

321st Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

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Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Saviour F. Borg
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of Malta to the United Nations**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all let me extend my congratulations to you and to the other members of the Bureau for your re-election to lead this important U.N. Committee. As one of your colleagues forming part of this Committee, I would like to assure you of my full collaboration and support in bringing forward and implementing the Programme of Work of the Committee which we have just adopted. As Rapporteur of this Committee, I would like to express my thanks to you and the members of the Committee for once again placing your trust and confidence in me personally, and as a Representative of Malta, to assist the Committee in the tasks ahead. I am deeply honoured and privileged to be able to work closely with you, the Bureau and the Committee.

An important event is scheduled to take place in Malta on 12 and 13 February 2010. This is the International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace. For the first time the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will join hands with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean to organize this International Meeting which will consider the permanent states issues on which the international community is seeking “to create a political climate conducive to the resolutions of the peace initiatives in the Middle East but especially towards the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It is also a first in the revamped objectives of this U.N. Palestine Committee particularly in strengthening the role of Parliamentarians and Inter-Parliamentary Organization in supporting Israeli-Palestinian peace and stability in the Mediterranean region.

Furthermore, it is a first in that it follows the granting by the U.N. General Assembly of Observer Status to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean which further recognised the unique role the Assembly has in Mediterranean affairs as well as at the international level.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean is a parliamentary platform for regional diplomacy and dialogue with its headquarters located in Malta. The Assembly was established in 2006 in Jordan and gathers 25 countries of the Mediterranean region. PAM today continues to strengthen its vocation and consolidate its focus on political,

socio-economic and environmental issues which are the basis on which the U.N. is founded. Since its inception the PAM has continued to nurture its relations with the U.N. family including the U.N. Palestine Committee and its Member States.

The meeting in Malta opens a new chapter in the chequered history of this Committee. It enhances the people to people approach through their chosen and elected Parliamentarians. It also introduces a new opportunity to work closer with a regional organization that is building bridges to further promote peace and stability within the Mediterranean region and in support of the Middle East Peace Process.

As the representative of the host country of the International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace, I would like you Members of this Committee to urge and encourage your Parliamentarians to participate in the Malta Meeting. This contribution would compliment the efforts of both this Committee and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in advancing and supporting an early resolution of the Middle East Peace Process with the Question of Palestine at its core.