



STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SELMA ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN VIENNA, AT THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, AT GENEVA 22 and 23 JULY 2009

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Chairperson,

In 1974, when the UNGA reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return, it was in pursuance of the objectives of the UN charter. And when it established this Committee, it did so to realize this fundamental right for the people of Palestine. More than 60 years later, however, here we are still seeking a sovereign Palestine.

Not with standing, my delegation wishes to convey our gratitude to you and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for having taken the initiative to convene the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine. The root causes of the question of Palestine should never be forgotten, and so we commend the Committee for constantly reminding us of the plight of the Palestinian people. There was a time when the question of Palestine was one of many before the UN, including my own, Namibia. Today, almost all of these questions have been resolved and as result, the membership of the UN has changed dramatically. Yet, the Question of Palestine remains on the UN Agenda.

Let me therefore, reaffirm Namibia's unequivocal and unwavering support and solidarity with the people of Palestine in their legitimate struggle for freedom, independence and statehood.

Chairperson

This meeting is taking place at a time when the situation in the Occupied Palestine Territories is deteriorating following Israel's 22-day military assault. For too long the Palestinian People have suffered, loss and subjugation, their human rights and fundamental freedom brutally violated. Nevertheless, history teaches us that no suppression can last forever. Therefore, Israel cannot build lasting peace and prosperity on the ruins of the Palestinian homes and villages. Israel cannot secure its security and stability amidst the suffering and humiliation of the Palestinian People.

The international community as a whole and the United Nations, in particular, need to make concerted efforts to bring stability and normalcy back to the Gaza as well as the responsibility to ensure that the people of Palestine realize their inalienable rights to self-determination and Statehood. Namibia, therefore, urges the United Nations to act decisively by implementing its own resolutions in order to bring a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the Question of Palestine.

Namibia reiterates its deep concern about the closing of GAZA's border-crossing, compounding the already deteriorated social, economic and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian territory. We are also concerned that Israel continues to pursue policies and measures inconsistent with its obligation under international law as an Occupying Power, by committing systematic human rights violations to suppress the people of Palestine, including its continuing settlement activities, demolition of Palestinian houses, the construction and expansion of the annexation Wall and the restriction of the movement of persons and humanitarian goods, food, medicine, fuel, electricity, water and other humanitarian supplies.

Namibia urges the government of Israel to abandon all illegal activities, and earnestly promote peaceful negotiations based on the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions and the Quartet Road Map as the only viable option for a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side, in peace and within secure borders.

Chairperson,

We are convinced that our deliberations during this important meeting will be fruitful and will contribute to the search for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution which brings an end to the 1967 Israeli occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Occupation is anachronistic and has no place in the 21st Century. The People of Palestine like all other people in the world deserve peace, protection and above all the right to exercise their rights to self-determination and independence. The right of people to self-determination is a fundamental human right, which is enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

It is thus regrettable that, in spite of so many adopted United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the Question of Palestine remains unresolved. We must together, continue to make the world understand and act to stop the suffering and humiliation of the people of Palestine and for them

to have their own State. We must not make the People of Palestine loose hope in the UN and the International community, for that would be tantamount to abdicating our collective responsibility.

In conclusion, Chairperson, I will like to reiterate Namibia's unwavering support and solidarity with the People of Palestine in their just cause for freedom, independence and social justice.

I thank you.