Written Remarks by H.E. Qin Gang State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of The People's Republic of China On UN Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Nakba

The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Nakba is highly significant as it once again draws international attention to the question of Palestine.

On this day 75 years ago, the first Middle East war broke out. A large number of Palestinians lost their home and became displaced. Ever since then, the Palestinian people have been on an arduous journey of pursuing their legitimate rights and interests. For more than half a century, the tragedy of Palestine-Israel conflict keeps repeating itself, causing longstanding antagonism between the Arab and Jewish peoples, plunging the region into flames of war time and again, and seriously jeopardizing world peace and stability. Until this day, the legitimate demand of the Palestinian people for an independent state is still not yet met, calling international fairness and justice into question.

The Palestinian question is at the heart of the Middle East issue and bears on enduring peace, stability and security in the Middle East region. To deescalate the Palestine-Israel conflict and resolve the Palestinian question, the fundamental way out lies in resuming the peace talks, enforcing the two-state solution, and establishing an independent Palestinian state. The recent escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict once again highlights the urgency of resolving the Palestinian question. The international community must put it high on the international agenda, stay committed to the two-state solution, push for early resumption of the Palestine-Israel peace talks, and address the legitimate and reasonable aspirations of the Palestinian people, so that they can fulfil their dream of establishing an independent Palestinian state at an early date.

China upholds fairness and justice on the Palestinian question. It has all along firmly supported the Palestinian people's just cause of restoring their legitimate national rights, and supported the establishment of an independent State of Palestine based on the 1967 border and with east Jerusalem as its capital. For ten consecutive years, President Xi Jinping has sent congratulatory messages to the special commemorative meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian

People. More than once he put forward China's proposals for resolving the Palestinian question, stressing the need to resolutely advance a political settlement based on the two-state solution and intensify international efforts for peace. China supports strengthening the authoritativeness of the Palestinian National Authority, supports enhancing unity among the various Palestinian factions, and encourages Palestine and Israel to resume peace talks on the basis of the two-state solution. China has hosted four Palestine-Israel Peace Symposium meetings to galvanize the strength for peace. China has and will continue to provide Palestine with humanitarian and development assistance, to assist Palestine in capacity-building and in developing its economy and improving people's lives.

China applauds the important role the United Nations has played over the years in advancing the resolution of the Palestinian question and in easing the humanitarian situation in Palestine. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China will continue to work with the international community to put into action the Global Security Initiative (GSI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, and contribute to a comprehensive, just and enduring solution to the Palestinian question at an early date, to the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel and the common development of the Arab and Jewish peoples, and to the lasting peace and stability of the Middle East.