



Speech

**H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha
Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic
Cooperation**

**On the International Day of Solidarity with the
Palestinian People**

United Nations Headquarters, Geneva

November 29, 2024

**H.E. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya,
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, allow me to express the appreciation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations and its various committees and bodies, especially the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), its Chair Amb. Cheikh Niang and its distinguished members for their practical efforts to support the Cause of Palestine and enhance international solidarity with the rights of the Palestinian people.

We meet again on this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People amidst the dangerous conditions witnessed in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially the Gaza Strip, as a result of the crimes of military aggression, genocide, starvation, siege, forced displacement, indiscriminate destruction, ethnic cleansing, colonial settlement, and organized terrorism committed by the Israeli occupation, as an extension of decades of injustice and oppression that constitute a setback to the values of freedom and justice and a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and United Nations resolutions.

The OIC affirmed its position in this regard in the resolution issued by the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on November 11, 2024, regarding the continuation and expansion of this open Israeli aggression against Palestine and Lebanon, which threatens security and stability in the entire region. It renewed its call to the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to assume its responsibilities towards stopping this aggression wholly and immediately, as it is a war crime and a crime against humanity, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and basic needs to the Gaza Strip and provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

These current developments in the Gaza Strip cannot be viewed in isolation from the organized terrorism and severe attacks committed by extremist settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank, including the city of Al-Quds, in addition to the illegal Israeli measures to change its demographic composition and obliterate its Arab identity. We affirm that the illegal Israeli colonial occupation has no sovereignty over the city of Al-Quds and its holy sites, as it is an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and the capital of the State of Palestine.

While we warn against the attempts of the Israeli occupation authorities and extremist settler groups to undermine the historical and legal reality of Islamic sanctities, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, we affirm that this constitutes an attack on the established religious rights of Muslims around the world and represents a violation of freedom of worship and the sanctity of holy places. It is likely to fuel extremism, violence, and racism and endanger security and stability in the region and the world.

We also follow with great concern the measures of the Israeli occupation and its targeting of the presence of the UNRWA, which plays a vital role in providing essential services to Palestinian refugees and represents a witness to the international community's permanent commitment and responsibility towards their cause, and a pillar of regional peace and stability. On this occasion, we emphasize the need for the international community to stand by the UNRWA and support it politically and financially.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Getting out of the current crisis requires the political will of the international community, states, and organizations to transform our political positions into practical and effective measures to ensure the Israeli occupation's commitment to its duties in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions, work to end the occupation and illegal settlement, provide international protection for the Palestinian people, expand recognition of the State of Palestine and its right to full membership in the United Nations, and implement the two-state solution.

Finally, the OIC renews its firm and absolute support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent State of Palestine on the 1967 borders with East Al-Quds as its capital, based on relevant UN resolutions, especially the recent General Assembly resolution on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Thank you