

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTION**



**DECLARATION
ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/930(XXVIII)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Africa from 30 to 31 January 2016;

TAKING NOTE of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and **RECALLING** all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the Situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

REAFFIRMS our full support to the Palestinian people in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate rights to establish an independent State co-existing peacefully with the State of Israel;

REITERATING our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions; and **EXPRESSING** support for the two-state solution;

RENEWING our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

COMMENDING the AU Member States as well as the UN Agencies that raised the Palestinian Flag in political support of the State of Palestine;

CONDEMNING the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes, a sectarian concept which undermines the foundation of the peace process;

DENOUNCING the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, which are contrary to the international law and international humanitarian law, and **CALLING** on the Israeli government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails;

EQUALLY DEMANDING that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian's civilian populations as well as arbitrary arrests of Palestinians including children and women which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children;

FURTHER CONDEMNING Israel for withholding Palestinian funds and tax revenues, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and **CALLING** on the international community to put pressure on Israel to release Palestinian tax funds that has withheld.

FURTHER CONDEMNING WE HEREBY:

1. **CALL ON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols;
2. **REJECT** the land and sea blockage imposed on the Gaza Strip, which led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and **DEMANDS** an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
3. **URGE** the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of a two-state solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the Council in this regard;
4. **REQUEST** Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
5. **REQUEST** the United Nations and the Quartet to move immediately to shoulder their responsibilities and pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace process negotiations;
6. **FURTHER REQUEST** Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign state over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
7. **REAFFIRM** the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian Independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
8. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon.