

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
DOC. EX.CL/397(XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **RECALLS** all Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
3. **REITERATES** its full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, and **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the PLO's continuous struggle for the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their land, recovery of their property and to live in peace and dignity in an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital, in accordance with the principle of international law and all the pertinent UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 149, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;
4. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the peaceful solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict in general, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular, in accordance with the principles of international law, all pertinent resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet Committee's Road Map and pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU, aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories that began on 5 June 1967, with the achievement of the vision of the International Community of establishing two States, Israel and an independent, sovereign and territorially contiguous Palestine, living side by side in peace and security;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the efforts aimed at achieving reconciliation among all Palestinian people, as a step towards the establishment of a viable Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its Capital;
6. **URGES** the Government of Israel to stop all unilateral measures, particularly Olmert's Consolidation Plan (E1) aimed and designed to create new unilateral facts on the ground, such as the Israeli decision to build 307 new units inside the Jabal Abu Ghneim settlement (Har Huma); **CALLS UPON** the Israeli Government to immediately stop all its settlement activities which brutally violate international law, undermine the peace process as a whole, and pose a serious threat to the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state; and **ALSO CALLS UPON** the International Community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to cease all its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

7. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the worsening humanitarian situation and the increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, due to the constant Israeli attacks and ongoing bloody invasions, restrictions of movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighbouring countries, which have increased the unemployment rate and poverty levels in Palestinian society, and therefore negatively affected security and stability in the region;
8. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupying authority and denounces its use of collective punishment, repressive practices and policies perpetrated against defenceless Palestinians, especially the daily invasions, assassinations and atrocious assaults committed by the Israeli forces against innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Al-Quds; and **URGES** the Israeli Government to immediately put an end to these activities which are in violation of International Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
9. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the recent Israeli occupying forces' large scale attack against civilian areas in Gaza city, targeting Al-Zaitun and Al-Shujaiya neighbourhoods of the City, which claimed many victims among the civilian populations;
10. **URGES** the Israeli Government to stop the construction and expansion of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, around and inside Al-Quds town, especially the changes and measures that have been implemented in Al-Quds, aimed at altering the status of the occupied Al-Quds; and **URGES** Israel to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and General Assembly Decision ES-10/15;
11. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the blockade imposed on Gaza, whose effects on socio-economic life and the populations are particularly harmful and **URGES** the Israeli authorities to immediately lift the blockage;
12. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to take all necessary measures to contribute to the efforts aimed at alleviating the humanitarian suffering endured by the Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip;
13. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** regarding the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; and **CALLS UPON** the International Community to work towards the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, especially women, children, Palestine Legislative Council members and other detainees who are being held in Israeli jails without any charge or sentence;

- 14. APPEALS** to the Palestinian Legitimate Leadership and all other faction leaders to work towards resolving their differences and close ranks through dialogue with a view to building a united front to lead all Palestinian people to achieve their Legitimate National Goals in conformity with the Nation's right to self determination as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, in order to establish their own independent and fully sovereign State of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital;
- 15. FURTHER CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab land occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1544 (2004), the Madrid Declaration, the Land for Peace Principle, the Arab Peace initiative and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict;
- 16. TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine established by Decision AHG/Dec. 182 (XXXVIII), in July 2002, and **URGES** continued efforts in the quest for a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict in Palestine and the Middle East;
- 17. EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the developments in Lebanon and **CALLS UPON** the Lebanese political players to establish conditions conducive to the holding of presidential elections and to put an end to political assassinations.

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