

***Statement of the African Group on the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People delivered by The Chair of the African Group, H.E Mohamed MEZGHANI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Tunisia***

**1-** I have the honor to deliver this Statement, on behalf of the African Group, on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

**2-** In line with its commitment to the universal values, to the respect of the fundamental rights and justice and on the basis of the long and historical experiences of the African countries' struggle for freedom, justice and dignity, the African Group reaffirms its full solidarity with the Palestinian people and its support to its inalienable rights, as defined by the international law, namely the right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent and a sovereign State over its territory and natural resources and the right to return to its homeland and to fulfill its aspirations to live in peace, security and stability, in accordance with international legitimacy.

**3-** The African Group reiterates its support for the central role of the United Nations to establish a fair, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, with the support of the international community and in line with the relevant UN resolutions, based on the two viable States solution, within secure and recognized territories, on the basis of the 1967 borders.

**4-** The African Group renews its support to the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in alleviating the suffering of Palestinian refugees, and calls upon all regional and international actors to engage in constructive acts of solidarity by raising the level of the humanitarian support so as to assist the Palestinian people to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you