



CROATIA

Statement by

His Excellency Frano Matušić
State Secretary for Political Affairs

at

**United Nations High-Level International Conference
on the “Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine
and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution”
New York, 28 -30 July 2025**

– Check against delivery –

New York, 29 July 2025

Secretary General,
President of the General Assembly,
Your Highness - Minister Al-Saud,
Your Excellency - Minister Barrot,
Dear Colleagues,

Our sincere thanks to the organizers of this important conference.

The fact that we have gathered here today sends a strong and hopeful signal: there is political will and goodwill in the international community to move towards a long-term, viable solution for a just, lasting, and sustainable peace in the context of Israeli and Palestinian relations.

The extreme suffering of so many people, civilians - especially children, and the ever more alarming humanitarian situation in Gaza demands our urgent action. Croatia will continue to provide all the necessary humanitarian aid, bilaterally and through international organizations, protecting the most vulnerable population in Gaza, especially children and women. So far, we have supported the civilians of Gaza with 3 million euros of humanitarian aid and with the donation of 400 tons of flour, and will continue on that good path.

In this regard, Croatia is ready to offer psychological rehabilitation to children from Gaza by hosting them in Croatia and ensure safe environment – since the war has deprived them of their rights to play, study and be children.

The unconditional and immediate release of hostages remains the highest priority.

On political ground, we support the engagement of the United States of America, together with Egypt and Qatar in reaching for a ceasefire – as a decisive step. No matter how difficult it might seem to reach it, the work toward a ceasefire needs to continue, and no effort should be spared.

The fact that we have gathered at the UN Headquarters confirms our collective resolve to support a viable solution to the conflict that has been in the world media headlines for years, even decades.

The solution must guarantee peace, security and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians, and their mutual recognition, which would stabilize the wider region, and in certain extent the world.

The time has come, as we heard in interventions yesterday and today, to move beyond declarations of support for a two-state solution and launch an agenda of actions - that will lead to establishing a dialogue between the two sides.

We condemn every single civilian casualty and every single hostage taken. Hamas should not have a role in the future of Gaza, and it should be disarmed.

The future success of this initiative, Ministers and Colleagues, will depend on each and every one of us and our dedication to engaging on both the regional and international level.

Our commitment to assisting in mediation, supporting reforms, institution-building and strengthening of Palestinian Authority, as well as providing the necessary political and economic backing for peace to take root - is very much needed.

This process must be grounded in international law, including the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions, and guided by universal values. These are not optional ideals, but foundational principles.

Dear Co-chairs, Colleagues,

Dialogue is not a sign of weakness, but the essence of statesmanship. All lasting solutions need political will —matched with a forward-looking vision and readiness for compromise.

The people of the region have endured generations of loss. They deserve a future of peace and coexistence—not in theory, but in practice. We have gathered here to commit to turning these shared aspirations into meaningful progress. The alternative—continued division, despair, and destruction—is one no one can afford.

I thank you.