



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA, AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE”, 14 OCTOBER 2009

Mr. President,

Let me first of all congratulate you on your presidency of this Council and expressed how pleased we are at seeing you preside over our meeting today. We thank you also for convening this meeting and for allowing the larger membership of the UN to participate at this open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the question on Palestine. My delegation also wishes to align itself with the statements by Egypt and Syria, on behalf of the NAM and the OIC, respectively.

Mr. President,

2. The situation in the Middle East particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is perilous and precarious. Urgent, decisive action particularly by this Council is needed to stabilise the situation and to restart the peace process leading to a comprehensive and just solution.

3. The war unleashed by Israel on Gaza late December 2008 had further exacerbated the situation. It has been almost a year now since the fragile ceasefire and that this Council had unanimously adopted resolution 1860 (2009) which among others called for free access of humanitarian aid and other essential and commercial supplies as well as necessary construction materials to and from Gaza, which will alleviate the suffering of the people there. Yet this is far from happening, and nothing had been done to ensure its implementation. The people in Gaza, particularly women, children and the elderly continue to suffer from Israeli actions of preventing much needed essentials from reaching them. Does this not warrant any action from this Council to ensure the implementation of its own unanimously adopted resolution?

4. At the same time, the Board of Inquiry (BOI) set up by the UNSG and the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict established by the Human Rights Council found Israel responsible for the death and destructions in Gaza and material breaches of international human and humanitarian laws. We fully support the findings and recommendations of both the BOI and the Goldstone Report especially on the need for

full investigation by relevant authorities in pursuing possible charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. On this note too Mr. President, we wonder why the silence from this Council on the BOI report despite it being presented to the Council several months ago? Does it not warrant any action from the Council or is the Council waiting for the Goldstone Report to further substantiate the BOI findings?

Mr. President,

5. We are alarmed at the increasing incidents of Israeli illegal settlers' violence and attacks on Palestinians. We are dismayed by the reluctance of the Israeli authorities to prevent such acts. These further worsened the already volatile situation in the occupied territories, particularly in occupied East Jerusalem. We urge this Council to take decisive action for Israel to end all provocative actions, including those, which aimed at altering the demographic and geographic characteristics, and the status of East Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. President,

6. We need to seriously focus our energy and effort at restoring the Palestinians their inalienable rights including their right to an independent State of Palestine. All parties must act truthfully and sincerely towards achieving the objective of a just and lasting solution to the problem in the Middle East. We again urge the Security Council to take the necessary actions that would restore peace and stability to the Middle East.

Thank you, Mr. President.