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Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Al-Jarman

Permanent Representative of the UAE

to the United Nations

at

the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on the items entitled

The Question of Palestine

The Situation in the Middle East

New York, 30 November, 2009

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank Your Excellency for holding this important meeting, which the General Assembly organizes every year in conjunction with the world's celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to renew the commitment and support of the international community for the efforts made by the Palestinian People towards exercising their inalienable right to determine their destiny, attain independence and return to their homeland.

I wish also to seize this opportunity to express my country's appreciation and support for the efforts made by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and its Chairman, Ambassador Paul Badji.

Mr. President,

The international community recalls today 61 years of the suffering, misery and deprivation of the Palestinian People, which started in 1948 with Israel's occupation of their land and continue until this day due to Israel's serious and repeated violations of international law and human rights. Such human suffering, which was endured by the Palestinian people, collectively and individually, is continuing for years and before the eyes of the world.

The Palestinian People, half of whom live in exile or are refugees in wretched refugee camps and are deprived of their simplest rights, including their legitimate right to return to their homeland and live in peace with their neighbors like all other people, are very disappointed today at the unfulfilled promises of achieving their aspirations for freedom, independence and self-determination in accordance with international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy. Their disappointment has especially increased with the growing hostile policies of the present Israeli Government which follows an intensive plan for the illegal confiscation of more Palestinian lands and properties, expansion of occupation and building of an illegal separation wall in the occupied Palestinian cities and villages, particularly in Jerusalem and its surroundings, with a view to changing the demographic composition of East Jerusalem and its legal structure and Arab identity, in order to create a new reality that would lead to a new interruption of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. President,

The UAE, which expresses its grave concern at the continued deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, condemns the Israeli policies and its occupation and countless violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and its total impunity for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza. The UAE also condemns the continued collective punishment measures imposed by Israel on Gaza including the frequent closures. In this context, the UAE, which reiterates the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Palestinian territory as one political entity in the West Bank and Gaza under the Palestinian Authority and also welcomes the efforts made in this regard by the Arab Republic of Egypt to achieve Palestinian reconciliation, demands for the international community, represented by the United Nations, including the Security Council and other agencies of the Organization (each of these agencies acting within its own field of competence), as well as the members of the Quartet to increase

their efforts and exert further political and economic pressures on Israel to cease its hostile policies and renounce its current hard line positions and comply to the international demands to correct the unlawful present reality it created on the Palestinian Occupied Territories, especially in East Jerusalem. Israel should immediately stop, permanently and unconditionally, under international oversight, all its present settlement activities and remove what is built including the separating wall in the West Bank and around Jerusalem in compliance with relevant International laws and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. We further demand that Israel should be compelled to lift all restrictions on movement, re-open the passages in Gaza and the institutions of the Palestinian Authority in occupied East Jerusalem, release all the Palestinian prisoners in compliance with her commitments to international law and international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Fourth Convention which will lead to the achievement of a final, permanent and just settlement to all aspects of the Palestinian Question, including a just settlement to the issues of Palestinian refugees, Jerusalem and the final demarcation of the two states, Israel and Palestine, according to the provisions of the Road Map, Security Council resolutions, 242, 338, and all the GA resolutions in particular, 181,194 , Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative which calls for the unconditional complete withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territories. In this context, we renew our demand to implement the recommendations of the report of the UN fact finding commission (Goldstone report) and identify those responsible for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza strip and bring them to justice, and prevent the continuation of impunity in compliance with GA resolution 64 /10.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates believes that the Arab Israeli conflict, which continues to dominate all other issues in the Middle East, is the root of tension and violence and the persistent instability in the region. We renew today our commitment to the choice of peace with the rest of the Arab Countries, based on the principles of the international legitimacy and the principles of land for peace. We stress that establishing a permanent, just peace and security in the region is conditional on the sincerity of the international community in showing a genuine and earnest political will to put an end to Israel's aggression and hard line position, revive the peace process, ensure a complete withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and Arab occupied territories since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shabaa farms and Al Ghajar village.

In conclusion, we hope that our deliberations on this item will contribute to strengthen the major role which the United Nations plays in reaching a settlement for the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Middle East according to the Charter. We urge the international community, especially the donor countries, to increase their assistance, political, moral and financial support to the Palestinian people to alleviate their humanitarian exacerbated crisis until the just realization of their rights and the fulfillment of their aspirations to freedom, independence and the establishment of their state of Palestine as an independent viable state, on the basis of the two state solution.

Thank you.