

General Secretariat

The address of Ambassador Dr. Faed Mustafa- Assistant Secretary-General
Head of the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Sector-Conference of
Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs in Arab Host Countries

Cairo

7-11 December 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Heads of delegations of Arab States and organisations,
Brothers and sisters in attendance,
Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 114th session of the Conference of Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs in Arab Host Countries, and to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, together with his best wishes for the success of your deliberations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
There is no doubt that the Palestinian cause has been passing through one of its most perilous phases over the past two years. The Israeli occupation state has sought—and continues to seek—to displace the Palestinian people and implement what is referred to as the “Decisive Plan,” aimed at terminating the Palestinian cause and eliminating any prospect of establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

A genocidal war was waged against the Gaza Strip, intended to destroy all aspects of life and render the territory uninhabitable, thereby pressuring its population to leave. Yet the legendary resilience of the people of Gaza thwarted all Israeli designs. The ceasefire agreement, followed by the Sharm El-Sheikh Conference and the subsequent adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2803, marked the beginning of a critical phase—one that requires action on all fronts to translate the provisions of the resolution into concrete realities that improve the daily lives of the Palestinian people. This includes a full Israeli withdrawal, unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, the start of reconstruction efforts, and ultimately the realisation of the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The situation in the West Bank remains exceedingly dangerous, as the Israeli occupation government persists in its efforts to impose new facts on the ground. This is compounded by the continued terrorism and attacks carried out by armed settler gangs with the direct support of the occupation army. These acts form part of a systematic official policy of burning, uprooting, and destroying property; imposing isolation and closures; carrying out extrajudicial killings; Judaizing the land; and practicing racial discrimination, ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and colonial expansion. All of this is aimed at implementing plans to annex the West Bank and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

In this context, we take positive note of the statement issued on 27 November 2025 by the E4 Group—France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom—which calls on the Israeli government to immediately halt settler attacks against Palestinian civilians, to fulfil its obligations as an occupying power, to hold perpetrators of violence accountable, and to ensure the protection of the civilian population. The statement further welcomes President Trump's unequivocal opposition to annexation, reiterates the E4 countries' rejection of any form of annexation—whether partial, complete, or de facto—and their opposition to settlement policies that contravene international law. It also urges the Israeli government to release the tax revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority, to expand the correspondent banking arrangements between Israeli and Palestinian banks, and to permit increased transfers of shekels. These measures are vital for Palestinian civilians and for enabling the Palestinian Authority to provide essential public services.

This statement represents a significant development in the mounting international censure of the Israeli occupation government, and we hope it will be translated into concrete steps that compel Israel to comply with international law and relevant UN resolutions. I also welcome the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 3 December 2025, which calls for Israel's full withdrawal from all Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and for the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people—foremost among them the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state—and for a just resolution of the Palestinian refugee question in accordance with UN Resolution 194 of 11 December 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNRWA continues to embody the international community's commitment to the Palestinian refugee issue until a just solution is achieved in line with international law, particularly Resolution 194. Over the years, UNRWA has been subjected to systematic campaigns aimed at dismantling its operations and eliminating its role. This

campaign culminated in the Israeli Knesset's decision to ban UNRWA in the occupied Palestinian territory, which came into force in January. The purpose of this decision is to terminate UNRWA's presence and to shut down its schools and offices in Jerusalem. The most recent legislative measure targeting the Agency was the Knesset's preliminary approval of a draft resolution to cut water and electricity supplies to UNRWA facilities. This is in addition to other challenges the Agency faces. In the Gaza Strip, UNRWA is being deliberately targeted—its headquarters and services attacked to prevent it from fulfilling its UN mandate—resulting in the martyrdom of 380 UNRWA staff members.

UNRWA is also grappling with a severe financial crisis, with a deficit of \$200 million at the end of this year. This shortfall is having an unprecedented impact on the delivery of services across all five of the Agency's fields of operation. In this regard, I wish to stress our full support for UNRWA and its efforts to secure the necessary funding to continue fulfilling its mandate. We call upon all peace-loving and justice-seeking nations to contribute what they can to support UNRWA and enable it to sustain its role under these critical circumstances. We likewise urge them to uphold the positive elements of UNRWA's strategic review—its vital and indispensable role, its neutrality, and its effectiveness—and to safeguard its continued existence and the full execution of the duties entrusted to it under its founding mandate. Furthermore, we call for the establishment by the United Nations of an international commission of inquiry to hold accountable those responsible for the killing of 380 UNRWA staff members and to bring them before effective international justice mechanisms.

Furthermore, we warmly welcome the five resolutions adopted last Friday by the United Nations General Assembly concerning the State of Palestine, including the resolution renewing UNRWA's mandate for an additional three years. We express our gratitude to all countries for this strong support and for the growing solidarity within the international community—particularly on the question of Palestinian refugees—at a time when the Palestinian people continue to endure brutal aggression in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We also welcome the statement issued last Friday by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab and Islamic States, in which they voiced deep concern over Israeli declarations regarding the opening of the Rafah crossing in one direction only—an approach that effectively seeks to displace the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

We affirm that Israel's attempts to displace the Palestinian people from their land—whether through military coercion, illegal unilateral measures, or the deliberate creation and perpetuation of inhumane living conditions—constitute a continuation

of occupation policies aimed at eroding prospects for peace and undermining the Palestinian presence on their national soil. These attempts will be met with a unified Arab, Islamic, and international position that rejects any infringement upon the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, your meeting, distinguished delegates, is convened with a comprehensive agenda reflective of the evolving Palestinian situation. Your prudent and constructive consideration of these items will undoubtedly contribute to supporting Palestine and its just struggle to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank you, and once again, I welcome you to the headquarters of the League of Arab States.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.