

**Statement by the
Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights
of the Palestinian People
at the Special Meeting in observance of the
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
29 November 2023**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, amidst the backdrop of a deeply distressing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially Gaza and the West Bank, we once more gather on this solemn occasion to commemorate, in line with the General Assembly resolution 32/40 B adopted on 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Regrettably, despite the Committee's persistent calls for action to resolve the Palestine question, a total of 76 years have now lapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) on the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Sadly, the State of Palestine continues to live under belligerent occupation.

The Palestine question remains an unresolved matter for this organization and our world. Palestinians continue to endure decades of

immense injustice, occupation, displacement, destruction, violence and conflict. Since last October, Israel has launched upon Gaza is enduring a deadly, destructive war, adding to the suffering and pain.

My deepest condolences go out to all the grieving families who are experiencing shock and pain during this grim time.

The current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (OPT) underscores the importance of the 29 November commemoration as a reminder of our collective duty and commitment to address the Palestinian people's plight.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, requires a swift response to restore humanity and human rights. The war on Gaza and the humanitarian crisis are of paramount concern, and their implications extend beyond the region, potentially affecting global stability.

The Israeli settlement expansion, displacement, dispossession, and destruction in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, persists unchecked and must be immediate halted.

The persistent siege in Gaza must cease.

Daily Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians and international law necessitate an end to impunity and a firm commitment to accountability across all spheres.

Earlier this year, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, the catastrophic displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and lands and to where they are still unable to return. It was a sober reminder of the struggle of the Palestinian people to maintain their dignity and memory despite all odds.

Israel has continued to inflict an ongoing Nakba in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, by removing Palestinians from their homes and lands, by expanding settlements and transfer of its own population to the occupied territory in glaring contravention of international humanitarian law.

Today, in Gaza, this ongoing Nakba is openly discussed by officials from Israel and visible in our screens.

We cannot, and must not, remain passive witnesses to this unfolding tragedy. The consequences of our inaction are not confined to that region; they can have global repercussions.

The international community must rally behind the Palestinian people, offering urgent financial, humanitarian, and political support, and stand up in defense of UNRWA's crucial role.

We must also rededicate our efforts, attention, and resources to resolve this conflict. We must re-commit to see the birth of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, as called for by international law and countless UN resolutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us view this solemn commemoration of solidarity as a call to action for renewed hope and forge a distinct, decisive path towards lasting peace and stability between Israel and Palestine – of which all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where East Jerusalem and Gaza are and must remain an integral part - and securing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

I thank you.