



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by H.E. Dr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa  
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Before the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
Agenda Item 18: "The Question of Palestine"**

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Mr. President,

It is most significant, indeed, that we are holding this debate today in the midst of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, and the tremendous efforts by various quarters to bring peace to the Palestinians and all nations in the Middle East region.

The international solidarity day is the occasion when the international community reaffirms its commitment to the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine. We further take this opportunity to urge the international community not only to express their feelings of solidarity, but to accept the challenge of bringing the violence, uncertainty and suffering in Palestine to an end.

Palestinians at present continue to face various hardships and challenges. At the crux lies the continued denial of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Indonesia has consistently, and will continue, to be at the Palestinian side in their legitimate quest for self-determination and independence. Although we are geographically worlds apart, we are united by our belief that justice must be done to the Palestinian people who are still living under occupation, and like many other nations, they are entitled to peace and freedom.

Mr. President,

The international community should collectively bring to an end the suffering of the Palestinian people, starting with re-energizing the peace process. Indonesia, therefore, welcomes various initiatives and diplomatic efforts to put in place a process with the goal of creating an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state. These include the recent conference in Annapolis which culminated in the Joint Understanding between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Annapolis.

With the blueprint for follow up negotiations to conclude a final solution by the end of 2008, we are hopeful that this is the beginning of the road to ending the conflict in a just, comprehensive and fair manner.

While we recognize that there are difficult days ahead in this process, my delegation is encouraged by the full commitment of all the parties to the exploration of every means to engender a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

To this extent, last Tuesday's agreement by both parties to resume long-stalled negotiations immediately and on a biweekly basis is a significant and commendable step forward. And we urge both sides to seize this momentum in order to reach a sustainable peaceful solution.

Simultaneously, the international community, through this global institution, has the obligation to support and monitor the efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement, including the various initiatives and the joint understanding reached in Annapolis.

Efforts to revive the peace process can have traction only if Israel demonstrates a genuine desire to engage in the resolution of the core issues. For this to happen, the Security Council needs to ensure that it respects and abides by the resolutions of the United Nations relating to this conflict.

We must reiterate that Israeli occupation remains the root cause of the conflict in the Middle East, with the Palestinian issue at the core of it. This has been acknowledged by countless resolutions of the United Nations, in particular, resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), and 1515 (2003) as well as the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 as endorsed by the Quartet. Consequently, a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict should resolve all outstanding core issues, such as border, refugees, Israelis settlement, the status of Jerusalem, water resources and security.

Whilst the international community concentrates on reviving the peace process, it is also important for the Palestinians to unite.

The unity of the Palestinians is a prerequisite for sustainable peace. Hence, we continue to urge the Palestinians to set their differences aside through dialogues and reconciliation and focus on the ultimate objective, namely the realization of a sovereign and independent state where Palestinians live in peace and prosperity.

Pending to the achievement of a just solution, the international community continues to have the obligation to assist Palestinian people so as to alleviate the dire conditions under which they live.

We must urgently address the worsening humanitarian situation and without delay, if we truly wish to nurture the seeds of peace in Palestine and convince the people to embrace the current peace efforts. And on the basis of humanitarian need, such assistance should also go to all Palestinian in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In this regard, we welcome the planned Paris Conference on 7 December 2007. For our part, Indonesia together with South Africa will co-organize an Asia-Africa conference on capacity

building for Palestine next year with the objective of strengthening the institutions needed to support the peace process and the Palestinian state.

Mr. President,

Indonesia has always been supportive to efforts in bringing speedy solution to the question of Palestine, and in ending the suffering of the Palestinian. We stand ready to contribute to this process in order to realize an independent and prosperous Palestinian state, living side by side in peace with Israel and other nations in the region.

We constantly believe that we need a comprehensive approach to settle all the core issues resulting from the persistent occupation of Israel. And we concur with the assessment of the Secretary-General that no piece-meal solution can work in addressing this complex issue.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its enduring support of the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for self determination. Year after year, since it was established in 1975, it has defied difficult circumstances to carry out its mandate.

We look forward to the day when its commitment and service will be rewarded with the fulfillment of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to independence. Until that time, we will continue to support the extension of this very important mandate.

Thank you.