

**Joint Communiqué on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency, Dr Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine to the Republic of South Africa, 7 – 9 October 2021**

1. At the invitation of Her Excellency, Dr Naledi Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Dr Riad Malki, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, paid an official visit to the Republic of South Africa from 7- 9 October 2021.

2. The visit aimed at further strengthening the relationship between South Africa and Palestine built on the foundation of long-standing solidarity, friendship, and cooperation, with the two Ministers having held substantive and fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest, including an exchange of views on the current political, economic, and social situations in their respective countries, as well as regional and international issues. They also exchanged views on the latest developments in the Middle East Peace Process.

3. The two Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction with the cordial relations that exist between the two countries, which is to be further augmented by a planned State Visit to South Africa by President Abbas. Furthermore, a conference for Palestinian Heads of Missions in Africa will be hosted in Cape Town at the end of November 2021, where the State of Palestine's Policy towards Africa will be deliberated upon.

4. In keeping with South Africa's long-term and principled support for the Palestinian people, the Government of South Africa remains committed to support initiatives aimed at refocusing the international agenda on Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process. South Africa continues to support the two state solution and international efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognised borders, based on those existing on 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with all relevant UN resolutions, international law and internationally agreed parameters.

5. The two countries agreed that they would continue to work to achieve peace for the Palestinian people, who continue to endure countless injustices and an on-going cycle of destruction, displacement, and dispossession, as well as the progressive fragmentation of its territory under Israeli occupation and its colonial settlement policy. These actions undermine the prospects for a two-state solution, which constitutes an imminent threat to regional and international peace and security. The occupation continues to deny the guaranteed, protected, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

6. Both sides exchanged views on various regional and international issues, including developments in the Middle East and Africa. They elaborated on recent developments in Afghanistan. The two sides acknowledged the geo-political and economic significance of the Middle East to the region in relation to peace, security and development within the global community and concurred that, in the

absence of sustainable peace in the region there could be no global peace, stability and economic prosperity.

Security and stability in the Middle East is being undermined by the continued occupation of Palestinian territories and the aggressive actions of the Israeli regime. South Africa and Palestine also called on the international community to further strengthen their support for the return of all parties to the negotiation table without pre-conditions and to further demand a legal and legitimate establishment of an independent, fully sovereign, and viable Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital as per the borders existing on 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1967, in line with the internationally agreed parameters based on the relevant United Nations resolutions.

7. Both sides agreed to exert joint efforts aimed at reversing the decision to admit Israel, the occupying power, as an observer member to the African Union.

8. The South African side provided an overview of recent developments in Southern Africa and the continent and the role that South Africa is playing to promote peace, stability, and economic development of the African Continent.

9. Both sides stressed their strong belief in multilateralism and the centrality of the United Nations, including the Security Council, as essential in promoting effective and inclusive international cooperation in resolving the variety of the current global challenges including peaceful settlement of conflicts.

10 The two sides expressed their concern over the escalation of instances of racial discrimination and hatred globally and urged all countries to implement the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action. In this regard the Durban Declaration remains a clarion call for anti-racism advocacy and action worldwide. The two sides further stressed that, despite the efforts made in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of marginalization, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in its various contemporary forms and manifestations.

11. In conclusion, the two Ministers committed to working together to enhance close political, economic, and social cooperation for the mutual benefit of their countries and peoples.

Signed in Pretoria  
08 October 2021