

STATEMENT BY THE  
PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY  
WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS  
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

30 November 2009

I would like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for inviting me to address this meeting in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of November.

We are gathering on this day to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The Council remains committed to a “comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders.”<sup>1</sup>

Throughout the last year, the Council remained seized of the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and continued to receive monthly briefings on the situation from the Secretary-General’s Special Coordinator and the Department of Political Affairs and to hold open debates, including at the ministerial level. Since this event last year, the Council has adopted two resolutions – 1850 and 1860 – and one Presidential Statement on the situation in the Middle East.

While the situation on the ground remains of serious concern to the Council, the international community has witnessed intensified diplomatic efforts to re-launch bilateral negotiations this year. Council members have consistently welcomed and encouraged

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<sup>1</sup> S/PRST/2009/14 of 11 May 2009

these efforts and strongly hope that they will advance the process towards the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

Security Council members regularly underscore the urgency of reaching a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In its May 11 Presidential Statement, the Council recalled its previous resolutions on the Middle East in particular resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 1850, 1860, and the Madrid Principles, and noted the importance of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

As the members of the Quartet stated on September 24, "the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement that ends the occupation that began in 1967; resolves all permanent status issues as previously defined by the parties; and fulfils the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security."

Today, I reiterate the Council's call "for renewed and urgent efforts by the parties and the international community"<sup>2</sup> towards the realization of this vision. We encourage the Quartet's ongoing work and regional and international efforts to support the parties in this regard.

Mr. President,

To move towards the prompt resumption and early, successful conclusion of negotiations between the parties and to improve the situation of the Palestinian people on the ground, the Security Council in May called "upon the parties to fulfil their obligations under the Performance-based Roadmap refraining from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations on all core issues."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> S/PRST/2009/14 of 11 May 2009

<sup>3</sup> S/PRST/2009/14 of 11 May 2009



Members of the Security Council continue monthly to highlight this call.

We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Members of the Council also wish to stress the urgency of the commencement of reconstruction activities. We wish to commend the laudable efforts of the humanitarian organizations and agencies on the ground, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and its staff. We encourage all members of the international community to support UNRWA with financial contributions.

Mr. President,

Transformative change on the ground is integral to peace. We welcome the Palestinian Authority's plan for constructing the institutions of the Palestinian state within 24 months as a demonstration of the Palestinian Authority's serious commitment to an independent state that provides opportunity, justice and security to the Palestinian people, and is a responsible neighbour to all states in the region.

I wish to reiterate the Council's encouragement of "tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation including in support of mediation efforts of Egypt and the League of Arab States, as expressed in the 26 November 2008 resolution, and consistent with Security Council resolution 1850 (2008) and other resolutions."<sup>4</sup>

The international community should provide assistance to help to rehabilitate and "develop the Palestinian economy, to maximize the resources available to the Palestinian Authority and to build Palestinian institutions."<sup>5</sup>

Mr. President,

During its Open Debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict earlier this month, the Council adopted resolution 1894 through which it affirmed its resolve to strengthen

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution 1860 (2009)

<sup>5</sup> S/PRST/2009/14 of 11 May 2009

the protection of civilians in armed conflict, advance compliance of parties to armed conflict with their obligations under international law, and to prevent and deter the reoccurrence of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. I wish to reaffirm this resolve on this solemn occasion.

In conclusion, allow me to assure all of the commitment of the Security Council to the ultimate goal of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent and democratic state.

Thank you, Mr. President.