

## **PHILIPPINES**

High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the two-State Solution

To be delivered by: H.E. ANTONIO M. LAGDAMEO

Permanent Representative 28 - 30 July 2025, UNHQ

## Mr. President,

The Philippines joins other Member States in thanking France and Saudi Arabia for their excellent leadership in laying the groundwork for this international conference aimed at further advancing global efforts for the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two-State Solution.

The Philippines supports all efforts that will establish a definitive path toward resolving the Palestine issue peacefully and realizing the two-State solution, grounded in international law and in the UN General Assembly's established positions.

Indeed, this enduring and complicated Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a strategic piece in achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East

In this regard, the Philippines would like to reiterate the following:

<u>First</u>, the Philippines firmly supports the two-State solution, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions. We believe that this remains the most viable and sustainable pathway to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is essential to the realization of a lasting peace.

This conflict will only end when Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in their own sovereign, independent States, in peace, dignity, harmony and prosperity, and where their rights, aspirations, and security are recognized and upheld. <u>Second</u>, we also firmly support direct dialogue between Israel and Palestine and all stakeholders for the realization of the two-State solution. This conflict cannot be resolved through war or vicious cycle of violence.

We urge all parties to restore a political horizon through for the two-State solution and the peace and stability of the region through **meaningful diplomatic** dialogues and negotiations based on trust and mutual understanding.

We support the intensification and acceleration of international and regional diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We therefore commend and support the efforts by Saudi Arabia, Norway and the European Union for spearheading "The Global Alliance for the Implementation of a Palestinian State and a Two-State Solution."

<u>Third</u>, we support a complete and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and the provision of humanitarian assistance for those affected by the conflict. A permanent ceasefire will remove the significant security and political obstacles to delivering aid across Gaza and increase urgent lifesaving humanitarian support.

<u>Fourth</u>, we remain gravely concerned over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has resulted in an alarming number of casualties, particularly women and children.

In this regard, we call on all parties to adhere to their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law, with particular emphasis on the protection of civilians, especially women and children, and the facilitation of the rapid, unhindered, and safe humanitarian relief for all civilians in need in Gaza.

<u>Fifth</u>, we firmly support the acceptance of Palestine as a member of the **United Nations**, a position that has been consistently supported by an overwhelming majority of the General Assembly.

Toward this end, we support steps that would further expand Palestine's involvement in various UN processes that would eventually pave its full membership in this august body.

<u>Sixth</u>, the Philippines affirms its readiness to form part of UN-led peacekeeping and/or humanitarian contingent in Gaza, contributing peacekeepers, teachers and/or medical workers, if authorized by the UN Security Council.

The Philippines reiterates its enduring support and cooperation as we work together and commit to ending war, upholding justice, respecting human rights, promoting sustainable development, and maintaining international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.