

## **Joint Statement on the situation in Gaza and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

(Slovenia and Spain, May 29th)

**Slovenia and Spain call for an immediate end to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.** We demand Israel to urgently lift the blockade and allow full, unrestricted access for humanitarian aid, in line with the principles of impartiality, independence, and neutrality. Crucially, this aid must be coordinated by the United Nations and UNRWA. The survival of UN-led humanitarian operations in Gaza must be protected. We strongly oppose the Israeli-run aid plan, which risks triggering further mass displacement of Palestinians.

**Israel must stop the ongoing massacre in Gaza.** We call on all parties to immediately and sincerely engage in negotiations for a ceasefire and the immediate release of all hostages, recognizing the vital mediation efforts of the United States, Egypt, and Qatar. A lasting and immediate ceasefire is essential. We urge the U.S. administration to step up its efforts and apply stronger pressure on Israel to help bring this about.

**We reaffirm the absolute necessity for all parties to respect international law,** including international humanitarian and human rights law. Violations must be addressed and accountability ensured. All actors must unequivocally refrain from targeting civilians, and the safety of journalists and humanitarian workers must be guaranteed.

**We strongly condemn the rising violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including settler attacks, illegal settlement expansion, and forced displacement.** These actions constitute a systematic policy of *de facto* annexation and are clear violations of international law. They are also an obstacle to peace and to the viability of the two-State solution. They must be firmly rejected. The situation remains deeply alarming and demands urgent attention.

**We must move forward toward a political solution, seizing the opportunity presented by the June High Level Conference on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two State solution in New York.** Led by Saudi Arabia and France, this conference represents a historic chance for progress—one we cannot afford to miss. Its success depends on broad Arab and European consensus and decisive action from the international community. The only path to lasting peace in the region is the implementation of the two-state solution. Slovenia and Spain recognized the State of Palestine a year ago, and today we call on other countries to take the same step and advance recognition of Palestinian statehood.

**We welcome the ministerial meeting of the Madrid Group held on May 25 in Madrid.** This meeting creates a much-needed political momentum to advance in the implementation of the two-state solution as the only path to a just and lasting peace in the region.

**Slovenia and Spain reiterate their call for a formal review of Israel's compliance with its obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.** It is the duty of the European External Action Service and the European Commission to carry out this review and assess whether Israel is upholding the human rights and democratic principles required by the agreement. The Israeli government's repeated violations of human rights speak for themselves. Slovenia and Spain also call for further sanctions against violent Israeli settlers and spoilers of the two-State solution. We additionally call for the imposition of an arms embargo on Israel. We further encourage the European Union to support international legal mechanisms to investigate alleged war crimes and ensure justice for all victims.