



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE
to the
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
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THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 36: QUESTION OF PALESTINE
NEW YORK, 26 NOVEMBER 2013**

Mr. President,

Malaysia thanks Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo, Permanent Representative of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for his statement. My delegation would also like to thank the Bureau members of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights for the report. Malaysia would also like to align itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

2. The Government and the people of Malaysia join the international community in observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This event resoundingly proves the legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination, sovereignty and independence. In this regard, my delegation underlines our support towards the establishment of a sovereign State of Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

3. As with many others, we also recall with satisfaction the momentous adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/19 on 29 November 2012, which accorded Palestine with non-member observer State status in the United Nations. On that historic day, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on the Assembly to "issue a birth certificate of the reality of the State of Palestine". My delegation looks forward to the day when the State of Palestine will be issued with an "Identity Card", not the one made famous by the late Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish in his resistance poem of the same name, but one that recognises them as a full-fledged member State of this Organisation.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation commends the Palestinian leadership for their continued courage and sacrifices to foster a conducive atmosphere for the resumption of the direct negotiations with the Israeli side. However, it is apparent that this is not matched by their negotiating partners. Although the negotiations are supposed to be confidential, the current results on the ground are no secret – the unceasing construction of illegal settlements and outposts by Israel on occupied Palestinian territory.

5. Malaysia condemns Israel's continued building of illegal settlements in Palestinian lands, including in East Jerusalem, an act which we find even more reprehensible at a time when Israel should be committed to the success of the talks. In this regard, my delegation recognises that the State of Palestine has maintained its commitment to the direct negotiations, in spite of the provocations of the Occupying Power.

6. We therefore urge the international community to demand that Israel immediately cease its illegal settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem, before the possibility of a two-State solution is completely eroded. Responsible member States must also play their part in ensuring that the international accepted parameters of the two-State solution are respected and adhered to by Israel.

7. Malaysia also reiterates our rejection on other violations committed towards the Palestinian people, including violence by Israeli settlers, the illegal construction of the separation wall, demolition of homes and forced displacement of Palestinians, and the exploitation of natural resources in Palestinian lands. Of particularly grave concern to us is the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza. The people of Gaza have suffered months of food insecurity, and now they have to deal with energy shortages as well. Malaysia demands an immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza, and an end to the illegal and inhumane collective punishment carried out by Israel on the people of Gaza.

Mr. President,

8. As a member of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Malaysia endorses the Committee's report and its recommendations. My delegation also welcomes the reactivation of the Committee's Working Group, headed by Malta.

9. The question of Palestine continues to be a main foreign policy issue in the Asia-Pacific region, despite our apparent geographical distance from the Middle East. In this regard my delegation was pleased with the convening of the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Beijing in June this year. We look forward to such events being held as a frequent fixture in the calendar of the Asia-Pacific region, where Malaysia and other like-minded countries would continue to lend our support.

10. My delegation is also heartened to see such strong backing for the Committee from Latin American states, many of which have long been expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people. We supported the appointment of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as a member of the Committee following their application in July this year. We also recall the significant contribution played by Venezuela, which hosted the Committee's 351st meeting in Caracas on 18-19 April this year.

11. Indeed, this is perhaps what makes the question of Palestine so special, in that it reaches into the hearts of people around the world, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. Malaysia supports the noble work done by the Division of Palestinian Rights as well as the Department of Public Information in this regard. My delegation is also pleased to co-sponsor all resolutions under this agenda item.

12. Let me conclude by recalling the message of solidarity made by The Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, in conjunction with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is to reiterate Malaysia's strong support to the Palestinian cause and to continue working with the international community to bring justice for Palestine as we have demonstrated over the past 40 years.

Thank you, Mr. President.