

Statement by H.E. Ambassador João Lambeno Gimolieca
Deputy Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations

International Conference on the Question of Palestine
“Southeast Asian Support for the Rights of the Palestinian People”

Kuala Lumpur, 28-29 February 2020

Mr. Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
Mr. Cheikh Niang,

Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Mr. Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Mahathir Mohamad,

Representative of the State of Palestine,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to thank you and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for convening this conference on such an important issue and for extending the invitation to all state members of the United Nations, which my government received and accepted with great honor in support of this platform for raising awareness, exchanging ideas and mobilizing the international community on the “Question of Palestine” which is one of the most pressing issues facing the international community.

The rights of the Palestinian People represent a vital pre-condition for peace not only in the Middle East but also in the world at large. The Republic of Angola remains committed to supporting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and for a two-state solution entailing a sovereign Palestinian State, the borders of which are enshrined in United Nations resolutions, existing peacefully alongside Israel in mutual recognition.

The human rights of the Palestinian people were spelled out, for the first time, in the General Assembly resolution 3236 of 22 November 1974 and it was a major reassertion of their fundamental rights. Since then, the United Nations, through its intergovernmental bodies such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, adopted important resolutions and initiated various measures to implement the provisions of its Charter in respect of human rights of the Palestinian people.

Establishing the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people was an important step in that direction, and the work of the committee in maintaining international awareness on “Question of Palestine” and the progress towards a just solution through the years is commendable.

In the same vein, the role the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) aimed at providing core essential services including but not limited to: education; health; relief; food aid; and other social services as well as emergency assistance, remains indispensable in alleviating the humanitarian needs of the Palestine refugees in the region.

Mr. Chairman.

The international community has not remained indifferent on the Question of Palestine. However, despite the efforts and encouraging steps taken by the United Nations, little has come about so far, as it can be inferred from the last report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The progress made, while important, have not been significant enough to fully materialize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty without external interference, the right of return and the right to be represented as a principal party in the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region.

Enhancement and compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law is a topic of justifiable interest for the international community, one that can only be achieved by ending of Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the achievement of sustainable peace in the region.

In that order, the Republic of Angola reaffirms its position which supports fostering dialogue, facilitating solutions, as well as supporting a just and comprehensive negotiated two-State solution that is based on the aspirations of both sides, including the Palestinians' right to statehood and sovereignty, fully end Israeli occupation, satisfy Israel's security needs and resolve all other issues on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly the security council resolution 2334 (2016) and the General Assembly resolution 73/19.

In conclusion, we must all remember that supporting the Rights of the Palestinian People is equally critical for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda given the principle of “leaving no nation behind”. Every country has a duty and moral responsibility on the Question of the Palestine and we must work in a cooperative way to pursue sustainable peace in the region.

Thank you!