

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR IAN MADELEINE
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AT THE PLENARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION
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Thank you, Chair.

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Seychelles extends its sincere appreciation to the French Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their leadership as Co-Chairs during this pivotal moment—when the vision of a two-state solution feels more distant than ever.

We also commend the co-facilitators' consultative approach and their essential work in guiding us toward solutions on the Palestine issue.

We gather here today not just to exchange statements, but to collectively reaffirm our responsibility.

The need for principled action—by this body and by the broader international community—is greater than ever.

We must ensure that a just and sustainable outcome for Palestine remains within reach, and that our collective efforts are not merely rhetorical, but grounded in implementation.

The paralysis of the Security Council and rising unilateral actions have deepened the crisis.

At this juncture, it is critical that the voices of all Member States be heard—particularly those from the margins. If there is to be a true consensus on peace, it must be broad, inclusive, and unwavering in its commitment to international law.

At a time when countless lives have been lost, and an entire population continues to live under the weight of conflict, the urgency of global action cannot be overstated. The two-state solution—with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security—remains the internationally recognised framework for resolution. It is rooted in key UNSC resolutions, including 242, 338, 1397, and 2334, and supported by decades of international consensus.

Yet, the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate. The violence against civilians, the devastation in Gaza, and the absence of any possible political horizon have made the path to peace appear increasingly elusive.

The status quo is not only untenable—it is dangerous.

It fosters despair, radicalisation, and deepens distrust.

The United Nations must respond with renewed clarity and determination. It must continue to uphold the legal foundations of the two-state solution and strengthen support for Palestinian institution-building and economic development—including through agencies such as UNRWA, which remains essential to the well-being of millions of Palestinians.

At the same time, the protection of civilians is paramount. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to flow without obstruction—particularly in Gaza, where the humanitarian situation remains deeply concerning.

A permanent ceasefire is urgently needed. The immediate and unconditional release of all hostages must be ensured.

These are not merely political objectives, but shared humanitarian responsibilities. The right to life, dignity, and peace must be safeguarded for all.

Seychelles reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine, grounded in the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples. The two-state solution must not become a fading aspiration.

Seychelles recognised the State of Palestine's declaration of independence in 1988, and welcomes the renewed momentum to fulfil our obligations as an international community.

It is the only viable pathway to lasting peace: a sovereign and independent Palestine, existing alongside Israel, with both states living in peace and security.

If reassurance is what is sought by either side, then let us offer it.

The cycle of violence must end.

The suffering must end.

Humanity must prevail and the time to act is now.

Thank you.

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