

② Sri Lanka

NEW VERSION

The statement of the delegation of Sri Lanka during the general debate on agenda Item 7 of the Human Rights Council: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, 14th Session of the HRC, 14 June 2010

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation has taken note of the reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights under this agenda item.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka shares the deep concern expressed on the current deteriorating humanitarian situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. It is our firm belief that only meaningful negotiations would achieve a two-State settlement envisaged by all, putting an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories and culminating in the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine, for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, we are of the view that the occupation continues to be a main cause for widespread violations of human rights. Therefore, there is an urgent need to put an end to all unlawful settlement activities, including a continued campaign of colonization, resulting in the fragmentation of the Palestinian territories. This has also led to the displacement of thousands of Palestinians from their homes, destroying the economic, social and cultural fabric of that society.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka supports the efforts of the international community to address the urgent humanitarian situation in the occupied territories in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people. Therefore Israel should heed the call of the international community to lift the blockade, open the crossings, and end this regime afflicting the entire population of the Gaza Strip. These actions have jeopardized all efforts to initiate a meaningful dialogue for peace. To this end, we call on all parties to intensify their efforts in forging an early solution based on the two-State settlement envisaged by all, to establish a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine, and bring about security to the greater Middle Eastern region.

Thank you.