

**Statement by
the Indonesian delegation
at the Third Special Session on Palestine of the Human Rights Council**

Geneva, 15 November 2006

Mr President,

First of all, I should like to thank you, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, for answering the calls to convene this Special Session on the situation in Palestine at this time of renewed crisis as a result of the latest spate of attacks on Gaza, and specifically of the deadly strikes on the town of Beit Hanoun. We have had two special sessions previously, in the same Council, and yet such incidents happened still. Such a situation certainly warrants the immediate holding of a Special Session. All the more so since this is the only forum we can effectively discuss the issue. We sincerely hope that this meeting can finally push events in the direction of the rule of law and the principles of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to prevail over violence.

In the same spirit, we associate ourselves with the pertinent statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr President,

We cannot but condemn and reject an indefensible reasoning which seeks to annihilate whole residential areas, destroy vital infrastructures and kill innocents. If attacks on this scale are not proportionate with the threat a country actually faces, it violates the laws of war, and what is called "legitimate self-defence" becomes grossly distorted into wholesale destruction.

My delegation is deeply concerned by a general situation on the ground which continues to deteriorate as military attacks continue to take lives, cause casualties and destroy life-supporting facilities, thereby increasing the occupying power's stranglehold on the civilian population of the occupied Palestinian territories, making survival against overwhelming odds ever more difficult.

In this regard, Mr President, we are especially concerned that little or nothing tangible has as yet been done to implement the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Special Session on Palestine last July. Not only is this damaging in terms of the legitimate expectations of the people whose suffering over 35 years of continual conflict cries out for action, it is also damaging for the credibility of the Human Rights Council as a body expected to emerge stronger and endowed with greater capability for action as a result of the important UN reforms which it is supposed to reflect.

Thus, the Council should direct its utmost efforts at presenting a strong, cohesive and, above all, determined front. In this regard, we believe that the recommendation contained in the draft resolution to send a High-level fact-finding mission to the Occupied Palestinian Territories should be actively pursued.

Mr President,

The humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories offends all the principles enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration and the international human rights instruments. It is dire in the extreme for the civilian population, which has endured every manner of loss, deprivation and trauma for decades. This Council owes it to them to put all its resources and determination into motivating the Security Council, the Quartet and the international community to find the political will to get the peace process underway again without delay.

To delay is to create a dangerous void in which the conditions for aggression and the temptation to respond with further violence are enhanced. We, in this Council, must stand by our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and translate this into action in order that this negative cycle can be broken, and that a cease-fire can be instituted and above all respected by both parties, to pave the way towards a fair and lasting peace. The establishment of such a peace is urgent not only for the conflicting parties but for the Middle East as a whole and, beyond it, for the world.

Thank you.