

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
ON AGENDA ITEM 37 "QUESTION OF PALESTINE" AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this discussion on the Question of Palestine at the General Assembly. Yesterday we marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This allows all of us to underline our support for the people of Palestine in their quest for peace and justice.

Mr. President,

The support for the Palestinian cause has been a central feature of India's foreign policy even before it achieved independence in 1947. Starting with our vote against partition of Palestine, through India's recognition of the PLO in 1974 as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and our recognition of the state of Palestine in 1988, India has consistently stood by the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

Our Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has reiterated India's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

India's solidarity with Palestine's struggle for the realization of its fundamental rights is an article of faith for us and enjoys national consensus in India. India has and will always support the Palestinian people in their pursuit of legitimate goals and quest for development based on dignity and self-reliance.

Towards this objective, India extended further budgetary support of US \$ 10 million to the Palestine National Authority earlier this year in addition to a similar

contribution last, to assist in their work of reconstruction and development. India has also continued to support UNRWA through its annual contribution of \$ 1 million.

Mr. President,

India welcomes the 'direct talks' between Israel and Palestine and reiterates its full support for efforts to achieve a durable, comprehensive and just settlement. We sincerely hope that the talks and negotiations would lead to a comprehensive peace process for final resolution of the Middle East conflict.

We remain convinced that lasting peace in the region will contribute to global stability and prosperity.

Thank You.

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