



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique
to the United Nations**

REMARKS BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR PEDRO COMISSÁRIO,
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Public Meeting

On

**« The Situation in The Middle East, Including the
Palestinian Question »**

NEW YORK, 18 JANUARY 2023, At 3 PM

Mr. President,

We commend Japan for the wisdom of convening this open debate on one of the most important topics on the agenda of the Security Council.

We thank the Special Coordinator, Mr. Tor Wennesland, for his comprehensive briefing and his tireless engagement in search for a lasting peace in the Middle East. Mozambique pledges her full support to this important endeavour and wish him all the perseverance.

Mr. President,

As we have just heard from the Special Coordinator, the conflict shows no sign of abating. The drivers include the expansion of the settlements, the continued demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned infrastructures, and the increase in daily attacks against civilians.

Israel's unilateral measures, in violation of Resolution 2334 (2016), are pushing away the prospect of direct talks between the parties, and, in the long term, the prospect of a two-State solution.

This policy of confrontation, hostility and non-cooperation is highly detrimental to the security of

both Israel and the Palestinians. It will not bring about the just and lasting peace, they both aspire to and deserve.

We urge Israel to address the humanitarian situation in Palestine. It must halt illegal settlements expansion, which are clearly contrary to the International Law. It must also address extremism and violence amongst the settlers.

We further urge Israel to allow civil society organizations and individuals to freely do their work, without fear of reprisals. We think that, they can play an important role in promoting peace and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians.

Given the dire humanitarian situation in Palestine and Gaza, we call for an increased, predictable and sustained support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Such support will allow it to fulfil its important work of delivering essential services to refugees in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Mr. President,

The search for a two-State solution, based on relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and decisions remains the guiding framework of this Council's work. This position was

repeatedly stated, including in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 2334 (2016).

They form the basis of all major international and regional diplomatic efforts towards peace in the region including those embodied in the Madrid terms of reference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Middle East Quartet Road map.

These principles also inform the work of the Special Coordinator, as there is clearly no substitute for a legitimate political process. There is no military solution to the conflict, as decades of violence have repeatedly and aguishly proven.

In this context, we strongly urge Israelis and Palestinians to work constructively together and cooperate to lay the groundwork for a lasting peace.

Mozambique wish to reiterate our longstanding and principled position in support of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and the right of existence of the State of Israel.

I thank you!