MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Ankara, 29th of November, 2022

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

Honourable Chair,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to reiterate, on behalf of myself and my nation, our strong support for the just cause of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

The establishment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine, on the borders of 1967, and with East Jerusalem as its capital, is essential for the security, peace and stability of our entire region. It is our most sincere wish that Palestine takes its rightful place as a sovereign and equal member in the international community. We will continue to support Palestine's efforts towards this goal, both at the United Nations, and different platforms.

To date, many resolutions regarding Palestine have been adopted at the United Nations, but most of these resolutions have not been implemented. The international community should increase its efforts to put an end to unilateral steps, which escalate the tension in the region, damage the vision of a two-state solution and the basis for a lasting peace, and to protect the rights of the people of Palestine.

We observe with regret and concern the growing tension and loss of life, especially in the West Bank, in 2022. Unfortunately, there is a serious increase in violations and provocations targeting the status quo in Haram Al Sharif. Violations against the status and sanctity of Haram Al Sharif, which is of great importance for the Islamic world, should not be allowed. Attempts to change and erode the historical, legal and demographic status of Jerusalem must also be prevented.

I would also like to express that we are pleased with the positive outcome of the conference held between the Palestinian factions, on 12-13 October 2022, under the auspices of Algeria, within the framework of intra-Palestinian dialogue in the recent period. We view that the declaration adopted at the end of the conference constitutes a suitable basis for the unification of the Palestinian factions and we wish that the steps enlisted in the declaration, particularly holding of the elections, will be implemented.

Our assistance and support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which is a stabilizing factor in the region and whose activities we attach great importance to, will also continue, as in previous years. I call on the members of the international community to continue and increase their contributions to the Agency.

We also follow with appreciation the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in defence of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. As I greet our Palestinian brothers and sisters with my most sincere feelings, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish you success in the work carried out within your Committee, and to emphasize that our support for the Palestinian cause will continue with determination.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan President of the Republic of Türkiye