65th General Assembly

Statement by Bahraini Representative

Question of Palestine

Situation in the Middle East/Question of Palestine

November 30, 2010

BAHRAIN: In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful, my delegation would like to thank the Permanent Representative of sisterly Egypt for introducing the two draft resolutions on Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan.

Mr. President, the General Assembly year in and year out is considering the item on the Middle East situation since its 25th session held in 1970 as a result of Israel’s illegal occupation of Arab territories since 1967. Over these years, the General Assembly in each of its sessions calls upon Israel to terminate its occupation of the Arab land and to accept the will of the international community by implementing relevant international law and UN resolutions.

The Middle East region passes through a highly dangerous situation and faces considerable challenges. Achievement of comprehensive and just peace is still inaccessible given Israel’s intransigence in dealing with this peaceful road accepted by the Arabs, which has become a pressing need to maintain international peace and security. Despite this option, Israel still looks at it with arrogance, believing that this will get it more power and more time.

What worsens the situation is Israel’s continued construction of settlements, most recent of which are the housing units to be constructed in East Jerusalem, amounting to 1,360 housing units in accordance with Israel’s decision contrary to numerous UN resolutions which condemn the construction of settlements in the Occupied Territories and emphasize the invalidity of acquiring or annexing land by force, including Security Council Resolution 446 of 1979, 476 of 1980 and 478 of 1980.

These practices flagrantly run counter to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 55 of the La Hai [?]Regulations, constitute its disregard for the peace process. All of us await its resumption on the hope of achieving a negotiated settlement based on the establishment of two states on the border of 1967.

There is no doubt that intransigent positions of the Israeli government and its continuous provocations, which are evident whenever new negotiations loom on the horizon, all this reflects Israel’s lack of seriousness in achieving a just and permanent solution to the question of Palestine, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Given these Israeli positions, the General Assembly is called upon today to extend requisite backing to the political process in the Middle East and to the resumption of the peace process as well. More than ever before, it is called upon to emphasize the cardinal principles of this peaceful process and to force Israel to carry out its international commitments with a view to achieving a just, comprehensive and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on all tracks and on the basis of UN resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly and in conformity with the Arab Peace Process and the principle of land for peace, the road map and other pertinent international resolutions.

The General Assembly, in all its sessions, called upon Israel, the occupying power, to terminate its occupation of the Arab territory and emphasized that the measures taken by Israel in the West Bank, particularly in the occupied city of Jerusalem, Al Quds, as well as the Occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and have no legitimate validity. They are null and void. The General Assembly resolutions, which are taken annually in addition to the Security Council resolutions, all of which focus on the illegal impact of these measures, particularly Resolution 487 of 1980, relating to the occupied Jerusalem and Resolution 497 of 1981 on the Occupied Syrian Golan.

These two significant resolutions rejected Israel’s unilateral decisions to annex Jerusalem and the Golan, consider them null and void, with no legitimate character whatsoever. It is evident that the illegal settlement policy pursued by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, on the pretext of national growth, is unwarranted and unjustifiable. In addition to the fact that it runs counter to international law and UN resolutions, it is crystal clear that Israel’s policy complicates the situation on the ground and tries to impose fait accompli in an attempt to improve its position in any forthcoming negotiations relating to the final status of this conflict.

This policy would hamper the conduct of these negotiations to achieve aspired comprehensive and just peace. Blockading the Palestinian people, collective punishment, storming places of worship, the policy of scorched land and the construction of a racist separation wall constitute flagrant violation of international laws. For peace, a just, comprehensive and permanent peace to prevail in the Middle East region, the Kingdom of Bahrain once again calls upon Israel to pull out completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967 in implementation of Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981. It asserts the illegality of imposing Israeli laws and settlement therein. Israel’s continued occupation of Syrian Arab territory constitutes a real obstacle to achieving aspired peace in the Middle East region.

With regard to Lebanon, the Kingdom of Bahrain calls upon Israel to desist from its continuous land and airspace violations of Lebanon and to carry out its Security Council Resolution 1701 of 2006 and to withdraw from occupied Lebanese territory and the Shebaa Farms and Al-Ghajar Village in full. Bahrain emphasizes the need to preserve the territorial integrity and independence of -- political independence of Lebanon.

We call upon the international community and the Quartet to exert all diplomatic endeavors with a view to giving a new impetus to just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East. Thank you, Mr. President.