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**Statement by
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the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations
before
Tenth Emergency Special Session (Resumed)
the 61st Session of the General Assembly
"Illegal Israeli Actions in the Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory"**

New York, 17 November 2006

Madam President,

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to you for convening this emergency special session of this august body. This gives us the opportunity to express our views on the serious developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In this regard, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Madam President,

This meeting follows the tragic killing in just one attack last week by Israeli forces of innocent Palestinians in Beit Hanoun, most of them children and women. A total of 82 Palestinians were killed in the operations in one week. Words cannot describe the horror of the brutal Israeli military operations and the deliberate attacks on unarmed civilians. My delegation condemns those actions in the strongest terms.

Once again, the hopes of Palestinians and peace-lovers in the Middle East that the Security Council would adopt a resolution that is faithful to the facts on the ground were thwarted. My delegation expresses its deep regret and dissatisfaction about the failure of the Council to adopt the highly-balanced draft resolution that was before it, a failure that is bound to inflame the sensibilities of Palestinians while suggesting insensitivity on the part of the United Nations.

This failure of the Security Council, the second time this year in similar circumstances, can only send the message that the international community

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condones Israel's aggression and policy of terror, and its collective punishment of the Palestinian people. The persistent defiance of international law by Israel will only strengthen the growing global sentiment that justice does not apply when it comes to the question of Palestine. This is a situation that could fuel the kind of hatred that radical groups easily exploit it in their favor. Thus strengthen the cycle of violence.

Obviously, this does not help to nurture trust among the parties in the conflict or the effort to revive the peace process.

In the interest of reflecting the true views of Member States, whom this Assembly best represents, this meeting is therefore of the utmost necessity if a just peace in the Middle East is ever to be achieved.

Madame President,

The implication of Israel's exercise of its military muscle is that the entire peace agenda in the Middle East is endangered, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, and the area is poised to return to full-scale conflict.

This is the scenario that the failure of the Security Council to adopt the resolution last week now confronts us with, but it is not the first time. We call upon the General Assembly, therefore, to condemn the actions of Israel, and take necessary action to correct this by upholding relevant international laws.

We believe that this action by the General Assembly, in view of the lack of agreement in the Security Council, could find alternative ways of the international community to halt and prevent widespread violence in the region as well as deliver speedy humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

Madame President,

Indonesia believes that we must move forward to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the Road Map of the Quartet, the Arab Peace Initiative as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions.

To do this, it is necessary that this Assembly call on Israel to set aside its aggression and its unrelenting military incursions as a tool of coercion or intimidation. Israel must stop its premeditated military tactics against the Palestinian people, and immediately withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip. Israeli must halt its disproportionate use of force and military operations that are clearly a flagrant violation of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and humanitarian and human rights laws.

We fully believe that destroying civil infrastructure and inflicting indiscriminate attacks on civilians cannot be justified. Through these brutal acts, Israel seems only determined to intimidate and humiliate the Palestinians in a vain attempt to consign them to perpetual subjugation and occupation.

Simultaneously, the Palestinians must take immediate and sustained action to bring an end to the violence, including the firing of rockets into Israeli territory, as that would only be used as a pretext for Israel's continued collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

It is also the responsibility of the international community, in this regard, to support the protection of Palestinians and the preservation of their institutions. The international community and the Quartet must intervene to ensure that this desperate situation is brought under control, humanitarian assistance is provided, and the peace process is revived.

My delegation is pleased to observe positive developments in the efforts to establish a united Palestinian government. We hope that the formation of the coalition government will pave the way for the alleviation of the dire humanitarian situation that has been inflicted on the Palestinians because of the exercise of their democratic right to choose.

Finally, Madam President, the Road Map was plotted to lead to a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israel-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution whereby an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state lives side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbors. This is the objective that was originally scheduled to be achieved by 2005.

This process must be put back on the table with the support and active encouragement of the international community.

The reality is that we cannot set back out on this road unless Israel changes its violent and militaristic policies. Those policies contradict the pursuit of peace in the region. It is the responsibility of this Assembly, therefore, to bring this message home to Israel in the strongest language available. My delegation therefore fully supports the draft resolution that is before the General Assembly.

I thank you.