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STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. ABDOU SALAM DIALLO
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

29 NOVEMBER 2011

Your Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Your Excellency Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Your Excellency Mr. José Filipe Moraes Cabral, Your Excellency Mr. Palitha T. B. Kohona, Your Excellency Mr. Riyad H. Mansour, Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

When in 1978 our Committee met to observe the first International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, little did we think that, 33 years later, the Palestinians' efforts to return to their homes and live in their own State would remain unrealized.

Although several decades have passed, little progress has been made towards a comprehensive, just and lasting solution. However, despite their historical oppression, the Palestinian people have never given up their identity and their attachment to their land, nor have they lost sight of the goal of regaining their rights to freedom and independence.

The fact is that their right to national self-determination, independence and sovereignty in their own State, and their right for refugees to return to their homes, is unequivocal.

The right to self-determination is also non-negotiable, inalienable, and imprescriptible. For that reason, it has never been on the agenda of the Israeli-Palestinian permanent status negotiations.

In fact, negotiations are only a means to determine the modalities of the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence of Palestine, which does not contradict at all the legitimate right of Israel to exist, a right that the Palestinians have recognized many years ago.

Also, it seems unacceptable to us to want to link the negotiations to the application for admission to the UN of Palestine.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The suffering of the Palestinian people affects all those who love peace and justice. Exiled and occupied, the Palestinians are seeing their land despoiled by settlement activities and the construction of the separation wall.

Subject to a blockade in the occupied territory and caught in a process that has remained at an impasse for 20 years, they need active solidarity more than ever in order to survive and hold onto their hopes.

This obligation to show solidarity is all the greater bearing in mind that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine, until it is resolved in accordance with international legitimacy, which derives from its own resolutions and decisions.

Sixty-four years after the Partition Plan was adopted on 29 November 1947, history is once again knocking at the door of the United Nations.

The Organization must remain true to the objectives of its Charter, which guarantees freedom, peace and security equally for all peoples.

It is clearly high time for the principal organs of the United Nations, and all Member States that support the Palestinians' right to self-determination, to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations.

To that end, I invite you to demonstrate your will to show solidarity by voting in the General Assembly in favour of the draft resolutions on Palestine, including the four that I will be introducing this afternoon.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Quartet should once again relaunch a credible negotiation process, while making sure that the parties refrain from provocative measures, meet their obligations under the Road Map and international law, and commit themselves in good faith to the timetable and parameters set out in the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011.

To that end, the Gaza blockade should be lifted, the perpetrators of grave human rights abuses should be held accountable, prisoners illegally held by Israel should be released and the Palestinians should be supported in their reconciliation efforts.

Furthermore, while I thank donors for their concern, I appeal to them to increase their assistance to the Palestinian Authority, and in particular its National Development Plan 2011-2013, and to respond generously to the humanitarian needs of peoples under occupation.

This need is all the more urgent in the light of the freeze imposed by the Israeli Government on Palestinian Authority revenues.

Civil society, meanwhile, should rally support for peace with justice and accountability, while systematically bearing witness to the negative effects of the occupation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me assure you that our Committee will continue to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are fully realized. We will continue to work for a just and lasting final settlement of the conflict through the two-State solution with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and harmony.

Thank you for your attention.
