

**Statement by the Government of Guyana on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

**29 November 2023**

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2023, the Government of Guyana renews its longstanding solidarity with the Palestinian people in their quest for a just and durable peace and a safe and secure homeland.

The Government of Guyana notes that this year's observance is the 46<sup>th</sup> since the General Assembly mandated the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People beginning in 1978. Guyana regrets that in those forty-six years, the situation of the Palestinian people has not improved but has progressively worsened; and a just solution to the plight of the Palestinian people is still to be achieved. The persistent and systematic violations of the human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people by the Occupying Power reveal a blatant disregard for international law that is a serious impediment to the achievement of a just solution to the Question of Palestine.

The Government of Guyana is deeply disheartened by the humanitarian catastrophe created in the Gaza Strip in response to the events of October 7. Guyana deplores the killing and maiming of innocent civilians, including high numbers of women and children. Guyana also condemns the massive destruction of infrastructure and facilities such as schools and hospitals in the Gaza Strip, which was already impoverished before the events of October 7. The withholding of items essential for human survival and wellbeing, the forced displacement of people, and the indiscriminate bombing of civilians are illegal and unconscionable acts. Guyana calls on all parties to cease their violations of international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law. We call for an immediate ceasefire and call on those with influence on the parties to exert every effort to urgently achieve this.

Guyana has taken note of the bleak socio-economic outlook for the Palestinian people on account of the recent escalation of violence. The development challenges with which the Palestinian people have traditionally grappled have been further exacerbated due to the war and they are being left even further behind in the global thrust for sustainable development. The Government of Guyana underscores the special responsibility of the international community to intervene to help bring a permanent end to the violence, to facilitate a resumption of the peace process, and to assist the Palestinian people in their efforts to chart a path to sustainable development.

The Government of Guyana is convinced that the settlement of the Question of Palestine requires a political solution. Violence and oppression only yield the fruits of insecurity and mistrust. The Government of Guyana therefore calls for the urgent resumption of dialogue between the parties as a critical first step towards a permanent and just solution

of two distinct Palestinian and Israeli states living side by side in peace and security. The Government of Guyana remains committed to international efforts to assist the parties to achieve this objective and promote lasting peace in the Middle East.

**27 November 2023**