

Mansour Calls on International Community to Uphold its Responsibility towards Palestine*

NEW YORK, July 26, 2011 (Wafa) – Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Ambassador Riyad Mansour Tuesday expressed hope that the international community upholds legal, political and moral responsibilities towards Palestine, in a debate before the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

Mansour said, “We are thus hopeful that the international community, including this council, will uphold the legal, political and moral responsibilities towards the question of Palestine, responsibilities that have remained unfulfilled since the General Assembly’s adoption of resolution 181 (II[November 29, 1947]), which partitioned Mandate Palestine, and for which there is now an historic opportunity to finally fulfill towards ensuring justice and freedom for the Palestinian people.”

He added, “Why should the Palestinian people be forced to languish yet another year – or even one more day – under foreign occupation? They should not and they must not. This is the time to end the Israeli occupation. This is the time for Palestine’s independence. This is the time for Palestine and Israel to live side by side in peace and security, and this is the time for a new Middle East. We believe the international community is ready for that, and we trust the appropriate actions will be undertaken soon to make this a reality.”

“Our people have legitimate rights, needs and demands, and it is our duty to listen and to act responsibly to advance their just cause. We cannot keep waiting for Israel to negotiate in good faith, an almost impossible matter so long as the occupier continues to be absolved

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of its obligations under international law and as long as might is permitted to trump right. A new process has been set in motion, a process awakened by the failings of a 20-year process since Madrid and a 18-year process since the signing of the Oslo Accords due to Israel's refusal to end its occupation, end its illegal settlement activities, end its human rights violations and commit to peace. The time for change is now; there is no justification for the denial of the rights and freedom of the Palestinian people," he said.

"We thus continue to appeal for recognition of the state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders."

He said, "We are convinced that the more than 120 bilateral recognitions of Palestine to date are each a reaffirmation of our inalienable right to self determination and our natural and legal right to statehood and to be part of the international community. We recognize the important respective roles played by governments, parliaments and civil society and all the worlds' citizens in this regard, and we renew our gratitude for their vital support and solidarity."

"We believe that actions undertaken at the United Nations – the center of multilateral activity – and whether at the Security Council or the General Assembly, can contribute towards achieving the peace we all seek and will not obstruct realization of this objective. This is not a unilateral action. On the contrary, it is multilateral, and the consecration of the two-state solution in bold resolutions – including recognition of the state of Palestine, with east Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and its admission as a full member of the organization – will help to make the two state solution more inevitable," Mansour said.

He said, "This is the decisive measure that could finally convince Israel, the occupying Power, that its occupation and oppression of

the Palestinian people is completely rejected by the world and that it must abandon its destructive course, including its biggest unilateral illegal action – the settlement campaign – which has been rejected by the entire international community, including by all members of this council. This, we believe, is what will ultimately lead to a change in the status quo and to peace.”
