

Thank you,

On this occasion, I would like to share with you the text of the message sent on 23 November by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey to Mr. Cheikh Niang, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. I quote:

“Honourable Chair,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I would like to salute the glorious struggle of our Palestinian brothers and sisters against occupation, oppression and destruction, and reiterate, on behalf of myself and my Nation, our strong support for the just cause of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

The most important obstacle to the establishment of stability and peace in the Middle East is the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories. Contrary to the international law and United Nations resolutions, Israel continues to damage the vision of a two-state solution with its illegal settlement activities, its actions to erode historical and legal status of Al-Quds, its inhumane blockade in Gaza, as well as its usurpation of the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people.

At a time when the injustice faced by Palestine is getting deeper, the international community should put pressure upon the occupying Israel; however, it is Palestine who is expected to make compromises. In fact, it is impossible for the Palestinians to accept “peace plans” which are unilateral, far from equity and do not take into account existing international parameters.

The only way to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to establish a Palestinian State with East Al-Quds as its capital based on the 1967 borders. In line with this goal, our country will continue to support the Palestinian cause in the strongest possible way, as it has done so far.

Permanent peace and stability in the Middle East cannot be established without the embodiment of an independent, sovereign, and geographically contiguous Palestinian State and without the Palestinian people gaining freedom on their own land.

It is vital for our Palestinian brothers and sisters to act in unity and with a single voice for the future of their just cause. In this regard, we hope that the intra-Palestinian reconciliation process will move forward on a positive path and the Palestinian National Council elections will be held as soon as possible. Successful completion of this process will eliminate the division among our Palestinian brothers and sisters and allow Palestinians to act in unity before the international community.

All members of the international community, in particular the United Nations, should now give the Palestinian people concrete support beyond promises. To preserve the vision of a two-state solution, it is important that the countries, which have not yet recognized the State of Palestine, also take the necessary steps and support the Palestinian Administration against the difficult challenges faced by the Palestinian cause.

It is essential for the peace process to function again on a solid ground. In this context, we support the request of Mr. Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, to hold a peace conference on the Palestinian-Israeli issue at the beginning of 2021, under the supervision of international parties.

We also attach importance for the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to continue its works effectively. On this occasion, I would like to express my appreciation for the selfless work carried out within the Committee. May Allah bless your endeavours with success.

Turkey will continue to be one of the strongest advocates of the Al-Quds Cause and the Palestinian issue, as it has been the case up until today. We call upon the international community to support our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Al-Quds, the West Bank and Gaza in their struggle, and on this occasion, I reiterate my most sincere wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the brotherly people of Palestine.”

Thank you.