



**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Kenya
United Nations Security Council
2021-2022**

**STATEMENT AS DELIVERED BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, DURING
THE SECURITY COUNCIL QUARTERLY OPEN DEBATE ON THE
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN
QUESTION**

TUESDAY , 26 JANUARY 2021 (8:30 AM)

1. **Thank you, Mr. President;** Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers and Colleagues;
2. I join others in congratulating you, Mr. Tor Wennesland for your his appointment as the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. You can count on Kenya's constructive engagement through your time and in your efforts. I also thank you and Secretary-General Aboul Gheit for the informative briefing on the current developments in the region and in particular the position of LAS.
3. Kenya condemns all violations, by all parties, that endanger the peace and prosperity of the people in the Middle East region.
4. We are concerned by the persistent acts of violence and clashes between Palestinian and Israeli security forces and settler-related violence. It is our hope that the cessation of hostilities by both parties, and the Israeli government's commitment to policies, legislations, and actions geared towards immediate cessation of settlement activities will pave the way for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.
5. We reiterate our strong condemnation of any use of terrorism to further a political agenda no matter how urgent that agenda may appear.
6. The practicality and full implementation of 2334 needs to address not only the issue of settlements, territorial contiguity, and the viability of the two-State solution, but

also factor in the socio-economic implications of settlements. All these elements have implications on the sustainability of peace and security of the region.

7. Like the rest of the world, the Israelis and Palestinians are experiencing the dire impact of the pandemic on households, and on other income-generating activities. This new threat is compounding the already existing challenges in the region.
8. In this regard, measures that have the potential of acting as bottlenecks to equitable economic recovery, domestic, regional and international investments, need to be reviewed to mitigate against the suffering of the most vulnerable.
9. We call for reinforced cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities in the area of delivery of critical supplies including food and medicine, and movement of health and other essential workers in and out of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.
10. Concurrently, the international community should remain seized on the urgency to support national and regional efforts geared towards the resumption of meaningful negotiations to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of two-States in line with the pre-1967 borders.
11. It is our hope that all parties will come on board, including through participation in the proposed international conference, and in alignment with the agreed normative frameworks, roadmaps, the UN Charter, International Law and the relevant resolutions pertaining to Israel and the Question of Palestine.
12. I join others in welcoming the presence of H.E Riad Malki- Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine. The 15 January 2021 presidential decree on election dates is an important step in strengthening the government structure, fostering political legitimacy, democratic space, and national ownership to all the Palestinian people.
13. Kenya also welcomes the normalization of relations between Israel and countries the Arab World as an important step towards lasting peace in the Middle East. The normalization of relations between the Israelis and Palestinians as two viable States living side by side, within secure and recognized borders should also be a priority.

I thank you.