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REPORT OF THE

MEETING OF THE OIC COMMITTEE OF SIX ON PALESTINE

SUBMITTED TO THE

ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

25 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT
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- I.** The Six-Member Committee on Palestine of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened at the United Nations Headquarters under the chairpersonship of H.E. Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary-General.
- II.** Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the following Member States of the Committee attended the meeting:
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
 - Republic of Senegal,
 - Republic of Guinea,
 - State of Palestine,
 - Malaysia.

Also in attendance were the following Member States as invitees: Turkey, Jordan, Algeria and Afghanistan.

- III.** The Secretary General opened the meeting with a statement in which he affirmed the OIC unwavering position on the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif. He called for mobilizing all political and legal efforts to capitalize on the current international consensus on the two-state solution vision to launch an international peace process under multilateral international auspices, in accordance with a specific timetable, and based on the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. He emphasized the need to continue to exert pressure on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to take practical steps to put an end to Israel's colonial settlement policies, its serious violations in Al-Quds Ash-Sharif, its policies geared towards Judaizing, displacement of the population and demolition of houses. He highlighted the need to approve Palestine's permanent membership at the UN and provide the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people.
- IV.** The Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine delivered a statement that provided an account of the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), particularly in East Al-Quds, because of the colonial settlement policies and the illegal Israeli measures and practices aimed at Judaizing the Holy City. He also underlined the risks entailed by the Israeli aggressions, provocations and incitements against Al-Haram Ash-Sharif and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, while stressing the need for Muslim countries to stand firmly with the Palestinian people through rejecting all Israeli unlawful acts and protecting Al-Haram Ash-Sharif. The Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of taking all practical steps required to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause. He indicated that any such solution should be based on the agreed international terms of reference and the initiative presented by President H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of

the State of Palestine, in the UNSC in 2018, to launch a credible political process through a multilateral international mechanism.

V. The committee members delivered statements affirming their respective States' support for the Palestinian rights and firm position. They demanded that the international community assume its responsibility in compelling Israel to end its violations of the international law and its aggressions against the Palestinian people. They also demanded that pressure be brought to bear on Israel to end its blockade of the Gaza Strip, cease all settlement activities and violations in the city of Al-Quds, resume the peace process in line with the foundations on which it has been established, and implement the international resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

VI. The Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States:

1. The meeting **confirmed** all the resolutions on the question of Palestine, Al-Quds and the Arab-Israeli conflict adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences, Conferences of Foreign Ministers and Al-Quds Committee.
2. The meeting **reaffirmed** the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Ash-Sharif for the Muslim Ummah, and the need to preserve its Arab-Islamic character and to defend the inviolability of the sacred Islamic and Christian sites therein. It also **reiterated** its condemnation of the Israeli illegal and illegitimate measures aimed at altering the Al-Quds status, demographic structure and Arab-Islamic character, particularly through Israel's illegal colonial practices, including the settlement activities and the construction of the Annexation and Segregation Wall within and around the city to isolate it from its Palestinian environs.
3. The meeting **reaffirmed** its principled support for the Palestinian people's right to national independence and the exercise of their sovereignty within their Palestinian State with Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as its capital. It called on the world countries to support the right of State of Palestine to gain United Nations recognition along 4 June 1967 borders.
4. The meeting **affirmed** that peace and security in the Middle East, as a strategic option, is achievable only by the complete withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the OPT since 1967, notably Al-Quds Ash-Sharif. This is in accordance with international law, the relevant international resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative, with all its elements and its natural sequence as stated in the Beirut Summit in 2002. As stated in this initiative, peace with Israel must be preceded by an end to its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories it occupied since 1967, including East Al-Quds. Add to this its recognition of the State of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right of return for Palestinian refugees, in accordance with Resolution No. 194 (1948).
5. The meeting also **affirmed** that any initiative, deal or plan submitted by any party that is inconsistent with the agreed international references underpinning the Middle East peace process is dismissible, will not achieve any results and will be doomed to failure. In this regard, the meeting called upon the OIC Member States to confront any political or financial pressures on the Palestinian people and their leadership to impose unfair solutions to the Palestinian cause and adversely affect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to self-determination and independence.
6. The meeting also **condemned** the systematic piracy carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, of the funds of the Palestinian people, its theft of Palestinian tax revenues, and the allocations of Palestinian martyrs and prisoners, in a notorious violation of the international law and agreements signed between the two parties. It **called** on the international community to condemn and stop such piracy and other Israeli practices.

