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Today, The Government of Namibia joins the international community in observing the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Of particular significance today, is the poignant reminder that 75 years have passed since the General Assembly adopted Resolution 181. That Resolution set out to partition Palestine into two states, a Jewish and an Arab State. It is worth remembering that our collective aspiration 75 years ago was to bring peaceful resolution and co-existence between the two peoples. Achieving peace in the region, while having been illusive over all these years, remains our core objective and must continue to be at the centre of all our efforts. Today also marks ten years since the State of Palestine was granted non-member observer status to the United Nations. At the time, this move filled us with hope that finally progress towards finalising the two-state solution was in sight, sadly, this has not materialised.

By pledging our solidarity with the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people, we reiterate our commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine, which has long been before the General Assembly. Over the past year, we have witnessed a continuation in the persistent escalation of violence meted against the Palestinian people by Israel, in flagrant violation of the General Assembly and Security Council's repeated calls for cessation of violations. Namibia continues to advocate for a viable Palestinian state, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognised pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Government of Namibia implores Israel to work with international systems, processes and institutions to allow them unfettered access to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with their respective mandates, including humanitarian work. In the same vein, we further call on Israel to honour its obligations by virtue of its membership to the UN and in accordance with international law, and international human rights law. The practice of unabated continued annexation and expansion of settlements as untenable.

It is in this vein that Namibia welcomes the proposal to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of Israel's prolonged occupation and colonization of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and its violation of the Palestinian

people's right to self-determination and policies and measures of discrimination against them. With the passing of 20 years since the General Assembly last asked the ICJ for an advisory opinion regarding the Palestine question, we support the decision to once again resort to seeking guidance from the international legal system on how best to seek recourse for the long-oppressed people of Palestine.

Namibia remains firmly committed to working with willing members of the international community to help the Palestinian people realize their cherished dream of exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and the establishment of a viable and contiguous. We yearn to hear freedom ring in the oppressed land of Palestine so that they too can join the family of free nations.

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Issued by
Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister