



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Message from H.E. Mr. Inam-ul-Haque, Foreign Minister of Pakistan
in his capacity as Chairman of 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – 29 November 2007**

1. The Organization of Islamic Conference joins the international community in re-affirming its strong support and solidarity with the Palestinian people for the realization of their inalienable rights, including their legitimate right to self-determination and freedom from foreign occupation.
2. The General Assembly has repeatedly affirmed that the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people is indispensable for the solution of the question of Palestine. The United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy.
3. The root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The Palestinian question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has a natural and strong attachment to the issue of Palestine and is deeply committed to its just and peaceful settlement. The cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is central to the entire Islamic Ummah. The position of the OIC on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the core issue of Palestine, and the basis and principles for resolving these conflicts, are clearly spelt out in its declarations, communiqués and resolutions adopted at the Summit and Ministerial level. In brief, the OIC calls for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on international law and relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) as well as agreed principles which call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and all other occupied Arab territories, the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and a just resolution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948.
4. The observance of the International Day of solidarity with the Palestinian people this year coincides with the 40th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) which had set out the principles for a just and lasting settlement i.e. inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, withdrawal of Israeli armed forces

from the territories occupied in the 1967 conflict, and a just settlement of the refugee issue, among others. That resolution remains unimplemented till this day, like numerous other resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. 60 years have lapsed since the Palestinian Nakba and the adoption of resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

5. As a result, lasting peace and stability in the Middle East remains elusive. Over the decades, this cauldron of conflicts in the Middle East has resulted in untold suffering, death and destruction, caused misery, anger and frustration, raised emotions and bred mistrust, antagonism and violence. There is growing realization nonetheless that the world can no longer afford to let these conflicts fester. The occupation must be brought to an end. There is a unanimous call for achieving comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, for which a just and final settlement of the core issue of Palestine is imperative. There is also broad consensus and recognition that lasting peace and stability can only be achieved through pacific settlement, and not by unilateral actions and use of force.

6. In this context, it is encouraging that our expression of solidarity with the Palestinian People today comes in the wake of extensive regional and international engagement to resolve the long standing Palestinian issue. This includes the revival of the Arab Peace Initiative and the just concluded peace conference in Annapolis. There is a broad willingness to move the peace process forward. We hope the Annapolis meeting will be the beginning of the end of the tragedy of Palestine and will usher in an era of peace in the Holy land. The Islamic countries participated in the Annapolis conference in response to the invitation from the United States to signal their commitment to just, comprehensive and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine and in the Middle East.

7. We welcome the commitment to the establishment of the Palestinian State, and the agreement to start final status negotiations to resolve all core issues including the borders, refugees, settlements and Jerusalem. To be fair, these must be resolved on the basis of the previous agreements, the relevant UN and Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference, the road map, and the Arab Peace Initiative. This will entail Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. We hope the Peace Treaty will be finalized before the end of 2008 and then be implemented earnestly. Delays and obstructions could exacerbate rather than enhance the prospects for peace.

8. In the meanwhile, it is important to build an environment of trust and confidence to support the peace process. We remain deeply concerned over the continuing plight of the Palestinian people, their humiliation and collective punishment under Israeli occupation. Violence and military aggression, grave breaches of international law including humanitarian and human rights law, and socio-economic deprivation and strangulation are affecting all aspects of the lives of the Palestinian people. The dire situation in the occupied territories is depicted in detail in various UN and other reports. The international community must ensure full compliance by Israel of its obligations under the 4th Geneva Convention applicable to all the occupied territories. Israel must also end policies and actions that seek to change the realities on ground that could

prejudice final settlement, including the integrity and viability of the future Palestinian state.

9. There are some immediate requirements to create the conditions for success:

One Bringing about a rapid and tangible improvement of the situation on ground in the occupied territories; ending the oppression and suffering of the Palestinian people, ceasing of military campaigns by Israel, releasing of prisoners, halting the construction of the illegal separation wall, freezing settlement activities, dismantling unauthorized settler outposts, removing all kinds of blockades and restrictions, ending the siege of Gaza and its illegal declaration by Israel as an "enemy entity", and ending of violence;

Two Providing enhanced humanitarian, economic and social support by the international community to the Palestinians; including immediate restoration and unimpeded provision of all essential goods and services to the Palestinian people in all the occupied territories.

Three Providing support to the Palestinian Authority for building state institutions including security apparatuses. We look forward to a successful donors conference in Paris in this regard.

10. Obviously, together with the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, efforts must continue to revive Palestinian unity. Durable peace is impossible with a divided people.

11. At this crucial juncture in the search of lasting peace in the Middle East, the Organization of Islamic Conference re-affirms its steadfast support to the Palestinian people in their rightful quest for self-determination and the establishment of a sovereign, viable and independent Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. We call on all parties to remain fully committed to the peace process and to address all outstanding issues through dialogue. An early comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the core issue of Palestine must be our collective strategic objective. The international community must pledge its complete commitment to this objective and throw its full moral, diplomatic, political and economic support for its early realization. The Organization of the Islamic Conference shall continue to play its rightful role in this collective endeavour.