

Statement by Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales (Peru), President of the Security Council for the month of November 2006, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Mr. Chairman:

At the outset, I would like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for inviting me to address this meeting in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of November.

Every year since the 1970s we gather today to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This is an important occasion to renew the commitment of the international community to facilitate a lasting and sustainable peace settlement in Palestine and the Middle East as a whole.

The Security Council continues to closely monitor the events in the region. Every month we have a briefing by the Secretary General or his Special Representative and Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. When it is required by the circumstances, as it has happened this year, the Council holds additional meetings dedicated to this issue.

The Security Council is concerned with the deterioration on the ground as a result of violence that adversely affects the civilian population and causes damage to the infrastructure. This environment poses serious obstacles to progress and undermines the efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

The Security Council urges Israel to act with restraint when confronting individual acts of violence that hit its territory. It is undeniable that any State has the right of self defense. But it is important that this right be exercised with restraint, mindful of the consequences. By the same token, the Palestinian

Authority must take steps to ensure the rule of law and halt acts of violence and terror against civilians.

Over the last year, the Security Council has continued to deal with the Middle East Peace Process on the basis of its relevant resolutions, the foundations of the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace and the agreements of all parties involved. The Security Council has also continued to support the work of the Quartet and the implementation of the Road Map that is the cornerstone for a permanent two state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Council calls on the parties concerned to comply with their obligations to the Road Map and to the requirements made by the Quartet. The Council appreciates regional efforts of Arab States in the quest for peace and stability in the Middle East.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure the Committee that the Security Council supports the efforts aimed at bringing a settlement in accordance with the two-state vision. The current situation in the Middle East underscores the need to implement without delay the Road Map to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, on the basis of the corresponding resolutions of the Security Council so that the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian People, namely a sovereign, stable, democratic and viable State will be fulfilled.

Thank you.