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THE ISSUE OF PALESTINE

*(Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)*

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1. Item proposed

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union of an item entitled "The Palestinian Question". This is in conformity with the provisions of Rule 8 (2/d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

2. Explanatory Note

In 1917, the Government of the United Kingdom, through its then Foreign Secretary, Balfour, promised Jews that a Jewish national homeland would be established in Palestine. At the end of the First World War, Palestine was placed under British mandate. The British Government then started actualizing its promise, notably through negotiations on immigration of Jews conducted by World Zionism, with the aim of transferring Jews from across the world to Palestinian land. The Palestinian people opposed the project by triggering the 1936 Revolution and the ensuing uprisings. However, the flow of Jewish migrants from Europe into Palestine could not be stopped mainly because of the creation of Jewish militias to massacre Palestinians. As the Second World War drew to an end, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the end of its mandate over Palestine. Following this announcement, fighting broke out between Palestinians and Jews, leading to the occupation of several Palestinian towns and villages and the forced exodus of a great number of Palestinians. Despite UN intervention and the adoption of several resolutions on the division of Palestine and the return of refugees, Israel, the artificial State established by Zionists in 1948, has continued to extend its borders, indulging in expansionism and imposing its domination over the whole of Palestine since 1967.

The expropriation of lands by the Zionist entity and the expulsion of Palestinians from their towns and villages were at the root of several wars and clashes that have posed a threat to international peace and security. In view of this situation, the idea has been expressed to set up two independent States, "Israel" and "Palestine", existing side by side. However, time has shown that this vision could not provide a solution to the Palestinian question for the following reasons:

1. The small size of the territory absolutely precludes the establishment of two States.
2. The two independent States will be at each other's throat since one will consider the other's territory as belonging to it.
3. The West Bank of the Jordan (West Bank) and the Gaza Strip would not, alone, be able to host the Palestinian refugees presently residing in neighbouring countries, talk less of other Palestinian refugees exiled all over the world. Similarly, Israel would not be able to handle fresh inflows of immigrants.

4. An intermingling of the populations of the two States will necessarily take place; there will be not less than one million Palestinians in what is known as "Israel", while about half a million Israelis will reside in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, apart from other religious communities: the Druze and Christians, especially Catholics.
5. Each of the two parties depends on the other for its daily survival: Israeli factories need Palestinian labour to operate, apart from the exchange of goods and services.

Considering these realities, establishment of a single State known as ISRAELINE, which will bring together Arabs and Jews, taking a cue from South Africa, will provide a historic and definitive solution to the Palestinian Question and put an end to the cruel sufferings and painful tragedy endured by the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. Creation of such a State should be based on the following criteria:

1. Return of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to their homeland;
2. Organization of free elections under UN auspices;
3. Elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the said State and from the entire Middle East region.

This is the only solution that can put an end to the Middle East conflict and the threat it poses to international peace and security. Establishment of a Jewish/Islamic State bringing together Israelis and Arabs cannot be a threat to either group. This would be a radical and the best solution to the problem.

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