*Unofficial Transcript*

IRAN

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Mr. President, at the outset and on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I wish to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine and admire their tireless efforts and unwavering determination of the Palestinians in pursuing their national aspirations and defending their inalienable right to statehood and to exercise sovereignty.

I wish also to extend our appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their informative report presented to us and for their tireless efforts in addressing the onerous circumstances the people of Palestine are going through.

Mr. President, for the sake of brevity, I would like to present our views and perspectives vis-à-vis Palestine and the present situation in the Middle East in the following numerics. One, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the settlement of the Palestinian crisis would be achievable only if the inalienable rights of the people of the occupied Palestine is fully recognized, restored and maintained.

Regrettably, due to the lack of attention to the root causes of this crisis, it has remained unsolved for more than six decades. There have been numerous reasons for such failures, which include the continued occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab occupied territories by the Israeli regime, as well as it's persistent violation of the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, especially their legitimate and inalienable right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland.

We believe that the only solution to the Palestinian issue and establishment of peace is restoration of the sovereignty and putting an end to the occupation. The Palestinian people should be allowed to express their opinions freely regarding their fate and future and the kind of state and government they want to have through a referendum with the participation of all Palestinian people.

Two, while condemning the Israeli blockade imposed on Gaza by land, sea and air, we believe that it's an aggressive and savage action that breaches all international laws and rules, constitutes a crime against humanity and poses a serious threat to international peace and security, as well as to regional stability.

The blockade also constitutes collective punishment that is unconditionally prohibited by article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention dealing with the rights and obligations of belligerent obligation (?).

Three, popular uprisings in the Middle East demonstrate a pressing need for change. The aspiration of peoples for democracy, rule of law, independence and rejection of foreign domination, as well as their affection to Islamic values, cannot remain unheeded. We believe that addressing the legitimate demands of the people through a peaceful and democratically-led foreign process and away from foreign interventions is the only way out of the crisis and avoiding violence.

Four, one of our prime objectives in our foreign policy is to strengthen the trust between the Islamic Republic of Iran and our neighbors and countries in the region through active engagement, interaction and partnership. The countries in the Middle East share common interests in the region's security and long-term stability, and it should play a role in promoting regional, social, economic development.

Obviously, stable and economically-flourishing and prosperous Middle East would create an ideal situation to get every country in the region to move in the path of development and economic growth. Our continued commitment to broadening relations and engagement with our Arab neighbors and regional partners in the areas of trade, economic development and infrastructural projects is thus a goal seriously pursued by my government.

Five, some attempts have been done by arrogant powers to solve discord and create divisions among nations in the Middle East region. They try to divide people's by fomenting sectarian, ethnical and religious differences, despite the fact that the people in the region with diverse ethnic and religious diversity have lived together in harmony and coexistence for centuries. They want to harm brotherly relations among people and states in the region by creating fake phobias, such as Iranophobia, with the purpose of selling more and more of their lethal and sophisticated armaments to the countries in our region and unnecessarily militarizing the volatile Middle East region. This trade is very dangerous and should seriously be avoided.

Six, any foreign military adventurism by outside powers in the Middle East and any military intervention by the countries inside the region should be avoided for the sake of peace and stability in the region. We should step aside from making the Middle East as a platform for military and adventurism and expansionist policies.

Seven, Iran is a leading nation in rejecting and opposing all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. As a state party to the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran has on many occasions, including in this august body, declared loudly and clearly that nuclear weapons as inhuman weapons have no place in our defense mechanism.

Furthermore, Iran has strived towards the realization of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East within the United Nations framework.

Eight, Israeli regimes unlawfully in position of nuclear weapons and is the unique source of destabilization in the Middle East, given its past history of aggressions and crimes and atrocities it has committed over the past decades in the region. It is expected from this assembly to condemn occupying regimes for the position of nuclear defense, urging it to abandon nuclear weapons and call it to accede to empathy without delay, and remind this regime to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAF full scope safeguards.

Indeed, peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East where the massive Israeli nuclear arsenals continue to threaten the area and beyond. I thank you, Mr. President.