



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Message of solidarity on the occasion of the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, allow me on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia, to express our deepest condolences to the People of Palestine regarding the passing of a stalwart and the son of the Palestinian soil Dr. Saeb Erekat, the Chief Palestinian negotiator who sadly passed away on 10 November 2020. Dr. Erekat was a great freedom fighter and seasoned diplomat who has demonstrated an extraordinary skill in championing the quest for self-determination for Palestine and a just and lasting peace in the region. He will surely be missed.

Furthermore, I would like to express our unequivocal commitment and full solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters who continue to live under the yoke of foreign occupation and enduring immense suffering and pain every day, fraught with the Occupying Power’s illegal policies and practices, exacerbated during this time of socioeconomic distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we reflect on the achievements of the United Nations over the past 75 years, many unfortunate developments have taken place in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including provocations through announcements of planned annexation, excessive use of force, home demolitions, and settler violence, and other human rights violations. These actions continue to be implemented in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, international law and all United Nations resolutions.

I remain convinced that a return to the table for negotiations to reach a two-State solution with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side, based on the pre-1967 borders, and in accordance with the international law and within the parameters of the relevant UN resolutions, is the only way to ensure a peaceful, just, and lasting solution between our brothers and sisters of Palestine and Israel.

Namibia will therefore continue to rally support and solidarity, within the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including resolution 2334 (2016), until we see our Palestinian brothers and sisters exercising their inalienable rights in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and as rightful member of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

As a member of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), Namibia together with the Committee, will continue to mobilize efforts to raise international awareness on the situation that prevails in Palestine. I reiterate Namibia's support for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the implementation of its mandate. The Agency's services remains essential to the lives of 5.6 million Palestinian children, women and men, and provides a lifeline to these refugees.

In the spirit of solidarity, I wish the People of Palestine that your just struggle continues to be ours as well. Namibia will rally behind your cause, and forge ahead in support of your call for Palestine's independence. As you reflect on this day about the long-drawn journey to self-determination, know that you are not alone. Namibia yearns with you for an end to your suffering and the dawn of a new day. That day-that will finally bring lasting peace, restoration of dignity, sovereignty and security to all the people of Palestine. That day – that will bring peace, harmony and security to you, your neighbors and the region of the Middle East as a whole.