

**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST**  
Doc. EX.CL/1050(XXXII)

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 and 29 January 2018,

**Taking note** of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and **Recalling** all previous resolutions and decisions of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

**Reaffirming** our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully co-existing with the State of Israel;

**Reaffirming** our willingness to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations Resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State based on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in implementation of the principle of the two-State solution and UN Resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees;

**Reiterating** our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and **Expressing** our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within a fixed timeframe;

**Stressing** our strong position in support of the Palestinian cause and the African Union's continued search for a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian people and **Hoping** that all Member States deploy efforts for the realization of this endeavour in their international relations. And that any cooperation by the countries of the Continent with the State of Israel should not support the occupying entity at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause;

**Further reaffirming**, that all settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights are null and void and illegal, and **Condemning** the policy of land grabbing, demolition of houses and forced displacement of civilians coupled with collective punishment measures;

**Condemning** Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and **Rejecting** administrative detention and condemning arbitrary measures and sanctions imposed on detainees, particularly children and women in Israeli prisons, which is deprives them of their minimum rights guaranteed by the international human rights laws and norms on, including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and

Children. **Calling upon** in this regard the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners detained in Israeli prisons immediately and unconditionally;

**Denouncing** Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories, the escalation and tension caused by the Israeli Government and Israeli settlers as well as the policy of execution implemented in occupied Palestinian territory against unarmed civilians in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. **Calling on** the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities by providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people from the oppressive machinery of occupation in implementation of international laws, conventions and treaties in the occupied territories of the Palestinian State.

**HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **REQUEST** Member States of the Union and **URGE** countries of the world to work towards finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant resolutions of international law and the Arab Peace Initiative. While awaiting the American Peace Initiative in the Middle East, and **CALL UPON** the American Administration to include in the Initiative, equitable solutions to all unresolved issues between the two sides without fragmentation or postponement, in conformity with the relevant international resolutions and references, which could lead to the establishment of two States; an independent Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and the State of Israel, peacefully co-existing;
2. **EXHORT** Member States of the African Union that have recognised and are maintaining relations with the State of Israel to openly declare that their recognition was based on the 1967 borders, and reiterate their recognition of the State of Palestine within the same borders, and refrain from any action that could undermine the basis of the final two-State solution, particularly transfer of embassies or diplomatic missions represented in Israel to the city of Jerusalem which is an occupied Palestinian territory. **CALL UPON** African States those with missions in Israel not to visit the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem except in coordination with the State of Palestine;
3. **URGE** Member States to take into account, in any cooperation with the State of Israel, that such cooperation does not support the Israeli occupation at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause, in line with the noble ideals and the noble foundation on which the African Union is established, the first of which is the right of people to self-determination;
4. **COMMEND AND WELCOME** the Palestinian reconciliation and the Unity Government Agreement implemented in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and greatly appreciate the efforts of Egypt to achieve this reconciliation, and the monitoring and supervision of its provisions in order to strengthen the unity of Palestinian ranks and its negotiating position, and contribute to relaxing the

unfair Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the improvement of the humanitarian conditions of its population;

5. **CALL UPON** Member States to support the State of Palestine in their right to become a full-fledged member of the United Nations and support the efforts made by Palestinians to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;
6. **REJECT AND CONDEMN** the settlements by the Israeli occupation force in the occupied territories in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and **CALL UPON** the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to trigger the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, which Israel is openly violating by building new settlements and extending those that already exist;
7. **DEPLORE AND DENOUNCE** the Israeli policy aimed at Judaizing the city of Jerusalem and changing its historic, legal and demographic character, continuing attacks against sacred Islamic and Christian sites, the imposition of restrictions and tight control of freedom of worship in the Holy City. **CALL ON** the United Nations Organisation to supervise the implementation of the UNESCO Resolution of 26 October 2016 on Jerusalem and ensure the respect of the full implementation of the said Resolution;
8. **REJECT** the decision of the American Administration published on 6 December 2017, which considers Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and believe that this decision constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of peace. Jerusalem is one of the last issues in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the negotiations between the parties. 26 years ago;
9. **REAFFIRM** that East Jerusalem within the 4 June 1967 borders is the capital of the Palestinian State, in conformity with the resolutions of international law and the previous decisions of the African Union in this regard. And **AFFIRM** the sanctity of holy Christian and Islamic sites in Jerusalem and the freedom of practise of religious rites;
10. **CALL UPON** all African States to put an end to any form of direct or indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli system of colonisation of territories of the Palestinian State, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of UN Security Council Resolution 2334, and to take all measures to end such dealings, as was done by the Organisation of African Unity against the Apartheid Regime in South Africa;
11. The African Union **CONSIDERS** that the following Israeli practices and procedures are the hallmarks of a racist regime that call for the immediate intervention of the international community to put an end to the situation, which

is contrary to international law and international humanitarian law, and undermines international moral values:

- The breaking up of the State of Palestine and its geographical contiguity through the confiscation of land for building settlements and the transformation of Palestinian cities into population centres;
- The completion of the building of the separation and annexation wall, and the isolation of all Palestinian cities;
- The linking of settlements constructed by their own road networks and preventing Palestinian citizens from using them;
- The intransigence of asking Palestinians to recognise the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
- The difference in the application of regulations and laws to Israeli and Palestinian citizens.

12. **REJECT** the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and **REQUEST** that all restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip be lifted immediately;
13. **REITERATE** the need to ensure international protection of the land and people of the State of Palestine in order to put an end to the occupation and to preserve the possibility of a two-State solution, in pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 605 (1987), 672 and 673 (1990) and (1994) based on the Geneva Conventions and **REAFFIRM** their applicability to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
14. **SUPPORT** the Palestinian position in its vision of a final solution to the conflict based on the principle of a two-State solution, while rejecting any fragmented and incomplete solution and provisional temporary State, and refusing to recognise the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
15. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon.

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