Security Council convened additional discussions in February, in response to the situation in Hebron; and in March, on the issue of revenue transfers from Israel to the Palestinian Authority.

Mr Chairman,

The situation in the Middle East remains a central concern of the Security Council, not least the lack of progress in finding a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Security Council remains fully committed to pursuing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in accordance with international law and bearing in mind its relevant resolutions. This should be achieved through direct negotiations between the Parties.

Council members continue to be concerned about the situation on the ground, and call for an immediate end to actions which undermine trust between the parties.

Members of the Security Council condemn violence and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, both Israeli and Palestinian. The Security Council continues to be concerned by the dire economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza, and calls on all relevant actors to take steps to sustainably improve it. Council members welcome the efforts of Egypt and the UN in this regard, and encourage progress towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation and the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza.

Mr Chairman,

The Security Council will continue to follow closely the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and to pursue its efforts towards an environment conducive to achieving the peace and security that the Israeli and Palestinian people both need and deserve.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.