State of Palestine
Media Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
For Immediate Release
July 24th, 2018

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement

The Palestinian Cabinet condemns the controversial Jewish Nation-State Law as a further step to legitimize racial discrimination, hails the latest national efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development, expresses its appreciation for KSA support to the Palestinian people, and calls upon donor countries to provide financial support to the UNRWA.

During its weekly meeting held in Ramallah today, the Palestinian Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Rami Al-Hamdallah, hailed all exerted efforts to achieve the national reconciliation, stressing that the Government will be an executive arm to the Palestinian leadership to implement any steps for ending the internal division and unify the Palestinian institutions.

Equally important, the Cabinet condemned adopting the so-called 'Jewish Nation-State' law by the right-wing Israeli government, which strips Arabic of its designation as an official language, downgrading it to a "special status." Ironically labeled as "the only democracy in the Middle East," Israel revealed its true mask through this controversial law. "By defining itself as a national state for the Jewish people, Israel is turning the current political Israeli- Palestinian conflict into a religious one," the Cabinet stated. Further, the Cabinet expressed that the extremist Israeli government, through ratifying this racist law, rejects any international efforts to achieve the two-state solution and denies the historic, cultural, and national existence of the Palestinian people on their own land.

The Cabinet also stressed that Israel, the Occupying Power, backed by the Trump Administration, continues systematically to eliminate and deny the Palestinian right to existence and proves a real example of the racist regime, which practices its discrimination, forced displacement, and eviction through such Judaizing laws and plans that violate all international and humanitarian laws. In this regard, the Cabinet called upon the international community and its institutions to intervene immediately and stop the discriminatory practices of Israel, the Occupying Power.

In another context, the Cabinet denounced the latest Israeli military escalation on the Gaza Strip, which resulted in a huge number of losses, killings and injuries among the Palestinian citizens. The Cabinet also stressed that the military escalation and repeated threats of aggression against the Gaza Strip constitute part of the occupation government policies towards our people, aiming at extending the ongoing unjust siege on Gaza and an excuse to attack the defenseless Palestinian citizens. The Cabinet, one more time, called upon the international community to intervene immediately to prevent the rapid deterioration of the situation in Gaza and to provide international protection to the Palestinian people.

The Cabinet yet deplored the repeated Israeli attacks against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the illegal Israeli settler attacks on the Palestinian citizens, their land, property and homes, especially the latest wave of attacks in the south of Nablus, water cut-offs on nearly 3000 dunums of agricultural land in the Central Valley, and land confiscations in Al- Khader town to the south of Bethlehem. "The continuous silence of the international community is 'a green light' that allows Israel, the Occupying Power to continue its

unjustified aggression against the Palestinian civilians and their belongings, in a clear violation to all international laws and conventions," the Cabinet said.

Above all, the Cabinet discussed the participation of the State of Palestine in the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) meeting held in Oslo, under the auspices of Norway and the participation of the United Nations, the European Union and the World Bank, during which participants set priorities for supporting the Gaza Strip and resolving the humanitarian disaster there as well as enabling the Palestinian Government in the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, particularly in East Jerusalem and the so-called Area "C." The Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Khairieh Rassas, personal advisor to the Prime Minister, stressed that the representative of the Palestinian people is the Palestinian leadership and that while Palestine is welcoming the efforts of Norway and the donor countries to devote funds to the establishment of development projects, there are other priorities as well. "No projects can be conducted without the supervision of the Palestinian Government. The State of Palestine cannot be divided through implementing international development projects," Dr. Rassas clarified. Moreover, the delegation stressed the urgent need of the international community and donor countries to financially support the UNRWA and its budget to ensure it continues to provide services to Palestinian refugees until achieving a just solution to their cause.

Most significantly, the Cabinet commended the State of Palestine for its first voluntary national review of the goals of sustainable development before the High-level Political Forum held in New York as part of the United Nations commitment to follow up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030 adopted by the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, September 2015.

To conclude its session, the Cabinet expressed its sincere gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generous support announced by His Excellency King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, to provide $80 million for the Palestinian Treasury. In addition, the Cabinet welcomed the hails of the IMF for the efforts of the Palestinian Government, which was able to manage its financial policies efficiently, reduce the total deficit, and approve the budget for increasing domestic revenues, and rationalizing expenditures despite Israel's piracy to stealing the Palestinian tax- revenues and shortages in external and international funds.

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