

STATEMENT BY TURKEY

Human Rights Council

XII. Special Session

Thank you Mr. President,

The human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory has been thoroughly discussed two weeks ago during the September session. The decision taken then by Palestine to defer the resolution on the Goldstone report, in order to give more time for its consideration and to facilitate global efforts for the Middle East Peace Process has been welcomed by this Council.

Nevertheless, no positive steps were taken by other parties following this decision and recent developments have even further deteriorated the human rights situation of Palestinians.

We therefore totally understand the underlying facts that generated the need for holding this Special Session.

Mr. President,

We are particularly concerned with the recent incidents in and around Harem Al-Sharif.

Turkey attaches utmost priority and special importance to the protection of the sacred nature of Harem Al-Sharif and the cultural and religious fabric of Jerusalem.

We remain deeply concerned by the continued settlement activities, demolitions and evictions as well as the construction of the separation wall and the restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

We reiterate our call to all parties, starting with Israel, to refrain from any provocative action at a time when the efforts are concentrated on the reinvigoration of the peace process.

Mr. President,

During the September session we have underlined that the report of the Goldstone Fact Finding Mission is a comprehensive document which merits our full and careful attention. It addresses all alleged violations. In view of this, we would like to reiterate that this report should be seriously considered by the Council. We should combat impunity, uphold accountability and act in coherence.

It is our sincere hope that the conclusions of this report could create an opportunity to put an end to the dire conditions in Gaza.

Mr. President,

To conclude, we believe that the outcome of this Special Session must reflect the common concerns of the international community and consequently enjoy the greatest possible support for reaching consensus. We welcome the proposals made to reach this objective and encourage parties to have a constructive approach.

I thank you.