



3 November 2022

Excellency

In honour of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to express our continued concern about the lack of a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on behalf of the Republic of Malta. On this occasion, Malta reaffirms its unwavering commitment to Palestinian self-determination, freedom from occupation, and the right of Palestinians to peace, justice, security and dignity.

Malta's approach continues to be based on principled support for the Two-State Solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with Jerusalem serving as the future capital of both states. Within this context, we sincerely believe that the only viable solution is to address the legitimate aspirations of both Palestine and Israel, in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters.

In this regard, Malta urges all sides to translate their stated commitment towards a Two State Solution into concrete actions and to avoid unilateral actions. Thus, Malta reiterates its opposition to Israel's illegal settlement policy, the demolition and confiscation of property, forced evictions and forced transfers, settler violence, restrictions of movement, as well as illegal outposts, which are in breach of international law. Malta further calls for the upholding of the status quo of the Holy Sites within Jerusalem's Old City, in line with previously established understanding, and with respect to Jordan's special role.

Malta is deeply concerned by escalations of tension in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, which have a disastrous impact on civilian lives and livelihoods and supports calls for de-escalation and restraint. In this vein, Malta states that the indiscriminate targeting of civilians must come to an end, and we will express this position clearly during our upcoming term as an elected Member of the UN Security Council for the period 2023-2024.

Intra-Palestinian reconciliation efforts remain a cornerstone of the peace process. Malta attaches great importance to the holding of free, fair, and inclusive parliamentary and presidential elections, and encourages all Palestinian groups to work constructively towards unity and solidarity. Therefore, following the reconciliation agreement reached between fourteen Palestinian groups in Algeria on 13th October 2022, Malta calls upon all stakeholders to commit to peaceful dialogue.

Regrettably, as a result of the continued occupation, the dire situation in Gaza has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, UNRWA's work remains crucial for providing the necessary protection and essential services for Palestine refugees, and for supporting peace and stability in the region. In this regard, Malta is fully committed to the engagements aimed at mitigating the humanitarian impact of the ongoing occupation.



Malta also remains steadfast in its commitment towards investing in Palestinian public institutions, ensuring that they remain grounded in good governance, transparency and accountability. Robust Palestinian institutions, which are to form part of a future Palestinian state, are vital for achieving progress towards the Two-State Solution. To this end, Malta will continue to engage bilaterally with the Palestinian Authority and multilaterally through EU instruments, focusing primarily on state-building initiatives and capacity building programs.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reaffirm my Government's sympathy and support for the Palestinian People and to reassert Malta's commitment towards sustaining the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Robert Abela
Prime Minister

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