

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED BY

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the State of Qatar to the United Nations

BEFORE

The United Nations General Assembly

ON

Agenda item 17: The Situation in the Middle East

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**Mr. President,
Distinguished audience ,**

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

I would like at the outset to express to you Mr. President my appreciation. I would like also to thank the Secretary-General for submitting the Secretariat reports on the situation in the Middle East, and to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the reports on the subject matter of the current debate. The substantive aspect of portraying the conditions in the Middle East needs, however, to reflect a higher degree of frankness and genuine analysis of their root causes, for frankness and objectivity are the most appropriate means to address that sensitive issue .

Mr. President,

We all aspire to sparing the world, including the region of the Middle East, the scourge of wars and conflicts and the socio-economic devastation resulting from them. Since finding a just solution to the Palestinian question is the best way to end the Middle East crisis, we welcome the efforts undertaken recently by the United States to achieve a just peace based on the coexistence of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side. Keen on supporting all efforts towards achieving peace, my country has participated in Annapolis conference by a senior-level delegation, especially since the goal of the conference is in line with the vision that the State of Qatar has already put forward when we presided over the Security Council last December. We have then designated the theme of "Sustainable Peace in the Middle East" as a platform for the open debate, which has resulted in issuing the 2006 presidential statement No. 51 of the Council. Consistent with our position that calls for the consolidation of peace in the Middle East, we have co-sponsored both draft resolutions L.22 on Jerusalem and L.23 on the Syrian Golan. We call on the delegations of all Member States to support them.

Mr. President,

Since peace in the Middle East has complementary and interrelated dimensions that affect each other, the Palestinian people should not be a victim of the historic conflict in the Middle East and the failure to achieve a just and sustainable peace in this sensitive region of the world. The suffering of the Arab people in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and parts of southern Lebanon must not be forgotten. We do not accept that the Israeli people have the same fate either. Israel needs therefore to show seriousness and the political will on the path of peace, and to turn words into deeds, especially after the momentum that has been generated by Annapolis peace conference, by refraining from policies that contravene the international law, undermine international conferences and initiatives and peace opportunities, and make the task of the Quartet more difficult.

The persistence of Israel in its efforts to build the separation wall in Occupied Palestine, contrary to the advisory opinion the International Court of Justice that was requested by the international community by virtue of a General Assembly resolution, and seeking revenge from the Palestinian people through the policies of kidnapping, assassination and detention of leaders and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, Israeli excavations that are being carried out under the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its vicinity which threaten the holy sanctuaries, the targeting of Arab, including Palestinian and Lebanese, cities and villages, the demolition of houses over the heads of their occupants, and the targeting of places of worship, schools and hospitals, demonstrate a lack of understanding of the culture of peace and the public good for the peoples of the Middle East, including the Israeli people themselves.

Mr. President,

We regret that such violations are taking place amid a failure by the Security Council to carry out the duty entrusted to it by the Charter, and a weakness of the political will to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, embodied by the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 242 whereby the Security Council formulated in October 1967 the principles of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and resolutions 338, 425, 497, and the successive resolutions of the General Assembly and in particular United Nations General Assembly resolution 194, and the latest resolutions 61/25 and 61/26, which are yet to be implemented, and many more appeals included in Security Council statements and reports of the Secretariat, all of which recognize the references of just and comprehensive peace, legal and political obligations of Israel, including the demand from Israel to take practical measures towards negotiating with the Arab countries affected by the conflict, ending the Israeli occupation of their territories, on which the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable under international law, as stressed by the United Nations resolutions. Israel needs therefore to show its seriousness towards peace through by its full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of the 4th of June 1967, under Security Council resolution 242 (1967). Israel needs also to effectively withdraw from southern Lebanon. In order to achieve stability in Lebanon, it is essential to respect and implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) by all parties without discrimination or selectiveness. One of the most flagrant breaches of this resolution is the continued Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace, and Israeli troops continued occupation of the Lebanese Shab'a Farms and the village of Ghajar, thus undermining the credibility of UNIFIL and the ability of the Lebanese government to extend its sovereignty over its territory.

The call for non-interference in Lebanese internal affairs must be a message to everybody, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and statements. States calling for non-interference must be a role model in refraining from exercising political pressure aiming at pushing Lebanese sovereign issues in certain directions. The Lebanese themselves must decide on the affairs of their country without interference or influence from any quarter.

Mr. President,

We in the Middle East feel threatened and insecure as a result of the non-adherence to the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the failure of placing the Israeli nuclear facilities under the overall supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Such state of affairs does not serve the good intentions and the establishment of normal relations, nor the efforts to eradicate international terrorism in all its forms.

Mr. President,

The challenges to peace and security in the Middle East are not confined to the classic concept of that crisis alone. The tragic situation in which Iraq is going through for reasons well known, which affects its neighboring countries, requires the full support of the international community, to maintain the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, while recognizing the primary responsibility of all Iraqi leaders in finding a formula for national reconciliation to achieve justice, stability and security to all Iraqis, millions of whom have fled the country and hundreds of thousands others have been killed. We therefore stress the need to rectify the historical error committed against Iraq, and its negative impact on the global economy to say nothing about its repercussions on security since occupation and oppression are among the most prominent root causes of the scourge of terrorism.

Thank you.