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**Human Rights Council
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**INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE INDIA, BRAZIL AND SOUTH
AFRICA DIALOGUE FORUM (IBSA)**

**AMBASSADOR MARIA NAZARETH FARANI AZEVÊDO, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL**

Mr. President,

I have the pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegations of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA).

India, Brazil and South Africa commend the work of the Council's *Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict* headed by Justice Richard Goldstone that released its report on 15 September 2009. Mandated with the investigation of *all* violations of

international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed by both parties at any time in the context of the military operations that were conducted in Gaza during the period from 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, whether before, during or after, we believe that the Mission has presented a comprehensive report and that its conclusions and recommendations deserve the utmost attention, and careful consideration, of the Council, within a framework of open dialogue and cooperation. In this regard, we remain committed to building a consensus in addressing the concerns expressed in the report, with a view to effectively improving the human rights situation on the ground.

At the same time, Mr. President, it is regrettable that the Mission chose to make the report public at a media event, instead of submitting it to the Council that had mandated the Mission in the first place. Further, it would have been desirable if the Mission had submitted its report *before* the start of the Council session, as it was required to do, and made its recommendations to other UN organs *through* the Council.

Mr. President, as stated in the IBSA Joint Communiqué of 1 September 2009 following the 6th IBSA Ministerial meeting in Brasilia, we emphasize the importance of incorporating a cross-cutting approach of human rights in the other subjects under the responsibility of the UN, such as peace and international security and the promotion of sustainable development. To this end, it is crucial that we pay attention to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories from the perspective of human rights. The persisting Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to impair efforts to protect and promote all fundamental rights in the region, causing enormous human suffering on *all* sides for more than sixty years now. The use of violence by all parties, particularly against innocent civilians, is an issue of

particular concern for the Human Rights Council and must be condemned. In this regard, we note with concern the Mission report's conclusion pertaining to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the conflict, including the disproportionate response by Israel on several occasions. The parties involved directly, along with the international community, have a responsibility to address the human rights dimension and change the situation for the better. We have missed too many opportunities and cannot afford to miss a new one. Today the Human Rights Council is presented with a great opportunity to prove that it is capable of living up to the task with which the UNGA has entrusted it: to act within the "principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights".

Mr. President, we urge, once again, further easing of restrictions at check-points and road-blocks on humanitarian grounds. As a matter of protecting and promoting fundamental human rights for all, and as a means of fostering peace, humanitarian material and personnel, including those related to health, sanitation and other fundamental services, as also reconstruction material and services for Gaza should be granted expeditious and unrestricted access to the Gaza Strip at all times. On our part, and as a concrete gesture reflecting our political commitment, Mr. President, we would be implementing, in coordination with international organisations that work locally, a proposal to rehabilitate a school in the Gaza Strip, announced during the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm El-Sheikh in March 2009. In addition, substantial progress has been made in the establishment of the IBSA Multipurpose Sports Centre in Ramallah, following the contribution agreed upon at the Paris Conference.

Mr President, we renew our call to end the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories and condemn the recent forcible eviction of Palestinians from the Sheik Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. We also stress the importance of the parallel tracks of the Peace Process to end Israeli occupation of all Arab territories. Further, in line with our support for a peaceful, negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable, united and democratic state of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel, within recognised borders, as endorsed in the UN Security Council Resolutions, the Madrid Terms of reference, the Arab League Peace Initiative, the Road Map for Peace and as advocated by the Annapolis Conference, we underline the necessity of continued, accelerated and comprehensive progress in the peace process. We call upon all parties to resume negotiations without delay and declare their support to the initiatives of mediation aimed at achieving this goal. We emphasize the contribution new actors can make to invigorate the process and also welcome efforts aimed at restoring Palestinian unity.

Lastly, Mr. President, the new Human Rights Council, as the successor to the CHR, was born from the fundamental belief that we can protect and promote all human rights better through dialogue and cooperation. Such an approach should also inform the process preceding the decision-making in the Council. It is the firm belief of India, Brazil and South Africa that the more we seek to understand and cooperate with each other, the closer we move towards realizing those expectations and the farther we depart from the path of radicalization, inaction and violence.

Thank you, Mr. President.