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UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, President of the Palestinian National Authority, on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 30 November 2009:

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the General Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,
H.E. Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, President of the Security Council,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to convey the greetings of the Palestinian people to you and to all our friends in the countries around the world who are joining us in the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. I would like also to express our profound gratitude to the United Nations and its Secretary-General and to the Chairman and the Members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their tireless efforts in raising awareness of and in defending the rights of our people, rights which have been reaffirmed and enshrined in hundreds of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) in 1947 partitioning Palestine and until now in this current session of the General Assembly.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Of all the issues and problems that have faced the international community, only the question of Palestine has not gained the implementation of the resolutions related to it, which confirm the conviction that there is indeed a double-standard

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when it comes to United Nations resolutions, wherein any resolution regarding Israel is not implemented, allowing Israel to continue to behave as though it were above international law.

It has been sixty-one years since the 1948 Al-Nakba that befell our people, who to this day live either as refugees in camps in their homeland or in neighboring countries or in the Diaspora or continue to suffer under colonial occupation. They have lived under occupation since 1967, as all initiatives and negotiations undertaken with the Israeli side since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 have not yielded the results envisaged or hoped for by the international community, namely an end to the Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Throughout all of these years of the peace process negotiations, Israel has never ceased its settlement campaign, arrests, aggression and attacks against the Palestinian people, the latest of which was carried out in the Gaza Strip, during which war crimes were committed against the Palestinian people and their national institutions and infrastructure, as documented in the report of Justice Goldstone.

Furthermore, the current Israeli Government has taken a position in complete denial and retreat from all of the commitments and agreements that we had reached with previous Israeli Governments. There is also a serious acceleration of the settlement policies and attempts to judaize Jerusalem through the eviction and suffocation of its indigenous population, encircling their neighborhoods with settlements in a flagrant threat to the Arab identity of the city and its Christian and Muslim sites. It has also gone as far as endangering Al-Aqsa Mosque by the excavations being undertaken beneath it and around it and allowing the extremist Jews to invade its compound and surroundings, which threaten to expand the conflict to a dangerous religious dimension.

The concept of negotiations for the current Israeli Government is that they can do whatever they wish on the ground and that we can talk whatever we want at the negotiating table. This is something that we cannot accept.

Yet, despite all of this, we assure you again, as we have always done, of our full commitment to a just peace as a strategic choice, and that we have never been an obstacle to the desired peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the signed agreements, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace

Initiative, which was adopted by the Arab and Islamic countries and the Road Map, which was endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003).

We hope that everyone is aware of this and will support this responsible Palestinian position in order to achieve peace in the region and will work together to push Israel in this same direction because its daily practices on the ground confirm that it does not want any step towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict as it continues its settlement campaign in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in grave violation of international law and resolutions of international legitimacy and turns its back on a resumption of negotiations to reach a just solution that guarantees an end to the conflict and the attainment of peace, security and stability for all of the peoples of the region.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is time, after all of these years of negotiations that have not yielded results, for the international community, particularly the Security Council, to shoulder its responsibilities and to take immediate and decisive action that reflects the positions of the countries of the world, which have repeatedly called for the two-State solution and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, in order to bring an end to this conflict and give credibility to the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions.

On behalf of the Palestinian people and their leadership and on my personal behalf, I reiterate our profound gratitude for your support and appreciation for your solidarity over all these years, as well as to all friends and free and peace-loving peoples in the world, who stand by our people in their endeavor to achieve just peace. We assure you that we do have faith that a just peace will be realized in our region and that right must prevail.

Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God.