

Meeting : CEIRPP Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

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Speaker : A representative of the Observer Mission of Palestine at the United Nations

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Excellency Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to convey Ambassador Mansour's regrets as he is unable to participate in this important meeting to launch the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People's 2010 Program of Work.

On behalf of Palestine, I am thus honored to express our deep appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon for joining us today, for the important remarks he has shared with us and for his abiding and principled support for the Palestinian people's quest for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination, and for peace and security in our region.

We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to peace and justice for the Palestinian people. In the past year this has included repeated calls to justly address the humanitarian crisis being inflicted on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, a matter you have emphasized as one of the priorities for the Organization in 2010.

With your consistent calls, as well as those by your Special Representative Mr. Robert Sery, and by numerous other officials throughout the United Nations System, for the opening of Gaza's border crossings, for the regular flow of people and goods and for urgent reconstruction to begin, you have been an outspoken

advocate for the Palestinian people in Gaza, who are gravely suffering from the nearly 3-year Israeli blockade in collective punishment of the population and from the loss, destruction and trauma caused by the Israeli military aggression of last winter, from which they continue to be denied the means to truly recover and rebuild.

Of equal importance have been your firm calls for the cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including in occupied East Jerusalem, as you once again stressed this morning, which are seriously threatening the contiguity and viability of the territory and the prospects for achieving the two-state solution for peace.

On this occasion, we also reiterate appreciation for your role as representative of the United Nations in the Quartet where you are custodian of the Charter and the relevant resolutions that constitute the foundations of the peace we have long searched for.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Your presence today and the ongoing work of this Committee are a reaffirmation of the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all aspects in accordance with international law. We thus thank you as well for your support of the Committee and its noble efforts in this regard.

In this connection, allow me to express Palestine's profound gratitude to the Chairman, Bureau and all of the members of the Committee for their unwavering support for and their commitment to the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the question of Palestine.

We express appreciation for the Committee's efforts over the past year to raise awareness of the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people and of the pressing need for a just resolution of the conflict.

We also reaffirm our appreciation to the Division for Palestinian Rights, for its support of the Committee's Program of Work, including inter alia through the organization of important international conferences that contribute to the dialogue and the search for peace and the conduct of the annual training program for capacity-building of the Palestinian Authority staff.

We congratulate the Chairman and Bureau members, the distinguished ambassadors of Senegal, Afghanistan, Cuba and Malta, upon their reelection and we wish them success in their efforts to guide the important work of the Committee in the coming year.

Palestine expresses its full support for the objectives outlined in the Committee's Program of Work for 2010 and reaffirms its readiness to cooperate with the Committee for the achievement of these objectives.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our gathering here today is yet another reaffirmation that the quest of the Palestinian people for peace is indeed the shared quest of the international community.

The foundations of that peace we seek are well known: an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories that began in 1967, the establishment of a contiguous, viable and independent State of Palestine with East-Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and all of its neighbors, and a just solution to the Palestine refugee question on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194.

At the same time, the means for achieving such a just peace settlement based on the two-state solution are equally well known: a peace process based on relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Terms of Reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

What is missing is the political will and determination to uphold international law and implement UN resolutions and to demand compliance by Israel, the Occupying Power, with them, as is demanded from all Member States. It is that which would entirely alter the equation in all spheres: the political, the humanitarian, the socioeconomic and the security spheres.

Thus, as we begin yet another year under military occupation, the Palestinian people and their leadership appeal to all members of the international community to fulfill their obligations to uphold and ensure respect for the law. This must include more than declarations of support, as important as they are,

and must include the exertion of real, practical efforts to compel Israel to cease its grave breaches and violations and to finally commit to the objective of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Let us therefore renew our commitment to exert all necessary efforts to make this the year of peace for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, full well knowing that the benefits to the region and beyond will be enormous.

On behalf on Palestine, I thank you.

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