



Political Statement
of the First Palestinian - Spanish Joint Cabinet Meeting
Madrid September 7th 2010

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Palestinian –Spanish cooperation, signed in Tunis in July 1994, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of Political Consultations between the Palestinian National Authority and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain signed in Madrid on December 18, 2009;

The parties affirmed their support for resuming the direct negotiations on September 2 in Washington, DC, and confirmed their support for the negotiations should include all final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, refugees, security, settlements and water, respecting previous agreements and understandings;

The parties emphasized that the negotiations should lead, within a time-frame of one year, to an end to the Israeli occupation and to a two-state solution with an independent, democratic, sovereign, contiguous and viable State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, living side by side with the State of Israel in peace and security, and should lead to a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Palestinian – Israeli conflict. Spain will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by Israelis and Palestinians. A comprehensive peace, which is a fundamental interest of the parties in the region, must be achieved on the basis of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, international law, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, as well as agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative;

The parties expressed their deep concern regarding the situation in Jerusalem. They called on the government of Israel to reopen Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem in

accordance with the Roadmap, and cease all discriminatory treatment of Palestinians in East Jerusalem. The parties consider that the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of the two states shall be solved through negotiations.

The parties reiterated that settlements and the separation wall built on the Palestinian occupied land, demolition of homes and evictions - are illegal under international law-, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible. The parties call upon the government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities -including natural growth- in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001.

The two parties committed themselves to work closely with the international community, in particular the Quartet, in order to achieve the implementation of the two-state solution through negotiations. In this context, the parties underscored the importance of the role of the EU, both through the Quartet, as well as by the individual member States of the Union, highlighting in particular Spain's most valuable contribution and the centrality of the Madrid principles in the terms of reference of the Middle East peace process.

Both parties reiterated their support for an immediate and unconditional opening of all crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from the Gaza, including goods from the West Bank, that will positively contribute to the reconstruction and economic recovery of the Gaza Strip. Spain reiterated that the EU stands ready to contribute to the implementation of a mechanism in the framework of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access that will permit the achievement of these objectives.

Reconfirmed their determination to cooperate fully in the implementation of the program of the 13th Palestinian Government entitled "Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State" as an important contribution to the statebuilding efforts that Spain and the EU support;

Both sides underlined their commitment to the Mediterranean dimension of their cooperation embodied in the Union for the Mediterranean and reaffirmed their intention to work closely for the success of the November summit due to take place in Barcelona.

The parties have agreed on the institution of the Higher Steering Committee at the level of Prime Ministers between the two countries.

The delegations of both parties held their meeting in a highly positive atmosphere, wherein both parties reaffirmed the strength of relations between the Palestinian and the Spanish peoples rooted in the historic, cultural and democratic values both share, and committed themselves to promoting dialogue, tolerance, peace and security in the region.