

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/609(XVII)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and **RECALLS** all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **REITERATES** its full support to the Palestinian people for their legitimate struggle against Israeli Occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to obtain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to restore their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, all pertinent United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 194, which calls for the return of all Palestinian Refugees to their homeland and properties, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its support for a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the principles of international law and all relevant UN resolutions with an emphasis on the establishment of an Independent Palestinian State based on the borders of the 4th of June 1967 Agreement, with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital;
4. **STRESSES** the need for UNSC to assume its responsibilities under the UN Charter, and **CALLS ON** it to exercise its role in maintaining international peace and security in order to pave the way for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations require immediate and complete cessation of Israeli settlements activities in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including occupied Jerusalem;
6. **AFFIRMS ITS FULL SUPPORT** to the Palestinian plan of building Palestinian institutions with a view to ending the Israeli occupation, establishing an independent Palestinian State, and providing political, diplomatic, legal and international protection for its success;
7. **EXPRESSES** its deep concern over the position of the Israeli Occupying Authorities and its refusal to accept international efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive solution; and **CALLS ON** the Israeli Occupying Authorities to

fulfil their obligations and move forward in the peace process on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, signed agreements and the principle of land for peace; and **ALSO CALLS ON** Israel to end its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories;

8. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the latest criminal attack committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the territorial waters of Palestine against the "Freedom Flotilla" and humanitarian activists who came to stand by the besieged Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and **CALLS ON** the international community, the Security Council and the Quartet to urge Israel to immediately lift the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip; and **SUPPORTS** the demand by the Secretary General of the United Nations to form an independent and fair international commission of inquiry that is compatible with international standards, with a view to ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice;
9. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the continuous and illegal violations of Israel in the Holy City of AL-Quds (Jerusalem) and the West bank; and **DEMANDS** Israeli Occupying Authorities to stop these serious and dangerous violations immediately, including the settlement activities and Judaization Policy of the Holy City that will impact upon the landmarks of Islamic and Christian shrines; and **CALLS ON** the international community to exert pressure on Israeli Occupying Authorities to abide by International and Humanitarian Laws;
10. **FURTHER STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the recent Israeli decision that calls for the expulsion and deportation of Palestinians from their land, which is considered a flagrant violation of human rights, and **CALLS ON** Israel to retract this decision;
11. **CALLS UPON** the UN Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly and all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions to reject the illegal Israeli practices in Al-Quds and the West Bank, and **REQUESTS** the UN Secretary General to take all necessary actions to implement it;
12. **EXPRESSES** its full support to the tireless efforts by President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership as a whole to strengthen the Palestinian national unity, in order to resolve the current Palestinian impasse, so as to ensure the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories; **REITERATES** its support for the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA); and **WELCOMES** the President's endeavors to achieve on a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and his commitment to the Palestinian National's principles that proposed an immediate and complete halt to the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem);
13. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the settlements policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially in the city of occupied Jerusalem, and **CALLS ON** the U.S. Administration, as a sponsor of the peace process, to continue to

exert pressure on Israel to halt immediately all forms of settlement activities in the occupied East Jerusalem and West Bank;

14. **FOLLOWS WITH DEEP CONCERN** the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, due to the constant siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, ongoing daily Israeli invasions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighboring countries; **CALLS ON** the Israeli Occupying Authorities to immediately remove these blockades, and **URGES** the United States of America and the International Community to take necessary steps and actions to lift the inhuman and oppressive siege imposed on the Palestinian People;
15. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails; **DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees; and **URGES** the Israeli Government to release all prisoners and captives from the jails of the Israeli Occupying Authorities;
16. **REITERATES** that just and comprehensive peace can be achieved only through complete Israeli withdrawal from Occupied Palestinian and Arab States territories up to the borders of the 4th June 1967 Agreement, including the Occupied Syrian Golan and the lands still occupied in southern Lebanon, and through the Two States Solution with a sovereign, Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative;
17. **CALLS ON** the AU Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine to continue to cooperate and work with other AU Member States in order to develop an action plan in collaboration with other international bodies and organizations in the effort to implement its resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East;

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