



BANGLADESH

Statement on Agenda Item 34 and 35 at the 71st Session of the General Assembly on Tuesday, 29 November 2016

Mr. President,

Bangladesh joins the international community in reaffirming its commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence. Bangladesh supports the cause of an independent, viable and united Palestinian state on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged all concerned parties, *and I quote*, "to take a pragmatic approach and work together for attainment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

We appreciate the Secretary General's reports reflecting his abiding commitment to resuming negotiations on the Palestinian question. We believe the new Secretary General will also remain seized with this issue towards restoring the 'political horizon' for the negotiations to take off. We remain mindful of the Quartet's efforts to assess the situation on the ground for moving ahead with the peace process.

The year 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of the occupation of the Palestinian territories. This should be an occasion for mobilizing the necessary political will by all concerned for meaningful peace initiatives.

The immediate priority for the international community would be to send out a clear message for putting an end to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The illegal Israeli settlements have been rightly identified as the main obstacle to a two-State solution.

The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip is about to enter its tenth year. The humanitarian and socio-economic situation there remains an urgent matter of

concern. We call upon the international community to impress upon Israel, the occupying power, to halt its systematic violation of international humanitarian law and human rights principles.

We reiterate that implementation of the relevant UN Resolutions, the Quartet Roadmap, the Arab Peace Plan, and the principle of 'land for peace' remains critical for achieving a durable solution to the Palestinian question.

Bangladesh supports the Palestinian delegation's interest in playing an enhanced role in the UN. We shall continue to support the work of the relevant UN entities and Committees in promoting and protecting the rights of the Palestinian people.

I thank you.