

**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN  
GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
18TH SESSION (12-30 September 2011)**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Report of UN Secretary-General on the progress made  
in the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations  
Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict**

**(26 September 2011)**

**Statement by India**

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner for her presentation of the Secretary-General's report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Gaza Fact Finding Mission. It is regrettable that very little progress has been made in implementing the Mission's recommendations since the last report during the 15th session of this Council.

02. We note with considerable regret that border closures and restrictions on passage through border-crossings with the Gaza Strip continue to have serious adverse effects on the livelihoods and infrastructure and that freedom of movement within the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains severely restricted.

03. Madam President, India's deep association with, and continuing commitment to, Palestine is rooted in our modern history that goes back to our struggle for independence. Addressing the UN General Assembly on 24 September, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said and I quote: "The Palestinian question still remains unresolved and a source of great instability and violence. India is steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognizable borders side by side and at peace with Israel. We look forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations." Unquote.

04. India is vitally interested in peace, development and stability in the region and stands ready to assist in whatever way we can. Ultimately, however, it is the parties themselves that have to shoulder the major responsibility for achieving a permanent and lasting solution. There has to be a spirit of accommodation and political will to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that human rights standards and International Humanitarian Law are universal and should be respected by all sides.

05. We encourage all parties concerned, including the Palestinian armed groups to give due regard to the recommendations, implement them in right earnest, in order to make a difference to the human rights situation on the ground.

Thank you, Madam President.

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