



**Statement of the Permanent Mission of Malta  
on the occasion of the  
Annual Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People  
Vienna - 10 December 2020**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta wishes to transmit the message that the Prime Minister of Malta, the Honorable Robert Abela, transmitted to the Chairperson of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, on the occasion of the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on 6 November 2020.

*“On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I wish to convey our unwavering desire to see an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The lack of progress on the ground further emphasizes the need to address the longstanding issues which continue to sow additional instability in this deep-rooted conflict.*

*The Government of the Republic of Malta fully supports any efforts to instill new life in the stagnating Middle East Peace Process, while reiterating our ardent commitment to the internationally accepted Two-State Solution, addressing the legitimate aspirations of both Israel and Palestine, in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters.*

*While welcoming the recent normalisation of relations of Israel with the United Arab Emirates and Sudan as well as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Bahrain, we must not lose track of the Palestinian issue and the need to address the needs and aspirations of the Palestinian People as well as peace and security in the region.*

*We welcome Israel’s commitment to suspend plans to annex areas of the occupied Palestinian territories, as per the Joint Statement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of 13 August 2020, and trust that this commitment will be made permanent. This is crucial for the necessary confidence-building measures which are needed in order to establish a basis for the resumption of dialogue between both sides, with a view to advancing the Middle East Peace Process.*

*The Government of the Republic of Malta also reiterates its longstanding position on settlements and the status of Jerusalem. Settlements outside the 1967 borders remain illegal under international law, while jeopardizing confidence-building efforts and imperil the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian State as an outcome of a negotiated Two-State solution. Likewise, the future status of Jerusalem must be mutually agreed through meaningful peace negotiations between the two sides.*

*Allow me to also express our concern the humanitarian situation, particularly in Gaza, which is further exacerbated as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic this year. We stand firm in our solidarity with Palestine and commend the vital activities and role of UNRWA as the main provider of the much-needed assistance to the Palestinian People.*



*Intra-Palestinian reconciliation also remains a determining factor in achieving the Two State solution. We welcome the announcement to hold Palestinian elections in the coming months, following the Fatah-Hamas Agreement on 24 September 2020. It is vital for the Palestinian factions to build on this momentum in fostering intra-Palestinian reconciliation and to proceed to set a timeline for elections, reiterating their commitment to free, fair and inclusive elections.*

*Allow me to conclude by expressing my sincere hope that the coming year will provide a decisive turning point for the resumption of negotiations between both Parties with a view to achieving the much needed long-lasting peace and security in the region.”*

Finally, the Permanent Mission of Malta would like to salute the memory of Saeb Erekat, a diplomat, respected negotiator, but above all a passionate advocate for the Palestinian cause and one of the key authors of the landmark Oslo accords. His legacy lives on. Our expression of sincere condolences to his family and to the Palestinian people.