

Mr. Djani (Indonesia):

Let me begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to the presidency of the People's Republic of China for convening this open debate, and to the Secretary-General for his briefing.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to express condolences to the Governments of Ecuador and Japan for the tragic loss of lives resulting from the devastating earthquakes last week. Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the State of Kuwait on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

This debate comes at a time when there is increasing global concern about the prospects for peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Last January, the Secretary-General spoke about the growing frustration, alienation and despair felt by the Palestinians with regard to the prolonged occupation of their homeland. Since then, violence in the occupied Palestinian territory has continued to grow at an alarming pace. No progress can be seen in the efforts to halt the violence or address the injustice and oppression committed against Palestinians. Indonesia is following with deep concern that troubling development. Not only does the continued violence reflect the hurdles on the way of peace, it also symbolizes the hardening of suspicion and animosity between the two peoples, which could hinder efforts to restart the political process.

Indonesia remains convinced that the occupation must be brought to an end and that all efforts must be exerted to achieve the two-State solution. Indeed, last month, the fifth Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, hosted by the Government of Indonesia, drew the attention of the international community to the urgency of attaining a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. The Summit also called on the international community to support the boycott of products produced in or by the illegal Israeli settlements. Israel's continued construction of illegal settlements in and around East Jerusalem, along with other illegal activities, poses a further challenge to efforts to find a wise course of action. It is the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to observe and comply with its international obligations, such as the protection of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and to prevent the occurrence of extrajudicial killings, which have been rampant in recent times.

Israel must also realize that its restrictions on the movements of Palestinians and the arbitrary conduct of its security forces against Palestinians can only breed anger and resentment and that it must refrain from committing collective punishment.

The United Nations has adopted hundreds of resolutions on the question of Palestine since the Organization was established. Last month, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted yet another resolution on the situation of Palestinian women, which Indonesia co-sponsored. Sadly, despite the overwhelming support of Member States for all resolutions on the question of Palestine, no substantial efforts have been undertaken to implement them. Indonesia has repeatedly called on the Security Council to delay no further in ensuring that Israel complies with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The Council must also pave the way for the resumption of a credible peace process aimed at putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The world cannot wait any longer for us to hold briefings and closed consultations while people are losing their lives and the two-State solution is fading away. In that regard, I would like to express Indonesia's appreciation for the initiative on the part of the relevant parties to mobilize the support of the international community and push the peace process forward.

With regard to the conflict in Syria, Indonesia once again urges all concerned and interested parties to work hard to bring the conflict to an end and allow humanitarian assistance to reach all those in need. It is absolutely intolerable that the conflict, which has been ongoing for approximately five years, has dragged on for so long, with repercussions now being felt around the world.

That fact only underlines the imperative of an inclusive process involving all Syrians to settle the conflict. Indonesia remains hopeful that the round of peace talks that began in Geneva last week will build the momentum needed for an inclusive political process. We commend the work of the United Nations in facilitating the talks, especially the dedication shown by the Special Envoy, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, and encourage all parties to the conflict to respect the goals of peace and humanity. We urge all Syrians to make full use of the current diplomatic impetus by swiftly reaching a political settlement that can serve as a basis for future peace and stability in Syria.

With respect to Yemen and Libya, we welcome the continued dialogue that could boost efforts to restore national unity and peace in the region. What is at stake are the lives of many innocent civilians.

Lastly, Indonesia remains steadfast in its commitments to ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East and will do its utmost to attain that noble objective.

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