Statement of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Before

The General Assembly

on Agenda Item

The Question of Palestine

Delivered by

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*Please check against delivery*

New York – 24 November 2014
Mr. President,

I am pleased to speak to you today on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your wise leadership of the work of the General Assembly. In addition, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for his briefing, and the repertoire of the committee for introducing the report.

I am honored to talk to you today on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This crucial day when the international community reaffirms its commitment to the rights of the Palestinian People, and its determination to put an end to the Israeli occupation, which has created this great injustice against the Palestinian People and other Arabs living under occupation.

Mr. President,

Almost two years ago, this body recognized the State of Palestine as a non-member observer state at the United Nations by adopting its resolution 67/19. This resolution, and the overwhelming support it received, was an important step towards righting a historic wrong. It was an important step in showing Israel that the status quo that it is working hard to cement is unacceptable to the international community.

Last year, the international community as a whole rallied behind the negotiation process to put an end to the Israeli occupation and achieve a lasting peace based on the two-State solution. Such overwhelming support and effort could have ended this great injustice against the Palestinian People that has been going on for decades had it not been for Israel’s intransigent. The negotiations ended before they even started as a result of Israel’s absolute refusal not only to compromise but to do what they are obliged to do according to international law. Such as stopping settlement activity, dismantling settlements, taking down the Wall of Apartheid, ending the blockade on Gaza, putting an end to the use of excessive and lethal force against the unarmed civilian population, ending the polices of forced evictions, forcible transfer of civilians, demolitions of homes and confiscation of properties, releasing detainees that are held without charge, and prosecuting extremist terrorist Israeli settlers.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation holds Israel responsible for all these violation of international law, and calls upon the international community to hold Israel accountable and to cease these illegal and unjust acts and policies. We also hold Israel responsible for the escalation in the City of Al-Quds due to the latest unprecedented measures against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque which involved the crime of closing the Mosque and denying worshippers access to pray in it, together with the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by occupation soldiers and settlers,
Mr. President,

The time has come to put an end to the Israeli Occupation of Arab lands. We call on the international community to support the efforts at the Security Council for the purpose of setting a timeline to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and Arab lands, withdrawing to the borders of 4 June 1967, making progress towards implementing the "Two-State Solution", and granting independence to the Palestinian people. The international community as whole recognizes the importance of the principle of self-determination. Now is the time to put it into effect.

Thank You Mr. President.