



Statement to be delivered by H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, at the Plenary Session of the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine, and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution

30 July 2025

Your Excellencies Co-Chairs,

Guyana aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Barbados on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

I commend your preparations for the convening of this High-Level International Conference. I also commend the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups for the consultative approach to their work.

Excellencies,

This Conference is taking place at a pivotal moment in the Palestinian experience and my delegation is of the view that we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without taking certain critical decisions. For this reason, Guyana welcomes the convening of this Conference and the platform that it has provided for Member States to renew their commitment in tangible ways to the implementation of the two-state solution.

Excellencies,

In 1947 the General Assembly adopted resolution 181 (II) in which it decided on the establishment of an independent Arab state and an independent Jewish state in what was then solely Palestine. The independent Jewish state, Israel, was created and recognized in 1949. However, almost eight decades later, and with the formation and recognition of more than eighty (80) new sovereign States by the United Nations, the establishment of an independent State of Palestine is still outstanding.

Implementation of the two-state solution is a collective responsibility of the General Assembly, some aspects of which are common to all Member States, while others are differentiated. At the core of our common responsibilities is the recognition of the State of Palestine. The mandate of the two-state solution remains only partially implemented due to the twin problem of the non-recognition of the State of Palestine by some Member States and Israel's ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territory. Guyana, therefore, calls on all Member States still to do so, to take the important step of recognizing the State of Palestine as a foundational contribution to advancing the two-state solution. We also call on Israel to comply with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding its unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Excellencies,

We are meeting against the backdrop of an unprecedented war in Gaza, characterized by violations of international law, and which could have implications for the two-state solution. Consistent with our common responsibilities, the onus is on all Member States to be vigilant and consistent in their defence of international law on the question of Palestine. There should be no double standards on this point and no silence and inaction when the rule of law is being violated. This is especially critical in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza and its military operations and settlement activities in the occupied West Bank. While most Member States have been vocal in their condemnation of the ongoing atrocities, we urge every member of this Organization to double their efforts to bring this tragedy to an end.

This brings me to the point of where action is needed to effect that change. **First**, at the level of the Security Council, the ongoing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) remains a serious threat to international peace and security, and the Charter empowers the Council to respond to such threats decisively. Regrettably, the

Council, as a collective, has not yet achieved the level of political will necessary to take those decisions.

Second, action is needed in defence of the United Nations, humanitarians, medical personnel, journalists and other professionals who continue to be the targets of indiscriminate and illegal actions by the occupying power. UNRWA, which has performed a stabilizing role in the OPT since its establishment in 1948, and which continues to exist precisely because of the absence of an independent Palestinian State, continues to suffer the brunt of attacks against the UN. Last week we were told that OCHA is next. This trend must not be allowed to continue since it sets a dangerous precedent and is detrimental to the cause of peace.

Third, Member States must be prepared to take bilateral action where it is necessary to stem the means of destruction used by the occupying power to weaken the two-state solution. Member States must continue working until an independent State of Palestine is established pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions and in line with the pre-1967 borders. We dissuade all actions that undermine this goal. In this context, we call on Israel to hand over all remittances being held for the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Excellencies,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming our full support for the implementation of the two-state solution. Guyana looks forward to continuing its contributions to this goal, including through implementation of the recommendations emanating from this Conference.

I thank you.