

**TÜRKİYE STATEMENT  
DELIVERED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MR. NUH YILMAZ**

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**Esteemed Ministers,**

**Excellencies,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to the Co-Chairs, France and Saudi Arabia, for taking the lead to revitalize the efforts for the implementation of the two-State solution.

I also express our thanks to our fellow co-chair Ireland in the Working Group on “Preserving the Two-State Solution” for its close cooperation.

The two-State solution remains central to not only the peaceful settlement of the conflict, but also to preserving sustainable peace and security in the broader region.

The reason why this conference was delayed was Israel's attacks on Iran. This is a testament to the urgency of ending Israel's aggression, expansionism and policy of strategic destabilization in the region.

Israel is actively exporting instability and seeking perpetual war, with hegemonic intentions. No central authority is spared. Weakened state structures are sought.

The root cause of the problem is clear: it is the occupation of the Palestinian territory by Israel. The key to peace in the Middle East lies solely on the question of how to stop Israel.

That begins and ends with the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The two-State solution is the only viable basis for a just and lasting solution. Both states living side by side in peace and security. Türkiye is ready to be a guarantor.

Horrendous images of innocent civilians, children, babies, dying from hunger or shootings in Gaza shake all of us. The images that come out of Gaza in this 21<sup>st</sup> century will haunt humanity for the years to come.

The genocide committed by Israel in Gaza is a dark stain on the international order. There are signs that the international order is being adversely affected by the continuation of this genocide. The rules-based international system is being

called into question. A deep polarization within the international community is clearly visible.

An immediate and permanent ceasefire is the most urgent priority.

Under the current circumstances, a ceasefire is not possible if the aggressor is not forced to do so.

As the international community, we have the obligation to put an end to this man-made human catastrophe. For that, we have to collectively put greater pressure on Israel.

For this, the recognition of the State of Palestine is the most imminent step to take by all those who have not yet done so. Within this framework, we welcome all recent moves for recognition, most recently by France.

Aside from these urgent political steps, we should also help the Palestinian Authority in capacity building in all possible ways.

In parallel to that, reconstruction efforts must be started without delay. The Arab Reconstruction Plan is the only viable plan for the reconstruction of Gaza. Türkiye stands ready to contribute actively to these efforts.

We stand at a critical moment. Yes, Palestine needs economic support, capacity building, empowering, trade and any kind of material and moral support. Yet, we must all understand that this is not enough.

Palestine needs more. Palestine needs strong and concrete political solidarity. That should go hand in hand with coercive measures, such as a UN ban on the transfer of arms as well as halting trade with the aggressor.

Israel continues to enable illegal settlements. It even goes beyond, with its government chanting openly and loudly for the annexation of Palestinian territories. Settler terror should not go unpunished. Settlers and their enablers must face consequences.

Last but not the least, the implementation of the two-State solution requires solid institutions and the protection of the Palestinian people. Thus, supporting the Palestinian Authority and preventing Israeli actions aiming to uproot the Palestinian nation from their homeland are crucial for any credible road map for Palestinian statehood.

**Esteemed Ministers,**

With regard to the draft outcome document of our Conference, particularly its paragraph 11, Türkiye is of the opinion that, based on the decades long Israeli

record, the handover of weapons by the Palestinian armed groups should be closely conditioned to the realization of an independent, sovereign and contiguous Palestinian State on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, or an agreement reached among the Palestinian groups as part of the reconciliation process.

But, we did not break the silence once again to preserve the unity of the international community. We hope that our concern will be taken into consideration by the Members States in their relationships and in future processes.

Türkiye will continue its unwavering support for law, justice and hence, the rights of the Palestinian people, who are in desperate need of our active and concrete support.

Thank you.