

Statement of Sri Lanka at the general debate on the attack by Israeli security forces on the flotilla of humanitarian aid to the Gaza

Mr. President,

At the outset Sri Lanka associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Egypt on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement in this debate.

My delegation strongly condemns the recent attack by the Israeli security forces on the flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza and deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from this use of force exercised in international waters. On behalf of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka we express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

Mr. President

This incident is yet another reminder that a just and peaceful resolution to the issue of Palestine in all its aspects is the only way forward to achieve a durable solution to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and to bring security to the greater Middle Eastern region.

Mr. President, there is also an urgent need to put an end to the continuing blockade on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza. In this connection, Sri Lanka is of the view that the international community should intensify its efforts to address the urgent humanitarian situation in the occupied territories in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

We call on all parties to forge an early solution based on the two State settlement envisaged by all, to establish a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine.

Sri Lanka supports the resolution condemning the attack on the humanitarian flotilla bound for Gaza.

Thank you.