State of Palestine
Office of the Prime Minister
For Immediate Release
March 5, 2019

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement

The Palestinian Cabinet confirms its refusal to receive its own tax fund transfers from Israel after the unilateral Israeli act of piracy to the Palestinian money, and condemns the US unilateral move to downgrade its mission in Jerusalem. The Cabinet demands an immediate follow-up for the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on Israeli violations and crimes in occupied Palestine, and congratulates Palestinian women on International Women's Day.

- **C**ondemned the brutal execution attack carried out by the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) near the village of Kafr Ni'ma, to the west of Ramallah, which resulted in killing two youths, Amir Darraj and Yusuf al-Anqawi. The Cabinet stressed that this crime reflects the political and military instructions of the Occupation Power that allow the (IOF) to shoot Palestinian citizens aiming at killing them. *"This murder comes as part of a series of field executions and extrajudicial killings, and violates the rules of international law and international humanitarian law. Israeli, the Occupying Power, will continue to confiscate Palestinian lives and rights on their own homeland as long as the world continues its silence on Israeli crimes and violations."* In the same context, the Cabinet condemned the arbitrary measures against the Al-Aqsa Mosque denying Palestinian worshipers' access to the mosque and undermining the role and work of the Islamic Endowment Department in a move that aims at Judaizing the holy city and altering its character and identity.
- **D**eplored the American decision to merge its General Consulate in Jerusalem with the embassy in Israel, the occupying Power to become one diplomatic mission in occupied Jerusalem. *"This step is a continuation of the US systematic attack on the Palestinian nation and its leadership, and a direct violation of all international laws, resolutions and obligations, motivated by racism and deliberate hostility to history and political realities."* The Cabinet stressed, *"This step constitutes a flagrant violation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian citizens. The replacement of the consulate, founded in 1844, with a Palestinian affairs Unit within the Embassy, is a denial of the State of Palestine and Palestinian rights and identity."*
- **W**elcomed the findings of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry report on Israeli violations committed in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The Cabinet stressed that these findings reflect the fairness of the international law and the international human rights law, which classify ongoing Israeli violations as war crimes or crimes against humanity which Israel, the Occupying Power, bears responsibility for before the international justice and in accordance with international standards. The Cabinet called upon the international community to follow up on the important outcomes of this report, which reaffirms the credibility of international law and the international community. Further, it focuses on the principle of accountability and realization of violations and crimes committed daily against the Palestinian people. The Cabinet also stressed the urgent need to provide international protection to the Palestinian citizens towards ending the

occupation and establishing an independent state of Palestine capital on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Cabinet also called upon the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to expedite the opening of a criminal investigation especially that this report is based on evidence and facts on the ground, despite that the Israeli occupation authorities denied members of the Commission access to the Gaza Strip.

- **C**ommended the European Union for donating €82 million to support the 2019 general budget of the UNRWA. The Cabinet confirmed that the EU contribution to the UNRWA constitutes a practical translation of its position to support the existence of the UNRWA to serve around 5.9 million Palestinian refugees, and to guarantee their basic rights until they return to the homes in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution No. (194). The Cabinet, in addition to that, urged the EU to recognize the State of Palestine to support the efforts of the peace process, as recently demanded by President Mahmoud Abbas at The European Union (EU)- League of Arab States (LAS) summit in Sharm Al-Shaikh. In this context, the Cabinet called on the international community, especially the EU, to pressure Israel, the Occupying Power, to reverse its decision to deduct the Palestinian tax funds and hand them complete, stressing that *"this issue is not a financial, but a political issue. The money belongs to us. Israel collects it on behalf of us."* The Cabinet also referred to the Palestinian leadership decision to reject receiving the tax fund transfers after the Israeli deductions. *"We retain our full rights in accordance with the international law and the interim agreement signed with Israel, the Occupying Power, as well as the Geneva Convention."*
- **C**ongratulated Palestinian women on the International Women's Day, and expressed appreciation for its sacred role and struggle in various sectors and fields. The Cabinet saluted all Palestinian women who embodied the most glorious signs of struggle and sacrifice for the country and its freedom. "Today, the Cabinet affirms its engagement in the process of building for prosperous life and future to achieve equality and social justice, including the amendment of Palestinian laws and legislations, to harmonize international treaties and conventions, and to enable Palestinian women to contribute to political, economic, social and decision-making roles.
- **D**ecided to adopt the emblem of the Presidency of the State of Palestine for the Group of 77 and China on official documents issued by the Palestinian institutions as a celebration of this historic event that crowned President Mahmoud Abbas to assume the chair of Group of 77 and China October last year.