State of Palestine
Office of the Prime Minister
Media Unit
For Immediate Release
September 12th, 2018

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement

The Palestinian Cabinet hails resolutions adopted at the latest session of Arab Foreign Ministers, Calls on Palestinian citizens to intensify their presence in Khan Al-Ahmar to foil Israeli evacuation and demolishing plans, deplores the closure of the PLO office and condemns cut-offs in US aid to Palestinian hospitals.

During its weekly meeting, the Palestinian Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Rami Al-Hamdallah:

- **S**trongly condemned the Trump administration continuous aggression against the Palestinian people and leadership, especially, the recent misguided decision to close the Palestinian office in Washington, D.C, in response to appealing to the International Criminal Court against Israeli crimes. The Cabinet considered this move a flagrant violation of peace efforts, the International Law, and a clear example of the US tyranny aimed to force a unilateral dictation formula under the so-called "deal of the century" rather than supporting peacebuilding efforts upon mutual respect, justice, and accountability supported by the international law and UN resolutions.

- **S**tressed that the international community should adopt the initiative of President Abbas to establish a multilateral mechanism under the umbrella of the United Nations to oversee the negotiations process upon the International Law and UN resolutions, and to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, which started in 1967.

- **C**onfirmed that the Palestinian leadership will continue its efforts to ensure that the Israeli war criminals are held accountable before the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Cabinet called on the court to deal expeditiously with the referral made by the State of Palestine and to expedite the opening of an investigation into the war crimes committed by Israel, the Occupying Power against the defenseless Palestinian citizens.

- **D**eeply deplored the US aid cuts to the East Jerusalem hospitals . The Cabinet stated that "the Trump administration financial punishment has crossed all red lines by targeting the humanitarian services of Palestinian citizens, which would threat their health, affect employees working in these hospitals, and serve Israel's illegal policies to ethnically and forcibly displace the Palestinian people from their own land.

- **D**eclared that the Government, under the guidance and supervision of President Abbas, took quick steps to bridge the deficit created by the Trump administration to sustain the East Jerusalem hospital network and ensure delivering needed health care services to the Palestinian citizens as a national priority.

- **C**riticized the decision of the Israeli "Supreme Court" backed by the Israeli right-wing government to commit an international crime by forcibly displacing and transferring the Palestinian citizens of Al-Khan Al-Ahmar, east of occupied Jerusalem to peruse the so-called E1 colonial project, which aims at killing any hopes for a future State of Palestine. The Cabinet stated, "The international community must come out of its ineffective condemnations shell and intervene immediately to hold Israel accountable and provide international protection to the Palestinian citizens."

- **H**ighly praised the outcomes of the 150th session of Arab Foreign Ministers in Cairo to discuss the severe financial shortage facing the UNRWA. During the meeting, Arab foreign ministers expressed their readiness to support President Abbas peace plan, which was submitted to the United Nations Security Council on February 20, 2018, and their refusal to any financial or political pressure against the Palestinian leadership. The Cabinet hailed the Arab foreign ministers' decision to stress the need for an international collective responsibility to protect and provide the UNRWA with necessary financial, moral and political support to ensure fulfilling its mandate towards 5 million Palestinian refugees. As well as calling for the activation of the Arab financial safety net to confront the financial pressures and crises facing Palestine and to implement the decision of Amman Summit to increase the capital of Al- Aqsa and Jerusalem funds and support the budget of the State of Palestine. The Cabinet also called for visiting Jerusalem and religious shrines to protect them from the plans of extremist Jewish groups and encouraged Arab investors to invest in Palestine.

- **C**ommended the Republic of Paraguay for transferring its embassy from the occupied city of Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The Cabinet confirmed, "This decision confirms that Paraguay is in line with the United Nations resolutions on the historical and legal status of the occupied city of Jerusalem." The Cabinet also reiterated its call to those States that relocated or intend to relocate their embassies to occupied Jerusalem to step back this decision in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and international consensus. "Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories in upon the resolutions of the UN Security Council."

- **F**inally, the Cabinet thanked the Government and people of Italy for allocating an additional €3.5 million for the UNRWA to ensure that it continues to provide services to Palestinian refugees.

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