

**Statement by Amb. Kais kabtani, Permanent Representative of
Tunisia to the UN on the occasion of the Special Meeting of the
CEIRPP with H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, Head of Government of
the State of Palestine,**

Monday, 18 May 2020, 2.30 p.m.

- At the outset, I warmly welcome **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, Head of Government of the State of Palestine** to this virtual interactive debate and would like to reassure him of Tunisia's unwavering support for the just Palestinian cause;
- I would like also to extend my Delegation's deep appreciation to the Chairmanship of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People as well as to the UN Palestine Division for holding this virtual interactive conversation on the Israeli threats of annexation.
- While the entire world has been fighting against the novel coronavirus pandemic and redoubling efforts to find a way to act globally in a responsible way, the situation in the Palestinian Territory has been, unfortunately, alarming with continuing expansion of settlements, demolition of homes, discriminatory treatment and provocative actions and rhetoric. The latest reports on Israel's potential move on annexation are alarming. Israel must refrain from any attempts to implement its long-planned de facto annexation of the Palestinian land, in grave breach of international law.
- The International Community, should assume its responsibility to uphold the International Law, including the relevant Security Council resolutions, by strongly rejecting and preventing any such unilateral illegal move, which is a major obstacle to peace and stability in the region and beyond.
- In an extraordinary meeting held on 30 April 2020, the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs have unanimously considered the implementation of any annexation plans as another war crime added to the long record of Israeli atrocities and called upon the International Quartet to convene an urgent meeting to salvage the prospects for peace and the two-State solution.
- As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Tunisia will spare no efforts to defend the Palestinian cause and push towards the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution based on the internationally endorsed terms of reference and parameters in order to end the world's longest ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East-Jerusalem since 4 June 1967.
- I thank you.