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**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
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International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

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

29 November 2024

Palais des Nations, Room XIX

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.

One year exactly has gone since I last expressed to you, from this very same podium, alongside with other speakers, the African Union deepest concern and disappointment about the continued attitude of the Israeli authorities of defying international law and the entire international community.

This year, the situation reached an unprecedented scale of suffering of the Palestinian people moving from public punishment to extermination, which very rightly and finally triggered an arrest warrant against the current Prime Minister of Israel, and his former Minister of Defense from the International Criminal Court.

The ICC Prosecutor explained that *“The judges of the International Criminal Court have found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that each has committed the **war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare and crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts, as a direct perpetrator, acting jointly with others.** The Chamber also found reasonable grounds to believe that **they are each responsible for the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against civilians**”.*

The African Union would like to call all countries to abide by this warrant in order to bring to justice perpetrators of gross violations of human rights amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The African Union would also like to welcome the cease fire concluded on last Wednesday concerning the Israeli war in Lebanon which already made possible the return of thousands of returnees and the deployment of the Lebanese army in South Lebanon. We therefore call upon all parties to abide by this agreement. The suffering caused is too heavy and the Lebanese population cannot afford more.

We also call upon all parties that an immediate cease fire in concluded in Gaza where the Israeli attacks reached an unbearable level and the tragedy is still going on a daily basis. It is all over UN reports and media coverage.

Excellencies,

The question of Palestine remains unresolved after 75 years. The Palestinian question remains at the core of tensions in the Middle East. Israel must realize that the only way to achieve peace is not the extermination of an entire population but the two-state solution where Israel will be able to exist side-by-side in peace with a viable and fully independent Palestinian State, within internationally recognized parameters.

I would also like to renew the African Union call to the international community to work tirelessly for the attainment of peace and provide strong humanitarian, economic and political support to the just cause of the Palestinian people who have the unalienable right to achieve their aspirations of freedom, justice, and an independent Palestinian State.

In the context of the current ongoing crisis, I would like to echo the call of H.E. Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission the African Union to *“an immediate and lasting cessation of hostilities will end the suffering of the Palestinian people, enable the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and other nationals held hostage. A permanent ceasefire will also prompt the post-conflict reconstruction of Gaza”*.

He also reaffirmed *“the full solidarity and unwavering support of the African Union to a two-State solution, with Israeli and Palestinian people living side by side in peace, within secure and recognized borders, consistent with international law and relevant AU and UN resolutions”*.

The Assembly of the African Union reiterated is several occasions over the years, 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”*.

The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government also consistently 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”*.

Excellencies,

This is where we stand 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.

We all need to keep in mind at all times and in all processes, that the crisis in the OPT cannot be reduced to what happened in 7 October 2023 and subsequent days. We must be aware of the root causes of this longstanding situation. It is only through a global and immediate political solution that we can come back to our humanity. We must act, all together, to enable an entire population to exercise its just and legitimate right to self-determination.

Excellencies,

Let me conclude by reaffirming that we all should continue to believe in multilateralism and the genuine commitment of reasonable leaders and countries to give full effect to international legality and to our most shared global vision rejecting oppression and indifference to the misfortunes of others.

I thank you for your attention.