

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

New York, 23 November 2023

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the message of solidarity from His Excellency Mr. Thongloun SISOULITH, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Anouparb VONGNORKEO Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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

Message by His Excellency Thongloun SISOULITH, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the Occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 29 November 2023

On this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on behalf of the Government and People of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I would like to extend to Your Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, and through Your Excellency to the People of the State of Palestine, our firm solidarity and warmest congratulations.

This annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is the testimony of collective support of the international community and underscores the importance and urgency of seeking a lasting solution to the Palestinian question. The Lao Government and people have closely monitored with grave concern over the ongoing deteriorating security situation and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We wish to offer our sincere condolences on the losses in life and property which are exacerbated by the current violent hostilities. The Government and people of the Lao PDR stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and join the international community in urgent call for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce and ceasefire in order for necessary assistance to swiftly and safely reach all civilians in Gaza. We continue our persistent call for the resumption of diplomatic negotiation and the efforts to achieve the two-stat solution for enduring peace in the Middle East, protecting all civilians under the international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

On this note, the Lao PDR reaffirms its unwavering commitment and support for the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine and Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for dignity, justice and their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace, security and harmony with the State of Israel, within internationally recognized borders. The Lao PDR commends the efforts made by the international community and the United Nations including all efforts to halt violent acts and re-open humanitarian corridors to save innocent lives.

In this regard, the Lao PDR renews its call for the occupying Power to immediately end hostilities and cease all its unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territory, completely abandon all illegal settlement activities, and respond favorably and in good faith to the international consensus, in order to create an environment conducive for the pursuit of peace and security as well as salvaging the aspiration of achieving the two-state solution as soon as possible, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions. The Lao PDR strongly supports all initiatives and efforts to address this long-overdue yet critically urgent issue. We remain committed to working closely with all United Nations member states to achieve this ultimate goal.