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STATEMENT

BY

**LINDA SCOTT,
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I.**

**71st SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON
THE OPEN DEBATE IN CONNECTION WITH
THE AGENDA ITEM “THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE
PALESTINIAN QUESTION”**

**UN SECURITY COUNCIL
NEW YORK
25 JULY 2017**

Mr President,

1. I congratulate you on the assumption of your country to the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of July 2017 and thank you for organizing the debate on the important topic of the situation in the Middle East and particularly on Palestine.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
3. These five decades of occupation in Palestine have seen ongoing violence in seemingly unending cycles. Our debate here in the Security Council keeps us focused on seeking peaceful resolution to this complex situation.

Mr President,

4. During the United Nations Forum to mark Fifty Years of Occupation held on 29 and 30 June 2017 under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), the Secretary-General was on point when he stated that by bringing an end to this conflict situation, a major driver of violent extremism and terrorism in the Middle East region would be removed.
5. There are few who would disagree. Indeed, the Secretary-General's call must be accepted for a return to direct negotiation to resolve the status issues on the UN resolutions, agreements and international law, as well as by resolutely establishing the two-state solution as a basis for peace.

Mr President,

6. When the Secretary-General, on 23 April 2017 at the World Jewish Congress Plenary Assembly said that Israel should be treated just like any other member state, he was correct. Namibia believes that Israel should, just like any other member state, be expected to comply with Security Council Resolutions, and that they should be expected to implement agreements they have reached on the two-state solution based upon the 1967 borders.
7. Namibia has stood alongside the rest of the UN membership in calling for peace and dialogue in order to seek a just solution to the question of statehood in Palestine.

8. Namibia is deeply concerned that the status of holy sites in Jerusalem are not being respected and consequently tensions seem to be increasing steadily. Namibia calls on Israel to desist from building settlements in violation of previous agreements and UN resolutions including UNSC Resolution 2334 (2016) which is a continued affront to the dignity and property ownership of the Palestinian people.

Mr President,

9. Namibia is also apprehensive about the continued tensions which seem to be causing dangerous and global polarization as well as violent extremism. The conflict in Syria and Yemen coupled with terrorism across the Middle East is causing untold suffering and a humanitarian crisis equivalent to some of the worst this world has seen.
10. We urge all parties in the Middle East to work with seriousness to silence the war drums. We once again call on the Israeli Government to end their ongoing punitive destruction of Palestinian homes and infrastructure, and to cease their illegal construction of settlements on occupied territory. We call on all parties to move toward, rather than away from, the tables of dialogue and compromise in order to seek a just peace and solution to the conflict. Namibia, once again calls for Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. We urge the international community to facilitate the creation of a Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders.

Mr President,

11. Namibia stands with the people of Palestine in their determined efforts for the pursuit of their inalienable right to self-determination, justice, freedom and independence, through political, diplomatic, peaceful and non-violent means.
12. We call on you and all other member states to support all deliberations which would result in an end to half a century of occupation, to see the Palestinian people exercising their inalienable rights in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and as a rightful member of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

I thank you.