7. The meeting affirmed absolute rejection and vehemently condemned the Israeli Prime Minister's stated intention to "apply Israeli sovereignty on all of the Jordan Valley, northern Dead Sea and settlements in the occupied West Bank", describing it as a dangerous escalation, a further serious encroachment on the historical and legal rights of the Palestinian people, a flagrant breach of the UN Charter, the principles of international law and the relevant UN resolutions, including resolutions 181 (1947), 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 681 (1990), 1073 (1996), 1397 (2002), 1435 (2002), and 1515 (2003), along with Security Council resolution 2334 of 2016.
8. Reaffirmed its decision to respond strongly to this gravely aggressive statement, while taking all possible measures, both political and legal, such as initiating action with the UN Security Council and General Assembly, international courts and other relevant international organizations and bodies to counter this expansionist colonial policy. It also urged all OIC Member States to raise the issue of Palestine and the illegitimate violations and measures of the Israeli occupation during the 74th UN General Assembly.
9. The meeting **emphasized** its continued and strong support for Palestine's efforts to internationalize the question of Palestine and to go ahead with its efforts to obtain a UNSC resolution setting a time limit for ending the Israeli occupation and providing international mechanisms for the implementation of relevant UN resolutions. It **welcomed** the accession by the State of Palestine to many international conventions, and expressed its strong support for its efforts to conclude its accession to more international organizations, covenants and treaties.
10. It reaffirmed the rights of Palestinian refugees, guaranteed under the international law and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 194 (III) adopted on 11 December 1948.
11. The meeting **affirmed** the illegality of the Israeli measures in occupied East Al-Quds aimed at annexing and Judaizing it as well as altering its demographic and geographic character. The meeting **warned** against the dangerous excavation works carried out by Israel under the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. It **demande**d the international community, particularly the UNSC and UNESCO, to assume their responsibilities in compelling Israel to respect the international law and to cease its illegal and illegitimate practices in occupied East Al-Quds.
12. The meeting also **strongly condemned** Israel's illegal settlement policy and practices inside the Palestinian territory and the construction of the Annexation and Segregation Wall that has caused the confiscation of Palestinians' lands and properties and the isolation of scores of Palestinian villages, towns and cities. It also condemned its continued and escalating aggression against the Palestinian people and the Islamic and Christian holy places in and around Al-Quds, and its demolition and encroaching on the Palestinians' homes, and its colonial practices, including its settlement activities, the construction of the Annexation and Segregation Wall, racial expansion and other acts carried out in the OPT.
13. The meeting **welcomed** the findings of the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests in the OPT, including East Al-Quds, and the events of Return Marches in Gaza issued on 28 February 2019. It documented the systematic and widespread Israeli crimes against the Palestinian civilians, highlighted the importance of holding the Israeli officials accountable for their crimes and the need not to avoid impunity, and **called for** the implementation of the report recommendations.
14. The meeting **called upon** the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to expedite handling the referral submitted by the State of Palestine and to initiate a criminal investigation against Israel, in the light of its continuing perpetration of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, in the OPT, including East Al-Quds.

