

**JOINT STATEMENT BY INDIA, BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICA
(IBSA)
UNDER ITEM 7 OF THE AGENDA OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
“HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND OTHER
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES”**

“Mr. President,

Nelson Mandela has taught us that, and I quote “true reconciliation does not consist in merely forgetting the past”, end of quote. Indeed, reconciliation involves trust, vision and the establishment of a joint future of prosperity and mutual respect.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine remains essentially political in nature and cannot be resolved by force. The use of violence, particularly against innocent civilians is an issue of special concern for the Human Rights Council and must be condemned. We urge further easing of restrictions at check-points and road-blocks on humanitarian grounds.

Brazil, India and South Africa support a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living side by side at peace with Israel, within secured and recognized boundaries, in accordance with UN Resolutions 242, 338, 1397 and 1515.

Our leaders have reflected upon the Middle East Peace Process, and looked forward to progress towards goals of the Arab and all other major ongoing peace initiatives, including the Annapolis Conference, in which our countries have participated.

In this context, we recall our leaders’ decision to donate US\$ 1 million per year, from the IBSA Fund, over three years. Humble though these contributions may seem, they have already been fruitful: a sports facility is already under construction, and will help to promote positive youth engagement and social inclusion in Ramallah.

Mr. President,

There is no justification to violence. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, and I quote, “what difference does it make to the dead, the orphans or the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?” end of quote.

Brazil, India and South Africa wish a peaceful future to the region.

Thank you, Mr. President.”