

THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Annual Observance International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Vienna, December 10, 2020

Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, I would like to extend our congratulation on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Belarus' leaders attach great importance to the Palestinian track in the foreign policy. The President of the Republic of Belarus His Excellency Aleksandr Lukashenko has sent a special message to the President of the State of Palestine His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas to mark today's occasion.

Republic of Belarus has been consistently supporting the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the people of Palestine, as well as in favor of achieving a comprehensive, fair and long-term settlement of this issue in the Middle East on the international legal basis. We presume that the result of the settlement process should be the creation of a viable Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with the capital in East Jerusalem, living in peace with its neighbors.

Belarus is interested in the further development of friendly relations and constructive cooperation with Palestine.

We consider expanding our trade and economic cooperation to be among the priority areas of bilateral cooperation. We are aware of the adverse factors related to the challenging military and political situation in the Middle East, and the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territory by Israel. Nevertheless, making maximum use of the existing potential for the benefit of the Belarusian and Palestinian people is our shared objective.

Belarus also pays special attention to strengthening bilateral cultural and humanitarian ties. We are working on increasing the number of Belarusian tourists and pilgrims visiting Palestine and the Christian holy sites on Palestinian territory.

Belarus believes that by working together we can bring the day when Palestinians will have their own state closer and build a prosperous country, the establishment of which will be essential for achieving sustainable peace and security in the region.

I would like to wish wellbeing and cohesion to the Palestinian people who have had to deal with so many challenges. I also reaffirm our solidarity with the aspiration of the Palestinian people toward fulfilling its legitimate right to a life of dignity within its national state.

Thank you for your attention.