



UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

PRESS CONFERENCE

25 May 2010, Sheraton Hotel Istanbul Ataköy, 11:15 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Ladies and gentlemen of the press,

The goal of our gathering, the United Nations International Meeting in Support of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, has been to provide a forum for discussion on how to advance peace in the region, as well as the Palestinian State-building agenda. The Meeting has been called to examine ways of resetting the political dialogue, including through third-party mediation. It is also dedicated to discussing the Palestinian Authority's programme for ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian State; considering ways of creating a political climate conducive to advancing the peace process; and building an international consensus for establishing a Palestinian State on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

You have already heard my opening remarks, which I delivered moments ago, so I won't repeat them now. But I would like to tell you a bit about our Committee. The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established in 1975 as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly with a mandate to promote the Palestinian national rights. It has 23 Member States and 25 Observers drawn from the five regional groups.

In addition to its mandate to discuss and raise awareness of political aspects of the question of Palestine, the Committee is also asked to mobilize international assistance to the Palestinian people. The Meeting here in Istanbul, as well as the United Nations Public Forum in Support of the Palestinian People, which we will hold in Istanbul this Thursday, have been organized in that context.

Thank you for doing your part as members of the press to keep the plight of the Palestinian people in the media. I look forward to your questions. Thank you very much.

* * *