15. The meeting **expressed** deep concern over the escalating acts of violence, provocation, incitement and terrorism perpetrated by the extremist Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilians and their properties.
16. The meeting **called on** the OIC Member States to take the necessary measures to ban any products of Israeli settlements from entering their markets in fulfilment of the stipulations of the relevant international treaties. It also demanded them to prevent the Israeli settlers from entering their territories, and impose sanctions on the companies and entities contributing to the construction of the Segregation Apartheid Wall and the other illegal Israeli acts in the OPT.
17. The meeting **called on** the international community to shoulder its responsibility in pressuring Israel to lift the blockade and to end the closure of the Gaza Strip, and to remove the roadblocks that tear apart the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and restrict the Palestinians' movement.
18. The meeting **condemned** Israel's defiance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued on 09/07/2004 and its non-compliance with the UNGA Resolution ES-15/10 of 20/07/2004, as well as its persistence in constructing the Segregation Apartheid Wall in the OPT, within and around East Al-Quds. Therefore, the meeting **renewed** its call for the observance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the implementation of Resolution ES-15/10, and **called on** all States to impose punitive sanctions on the entities and companies contributing to the construction of the Segregation Apartheid Wall and its overall system.
19. The meeting **affirmed** the relevant international resolutions on Palestine, and stressed the need to implement them and to ensure commitment to the principles and resolutions of the international law, particularly the provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) adopted on 12/08/ 1949.
20. The meeting **reaffirmed** its support for comprehensive peace based on the relevant UN resolutions, including UNSC Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), as well as the agreed principles which call upon Israel to withdraw fully from the OPT, including East Al-Quds and the other Arab occupied territories.
21. The meeting **expressed** profound concern at the tragic conditions of the Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centres. It **demande**d the international community, represented by the international humanitarian and human rights organisations, to expose Israel's inhumane practices in its prisons and to exert pressure on Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners detained in its prisons.
22. The meeting **reaffirmed** the UN continued responsibility toward the cause of Palestine until reaching a just and comprehensive solution. This solution should end the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights, including right to self-determination, independence and establishing their State on their national soil with East Al-Quds as its capital, and the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homes.
23. The meeting **reaffirmed** rejection of the US President's illegal decision to recognize Al-Quds as the so-called capital of Israel and to relocate the US embassy there, considering it a null and void decision and a violation of international legitimacy resolutions. It also **reaffirmed** the OIC position that Al-Quds was, is , and will remain the eternal capital of the State of Palestine and that this decision will never change the legal status of the occupied city, nor will it give any legitimacy to its illegal annexation by Israel, the occupying Power.
24. The meeting **called upon** the OIC Member States to boycott those countries that have already opened diplomatic missions in Al-Quds Ash-Sharif and to stop any kind of relations, trade exchanges and visits with them, be they political, cultural, sports or artistic joint activities until they retreat from that and abide by the UNSC relevant resolutions.

25. The meeting **called on** all States to continue to implement UNSC Resolution 478 (1980) and refrain from supporting the US decision to recognize Al-Quds as the alleged capital of Israel and from transferring their diplomatic missions to it.
26. The meeting **affirmed** that Israel, the occupying Power, is not eligible to undertake any roles at the UN and at other international organizations being an occupying state, which violates and disregards the international law, the international humanitarian law and international legitimacy resolutions. The meeting **called on** the OIC Member States to abstain from supporting any candidature of Israel, the occupying Power, at any international forum, especially its endeavour to obtain a non-permanent seat at the UNSC whose resolutions it refuses to implement, the latest of which being Resolution 2334 (2016).
27. The meeting **emphasized** the need to continue to ascertain that the Israeli credentials presented to the UN do not include the territories IT occupied since 1967, including East Al-Quds.
28. The meeting **renewed** its demand to the States and international institutions and bodies to abide by the international resolutions on East Al-Quds as an integral part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967. It also **called on** them not to participate in any meeting or activity that serves Israel's objectives of consolidating its occupation and annexation of the Holy City.
29. The meeting **condemned** Israel's attempt to alter the structure, identity and historical character of the city of Al-Quds forcefully, and changing the names of streets under its occupation, and **requested** the international community not to give in to the Israeli attempts aimed at obliterating the geography and demography of the occupied areas, in a flagrant violation of the international law.
30. The meeting **affirmed** the need to implement UNSC Resolution 237 on the return of the displaced Palestinians, and UNGA Resolution 194 on the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes and properties as two fundamental foundations of any just and comprehensive settlement.
31. The meeting **affirmed** the significant role of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in alleviating the plight of the Palestinian refugees, assisting in providing regional stability and providing vital services to some 5.5 million Palestinian refugees. The meeting **rejected** any prejudice to its role or cancellation of its mandate. The meeting **called upon** the OIC Member States to finance the Development Endowment Fund, which aims to provide sustainable support to the UNRWA, especially after the US cut its aid and in light of its attempts to cancel the Palestinians' right of return.
32. The meeting **renewed** its demand for the OIC Member States to abide by the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Conferences of Foreign Ministers on the cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, during voting at the United Nations and international fora. It expressed disappointment at the lack of sufficient support for Palestine to join the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
33. The meeting **decided** to mandate the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to intensify contacts and coordination on the cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict between the OIC, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Union and the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It **commended** these the positions of solidarity expressed by these bodies and their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

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