



**General Assembly  
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**General Assembly  
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Agenda items 38 and 39

**Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year**

**The situation in the Middle East**

**Question of Palestine**

**Identical letters dated 3 November 2021 from the Permanent  
Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the  
General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Madrid Peace Conference for an Arab-Israeli settlement (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 38 and 39 of the agenda, and as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* V. Nebenzia



**Annex to the identical letters dated 3 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

**Thirtieth anniversary of the Madrid Peace Conference for an Arab-Israeli settlement**

The date of 30 October has gone down in history as a milestone day in the development of the Middle East. Thirty years ago, on 30 October 1991, a peace conference for an Arab-Israeli settlement began in Madrid. The convening of such a forum under Soviet-American co-sponsorship was made possible through vigorous multilateral cooperation. We note the special contribution of Spain as the host country of the Madrid Conference.

This was the first time that all the players involved, including high-level representatives from Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians in a joint delegation, as well as the United Nations as an observer, gathered together around the negotiating table. The event helped to build a peace process for a comprehensive Middle East settlement through direct political dialogue between Israel and the Arab countries and the Palestinians, as well as multilateral negotiations on the fundamental issues of security, refugees, the economy and the allocation of water resources.

Pursuant to the Madrid decisions, the countries of the Middle East and international actors made a significant contribution to regional stabilization and the contours of a sustainable comprehensive peace process emerged. It is deeply regrettable that, for a variety of reasons, the potential developed at the Madrid Conference has not been fully harnessed and, in some areas, has been squandered.

As a consequence, while the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories continues, there have been regular recurrences of military confrontation in the conflict zone. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been plagued by severe socioeconomic and humanitarian problems, which have been seriously exacerbated by the absence of intra-Palestinian unity. Palestinian and Israeli civilians are suffering from unilateral moves to alter the status of Jerusalem, including the holy sites, and from settlement activity and calls for violence. The prospects have been substantially undermined of realizing “territory for peace”, a premise enshrined in the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, from which stems the principle of two States – Israel and Palestine – coexisting in peace and security.

In the current circumstances, Russia, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a member of the Middle East Quartet of international mediators, calls on its partners to refer to the Madrid experience of cooperation, which is based on a comprehensive approach to regional challenges and threats, and to step up joint efforts to achieve a sustainable Arab-Israeli settlement. History proves that it is impossible to untie the knots of conflict in the Middle East alone.

In order to address this task, Russian diplomacy is taking the initiative of convening a ministerial Quartet, in cooperation with the League of Arab States. The Russian initiative on holding a Palestinian-Israeli summit meeting in Moscow also remains relevant. We remain in contact with all parties. Recently, the Prime Minister of Israel, Naftali Bennett, paid a visit to Russia. We are planning talks with the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority.