



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

(Please check against delivery)

Statement

by

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**On the Agenda Item 35: Question of Palestine
During the Seventy-Fourth Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

New York, 03rd December 2019

Mr. President,

I wish to express our deep appreciation to the UN Secretary General António Guterres for his report and tireless efforts to bring an end to this long overdue "Question of Palestine".

The United Nations has been considering the question of Palestine for more than 7 decades and numerous resolutions have been adopted. Yet the hope and aspiration of the Palestinian people to achieve their freedom and independent statehood has not seen realized. It is time therefore for the international community to uphold its responsibilities and take concrete measures towards putting an end to the Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory and paving the way for the peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned over the ongoing conflict and violence in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem. The continued illegal settlement activities, destruction of properties and economic institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory have not only deteriorated the already critical socio-economic situation, faced by the Palestinian people, but also has constituted a breach of international law. We call on the parties concerned to exert their utmost to avoid further exacerbating the already fragile situation and take all possible steps in order to create conditions conducive to the resumption of the peace negotiations.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR wishes to see a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in keeping with relevant United Nations resolutions and initiatives which envisage a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with Israel, within secure and internationally recognized borders. We thus reiterate our strong support for the engagement of many world leaders and call upon the parties concerned to resume the direct peace negotiations in order to reach the final peaceful settlement on this basis. To this end, we need sustained and active international involvement in order to ensure that the parties concerned live up to their

commitments, negotiate in good faith and refrain from taking any further steps which will jeopardize the peace process.

In this connection, the Lao PDR reaffirms its longstanding solidarity and steadfast support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for dignity, justice and their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine that is a full-fledged member of the United Nations.

Taking this opportunity, I commend the work of United Nations agencies, especially the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for assisting the Palestinian people in need during all these years amid multiple difficulties, and I wish the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People every success in its noble tasks.

I thank you Mr. President.