65th General Assembly

Statement by Cuban Representative

Question of Palestine

Consideration of draft resolutions

November 30, 2010

CUBA: Mr. President, Cuba fully supports and will vote in favor of the draft resolutions put forward by the Distinguished Delegate of Egypt. The situation of instability in the Middle East, characterized by an expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, ongoing construction of the separation wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the complex situation in Lebanon and the occupation of Syrian Golan, to mention but a few, are realities which affect not just the region, but the entire international community.

Israel’s disregard for international law and its ongoing illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and other Arab territories continue to be the primary obstacles to the achievement of just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. Cuba reiterates its great concern at the further deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly as a result of the excessive use of force by Israel against the civilian Palestinian population and its many other illegal policies and practices, such as the inhuman and destructive measures of collective punishment against the civilian Palestinian population, including the blockade on Gaza.

We reiterate our appeal to the international community to demand that Israeli authorities immediately lift the cruel and illegal blockade against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, to open the border crossings and to allow for the free circulation of goods from and into Gaza. Humanitarian access must be guaranteed on a regular basis, and this, in compliance with legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Mr. President, Cuba reiterates its deep regret that the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people for more than 40 years under the brutal Israeli military occupation of its land and due to the fact that they continue to be denied their functional human rights, including the right to self-determination and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their land.

The international community’s efforts have remained unsuccessful, including actions undertaken by the United Nations with the aim of continuing the peace negotiations to allow for a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

The Israeli authorities, in a clear rejection of international laws and open disregard for General Assembly resolutions, resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Security Council continue with aggressive policies in the region. We call for the immediate cessation by Israel of the settlement activities in the occupied territory, including in East Jerusalem. An end to these practices is an absolute prerequisite for the achievement of a peace agreement.

Mr. President, Cuba reaffirms that any measures or actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, and any measures which it has taken or will take in an attempt to alter the legal, physical and demographic status and institutional structure of Occupied Syrian Golan as well as Israeli measures to impose its jurisdiction and government there will be null, void and will have no legal effect. We reiterate the fact that all of these measures and actions, including the construction and the extension of Israel settlements in the Syrian Golan since 1967, are clear violations of international law, international agreements and United Nations Charter and resolutions. Cuba calls on Israel to abide by Resolution 497 of 1981 and to withdraw fully from Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders existing prior to the 4th of June 1967.

Mr. President, Cuba reaffirms its support for the peace process in the Middle East on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative, the road map and the formula of land for peace. We reject attempts to modify the mandate of the peace process and the use by Israel of unilateral measures and strategies aimed at imposing an illegal unilateral solution. The Palestinian people have the inalienable right to establish an independent and sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital. We call for the unconditional return of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967. Mr. President, this is the only way of achieving just and lasting peace for all peoples in the region. Thank you, Mr. President.