Readout of the Secretary-General's telephone call with H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine

The Secretary-General spoke today with H.E. Mr Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the State of Palestine. The Secretary-General congratulated the President on the intra-Palestinian agreement signed earlier today in Cairo.

The Secretary-General was encouraged by the recent progress in allowing the Palestinian Government to take up its responsibilities in Gaza, and welcomed the efforts of Egypt to achieve this goal.

He emphasized the continuing need to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, particularly with regard to the electricity crisis, and improved access to and from the territory.

The Secretary-General reiterated that the United Nations stands ready to continue working with the Palestinian authorities and the region in support of the Government in assuming its responsibilities in Gaza.

New York, 12 October 2017