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STATEMENT

BY

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**67TH SESSION
OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AGENDA ITEM 37
“ DRAFT RESOLUTION A/67/L.28:
STATUS OF PALESTINE IN THE UNITED NATIONS”**

**NEW YORK
29 NOVEMBER 2012**

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the General Assembly on this important agenda item. Before I do that, let me join other distinguished representatives who have spoken before me in welcoming H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority to General Assembly this afternoon.

While my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Senegal on behalf of Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the NAM, allow me also to make additional comments on behalf of my country, Namibia.

Mr. President,

Today we observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to highlight the plight of the people of Palestine, who for many years have greatly endured hardship under the Israeli occupation. It is our conviction that occupation of any territory by force is a moral scourge and politically unacceptable. In the 21st Century people

anywhere on this planet are supposed to enjoy life in larger freedom and be guaranteed the right to determine their own future.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution regarding the "Status of Palestine in the United Nations" tests the sincerity and commitments of all UN member states to principles enshrined in the Charter of this organization.

There is a well-founded and genuine desire for the people of Palestine to exercise their right to self-determination. As people who once lived under occupation and have been subjected to a brutal system of Apartheid, we in Namibia know very well how it feels to live under foreign domination and dehumanization by the occupying power. People in occupied territories, like what we have experienced, are dispossessed of everything and live in constant fear of uncertainty. Quite often the people of Palestine watch bulldozers tearing their houses down and their means of livelihood being destroyed. They watch helplessly settlements being built on their land and walls of annexation erected. Much of the land where Palestine is expected to establish an

independent state is being mutilated by Israeli illegal settlements.

We, in Namibia have followed with great concern the confiscation of land, destruction of homes to make room for new Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. Yet, when the people of Palestine come to the United Nations to seek recognition they are told that it is counterproductive to the peace process. One is left to wonder whether there is any grain of sincerity in that argument.

Therefore, one is tempted to ask, how can the support for this resolution and a call to end the illegal occupation of the Palestinian land be considered counterproductive to the realization of the two-State solution? What about provocative actions such, displacement of Palestinians, mass detention of children, destruction of homes and means of livelihood? Do these actions contribute to the peace process? In our view the support for this resolution is meant to enhance efforts leading to the creation of an independent, sovereign, contiguous and viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as

its capital, to coexist with Israel on the basis of the 1967 borders. My delegation does not consider voting for this resolution as counterproductive to the peace process, which in any case has been on suspense for the past few years.

Mr. President,

As long as the people of Palestine are denied the rights to self-determination, Namibia will continue to extend its unwavering support and solidarity with them. We fully support the aspiration of Palestine not only for what this resolution seek to achieve, but we look forward to the day when the State of Palestine, finally joins this family of sovereign and independent nations. The rights of the people of Palestine do not come from the generosity of the occupying power; they are inherently endowed since birth.

Mr. President,

Every country represented here in this assembly of nations is sovereign in its own right; therefore, the action we take should be guided by the moral conscience in line with international law and not by

threats or fear of perceived threats. If we subject our action to fear, then our moral conscience will be taken as hostage by the forces of fear. The Charter of the United Nations calls on all of us "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security" it does not call for division through weakness and fear. As we give our support to this resolution, we call on all Palestinians and Israelis to find the enduring courage and commit themselves to peace so that when peace is finally achieved "Each of them will sit under his vine and each under his fig tree".

I thank you.