65th General Assembly

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Question of Palestine

November 30, 2010

ABDOU SALAM DIALLO: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor and pleasure for the first time in my new capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to address the General Assembly plenary meeting on the important agenda item on the question of Palestine. Please allow me at the outset to express on behalf of our committee our appreciation to all of you for attending this morning's special meeting of our committee in observance of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Before I introduce for your consideration the four resolutions drafted by our committee under this agenda item, I would like to make a few remarks about the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and developments in the political process.

President, ladies and gentlemen, the situation of the Jewish settlements is increasingly receiving attention, particularly as it affects the prospects of the resumption of direct Israeli/Palestinian negotiations. Our committee calls in Israel to restore the settlement moratorium, extend it indefinitely and apply it also to East Jerusalem.

Our committee is deeply alarmed by the unilateral measures aimed altering the political demographic and political realities, demographic legal realities in this holy city, movement restrictions and check points aiming to create a divide between East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied West Bank.

Moreover, the committee is particularly concerned by the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, caused in particular by the Israeli economic blockade. That is why the committee would like to recall that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine. Until it is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy. Our committee, for its part, intends to continue playing a constructive role in support of the international communities efforts aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution of the question of Palestine.

Our committee has been a strong support of the two-state solution, where an independent, sovereign state of Palestine will be established within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. Such a solution should also bring peace and security to the Israeli people and open a way towards Israel's full integration into the region in keeping with the Arab peace initiative.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to introduce to the assembly the four draft resolutions approved by the committee and circulated under this agenda item, namely L/65/L-14, A/65/L-15, A/65/L-16 and A/65/L-17. The first three drafts concern the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the division of the rights of the Palestinians of the Secretariat and the special information program on the question of Palestine in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. It confirms the important missions conferred by the GA to these entities.

As in the past, the committee intends to make sure that resources available to it are employed in a cost-effective manner for all mandated activities. The three drafts have been updated. The fourth draft entitled, "L-17, Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine" reiterates the position of the General Assembly with regard to the essential elements of such a settlement and includes references to the developments of the past year. This draft inter alia reaffirms the General Assembly's full support for the Middle East peace process based on the relevant United Nations' resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative, the quartets roadmap and existing agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

The four draft resolutions that I have just introduced outline positions, mandates and programs that are of special importance, particularly at the present crucial juncture. I would like to call on the General Assembly to vote in favor of these resolutions and support the important goals contained therein. Thank you.