



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

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UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF UGANDA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE 35TH MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC)**

**ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

New York, 24 November 2008

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Mr President
The United Nations Secretary General
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

I deliver this statement on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, in his capacity as Chairman of the thirty-fifth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has continued to provide an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine is still unresolved and that the Palestinian people is yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly.

The observance of this Day today, comes at a time when Palestinians continue to live under occupation and conflict, but also at a time when several initiatives have been made in efforts to resolve the Palestinian question.

The United Nations has responsibility towards the question of Palestine until that issue is resolved. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has a strong attachment to issue of Palestine and is deeply committed to its just and peaceful settlement. Its position, and the basis and principles for resolving the conflict, have been clearly spelled out in its communiqués, declarations and resolutions.

The OIC remains steadfast in its support and solidarity with the Palestinian people. To this end, the OIC is ready to work with the International community in promoting the Middle East peace process to reach its objective of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the "Arab Peace Initiative", the "Road Map" and the commitments of the Annapolis Conference.

The OIC supports the resumption of direct negotiations between the leaders of Palestine and Israel and the establishment through peaceful negotiations of a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living side by side with the state of Israel.

There is a need for renewed intensification of efforts by the international community, including the Quartet, to support the Annapolis process negotiations between the two sides and the full implementation of the Road Map towards ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory. The outcome of the Annapolis conference presented a great opportunity for a permanent two-State solution, but what still remains to be done is following the words with deeds.

I thank You