

Draft PRST – Gaza (6 January 2009)

The SC stresses the urgent need for an immediate and durable ceasefire.

The SC emphasizes that a durable ceasefire will require arrangements and guarantees, including preventing illegal trade and reopening of crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. In this regard, the SC welcomes the French-Egyptian plan and encourages all actors to support these efforts.

The SC expresses its grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and calls for immediate and full humanitarian access including provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, food, fuel, and medical treatment. The SC welcomes in this regard the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid.

The SC demands that the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations be protected.

The SC calls on member states to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza, and furthermore calls on member states to increase contributions to UNRWA.

The SC reiterates that there is no military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and calls for renewed and urgent efforts by the parties and the international community to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders, as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1850, and recalling also the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative. The SC welcomes the Quartet's consideration, in consultation with the parties, of an international meeting in Moscow in 2009.

The SC encourages tangible progress towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation including in support of mediation efforts by Egypt and the League of Arab states, as expressed in its November 26th statement and consistent with UNSC resolutions.

The SC will remain actively engaged on this issue and will take comprehensive action as Egyptian and other international initiatives will materialize.