



International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

**STATEMENT BY H.E. Amb. Amr ABOULATTA
Permanent Observer of the African Union**

29 November 2022, Palais des Nations, Room XXI

**Ms. Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva,
Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Union Commission.

More than forty years after the proclamation of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/40 B, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories has never been as alarming as it stands now and it continues to deteriorate and to undermine or even damage international relations.

For several years, from this very same podium, the African Union expressed its deepest concern and disappointment about the continued attitude of the Israeli authorities of defying international law and the entire international community.

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories was further exacerbated by the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic which had worsened even more the plight of the Palestinian people already vulnerable to many scourges.

Excellences,

We cannot sustain anymore the current status of failure and indifference of the international community, including the United Nations, to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict, which would enable an entire population to exercise its just and legitimate right to self-determination. Disproportionate Israeli actions targeting civilians, the Judaisation policy of Jerusalem, the apartheid wall, as well as the illegal expansion of settlements in occupied East Jerusalem and its neighborhood must be stopped. The persistence of the Israeli authorities and its allies to ignore all United Nations Resolutions and Decisions and to openly violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, collectively and individually, should not be tolerated anymore.

On behalf of the African Union Commission, I would like, once again, to restate ***“the steadfastness of our position in support of the just Palestinian cause and the continued efforts of the Union to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace for***

the Palestinian people". Such consistent position was affirmed, over the years, by the Organization of African Unity and subsequently the African Union. Africa will always support the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation and establish its Independent State.

The Assembly of the African Union reiterated on several occasions over the years, reaffirmed its commitment to ***"a peaceful political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations (UN) resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of two-state solution and in conformity with the UN Resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees"***.

The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government also reaffirmed that ***"a just solution to the Palestinian cause and the achievement of comprehensive peace can only be achieved through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State, and that there is no possibility of a political settlement and an end to the conflict with the establishment of a State in the Gaza Strip or a Palestinian State without the Gaza Strip"***.

In the same vein, the AU Assembly reiterated that ***"a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 line, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in Southern Lebanon"***.

The Assembly also implored ***"African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council Resolution 2334 and the previous AU decisions in this regard"***.

Excellences,

The disrespect of Israel and its allies to regional and international efforts, and their disregard for the moral and legal principles shared by the entire international community are unfortunately established facts. The failure of the international community as a whole to protect the fundamental rights of an entire population is also another sad fact.

In the same time, however, we should continue to believe in multilateralism and the genuine commitment of reasonable leaders and countries to end this conflict in conformity with international legality and our most shared global vision rejecting oppression and indifference to the misfortunes of others.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that our collective conscience rejects impunity, especially for the most serious violations of international humanitarian law. Our universal institutions reflect our firm commitment to act collectively to put an end to practices that belong to another time.

I thank you for your attention.