



Permanent Mission of

Malaysia

to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KAMILAN MAKSOM, REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AT THE PLENARY OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

Mr. President,

Let me first of all associate myself with the statements made by Cuba on behalf of NAM and by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr. President,

2. We continue to discuss the question of Palestine again and again for the simple reason that we have not arrived at a just solution to the problem. And throughout the time we continue to discuss this issue, the plight of the Palestinian people saw no hope of ending. In fact, for the last forty years since the Occupation, the Palestinian people continue to live under constant harassment and in dire hardship; fearful for their lives, their property, livelihood and more so, their future. They suffered countless human rights violations including extrajudicial killings, excessive and indiscriminate use of force, incarceration, and destruction of homes, infrastructure and agricultural lands. The impunity actions by the Occupying power continue unabated, disregarding their obligations under international laws and conventions, human rights norm and condemnation by the international community including this august body.

3. The opportunities for peace and just solution to this question were there, but the hopes to achieve it were dashed every time. And on many occasions, the blame and the burden was laid on the Palestinians to make more concessions towards the achievement of peace. Surely the international community could not expect those people who had suffered forty years of Occupation to offer concessions, when to begin with there was almost none to give.

4. The failure to arrive at a just solution to this problem has directly and indirectly affected regional as well as global peace and has left adverse, far-reaching consequences. It has thwarted the prospect to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It has hardened feelings and fired up passions of large margins of populations around the globe, particularly in the Muslim world, against the West, which is in response to the seemingly blind eye turned by certain western countries to the excesses of the Israeli occupation regime.

Mr. President,

5. It is imperative that a lasting and durable solution to this problem be found on the basis of justice and humanity. We already have with us the necessary tools towards achieving this objective including the various General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, in particular 242 and 338, Quartet Roadmap and the Arab Peace Initiative.

6. But these tools will remain as just that if we lack the most important component required to make it more effective towards a permanent resolution to the conflict. What is required are sincere, strong and committed political will by all parties concerned. Without a political solution, nothing can be achieved. A just and comprehensive solution including the two-state solution is feasible and achievable provided the two parties concerned continue to be focused, committed and determined to resolve all the core and fundamental issues.

Mr. President,

7. While efforts are underway towards finding a just solution to this conflict, we urge all concerned parties to cease any actions that could jeopardize this effort including attacks on civilian population, either military or economic. The Israeli occupying power must comply with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and international laws and must immediately cease any action that violates the human dignity, economic livelihood of the Palestinian people and that alter the demography of the land through the establishment of settlements and the construction of the illegal separation wall. The Assembly's session today must send a clear message that we condemn these actions as they are immoral, intolerable and illegal since they constitute unambiguous and serious violations of international law and UN resolutions, including those adopted by the Security Council. As the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the Assembly must see to it that it takes up a stronger role in efforts to stop the Occupation.

Mr. President,

8. Yesterday we observed the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This year also marks forty years of Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, the longest in history. These events only serve to remind us of our collective failure to the Palestinian people. We owe it to the Palestinian people that this year would be the last time we would ever observe such events. We welcome the convening of the recent Annapolis Conference which we view as paving the way for the attainment of a just and lasting solution to the conflict. Following the Annapolis Conference, we look forward with high hopes for the eventual just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question including the realization of the two-state solution, of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

Thank you, Mr. President.