



Joint Communiqué of the
Heads of State and Government of the D-8 Member States
on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon
Cairo, Egypt, 19 December 2024

We, the Heads of State and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye, forming the Summit of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), as well as the Republic of Azerbaijan, gathered in Cairo on 19 December 2024 at the generous hospitality of H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Honorable President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of our 11th Summit, with the participation of H.E. President of the State of Palestine, H.E. the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as guests of the Egyptian Presidency.

We reiterate our condemnation of the brutal Israeli aggression and the grave violations of the international law, the international humanitarian law and the human rights law by Israel, against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which caused an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe and destruction of disastrous proportion. We warn against the danger of the escalation sweeping the region, the international consequences of the expansion of the Israeli aggression that has lasted for over one year in Gaza, which extended to include Lebanon, and further condemn the violation of sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also stress that this escalation should not impede the navigation in the Red Sea.

We deplore that since October 2023, over 44,000 Palestinians have been killed, 70% of them are women and children, and 105,000 people have been injured. More than 1.9 million people have been forcibly displaced and nearly 70% of the infrastructure in Gaza is destroyed, leaving almost the entire population without food, clean water, healthcare and basic shelter. Over 1,100 healthcare sites have been severely impacted by the Israeli attacks, leading to the resurgence of diseases. The risk of famine persists across the whole Gaza Strip, with 91% of the population



projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity between November 2024 and April 2025.

We express our concerns that as per the United Nations' report the GDP of the State of Palestine has contracted by around 35% and human development index (HDI) has fallen to 0.64 in 2024 with unemployment potentially rising to almost 50%, and that the HDI in Gaza, in specific, is projected to drop to 0.40, erasing over 20 years of progress.

We call for an immediate, permanent, and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, support the ongoing efforts in this regard, in particular Egypt, and stress the need to fully implement the UNGA and UNSC resolutions to immediately allow the delivery of humanitarian aid in a broad, safe and unhindered manner, and the full and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip. We reiterate, in this regard, the necessity for Israel to lift all restrictions, allow and facilitate humanitarian access to Gaza through its crossings and all available routes, as well to facilitate the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip, including in northern Gaza. We also categorically reject any displacement of Palestinian citizens outside their territory, which is a flagrant violation of International Law, and we call for providing the conditions for safe and unhindered return of displaced persons in Gaza to their homes.

We welcome the adoption of two recent Resolutions pertaining to the inherent rights of Palestinians at the 10th Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 2024, and urge the international community to operationalize these Resolutions in entirety and without delay.

We affirmed our strong support for the irreplaceable and indispensable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza as well as in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in host countries, and we reject any hindrance to the work of the Agency, including the Israeli practices aiming at impeding the Agency's lifesaving services.

We welcome the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/24 and the Provisional Measures Orders issued by the International Court of Justice, including the Order of 24 May 2024, which reaffirmed all previous provisional measures and indicated that Israel immediately halt its military offensive and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part and call upon all countries to ensure that the Orders issued by the Court are implemented without undue delay by Israel. We also call for the full implementation of the advisory opinion of the



International Court of Justice dated July 19, 2024 towards ending the Israeli occupation, removing its effects, and paying compensation for its damages, as soon as possible.

We express our grave concern as well from the illegal Israeli practices in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and reiterate, in this regard, the call to cease all Israeli settlement activities, land annexation, home demolitions, settler violence and military incursions in Palestinian towns of the West Bank. We also stress the necessity of maintaining the legal and historic status quo of the Holy Site in Jerusalem in word and in practice and condemn all Israeli violations in this regard.

The Israeli aggression that was extended to Lebanon and the bombing of Beirut, has also resulted in loss of thousands of innocent civilian lives, massive destruction of houses and infrastructure as well as a grave humanitarian situation. We welcome, in this regard, the ceasefire agreement that came into effect on the 27th of November 2024, and stress that this should contribute to the de-escalation in the region. We also stress the necessity to stop all violations of the agreement and call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The cost of physical damages and economic losses in Lebanon, due to the Israeli aggression, are estimated at 8.5 billion US dollars. Over 4,000 people have been killed and more than 16,000 people have been injured. Lebanon's real GDP growth is estimated to be cut at least by 6.6% in 2024 and almost 100,000 housing units have been partially or fully damaged. Around 1.2 million have been internally displaced, with women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and refugees at highest risk.

Mindful of our shared responsibility to stand with Palestine and Lebanon and to alleviate the damage resulted from the Israeli aggression, we express our commitment to providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, as well as to the Lebanese people, supporting the early recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Gaza and in Lebanon, bilaterally and collectively, and strengthening our support and collaboration with other donor countries and relevant international organizations. We welcome, in this regard, the Cairo Ministerial Conference to enhance the humanitarian response in Gaza, held in Cairo on 2nd of December 2024. We also commit to mobilize overall economic support to both Palestine and Lebanon to enable them to overcome the consequences of the war.

We reaffirm our unwavering support to the struggle of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination, and the implementation of all UN resolutions



related to the Palestinian cause, and stress the necessity to address the root causes of instability in the Middle East through meeting all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and establishing an independent, sovereign, and contiguous Palestinian State along the lines of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. And we call in this regard for the recognition of the State of Palestine by all states that have not yet done so and fully support its full membership in the United Nations.

We also stress the importance of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Lebanon and underscore the need to support its institutions, to fully implement the UNSC resolution 1701 (2006) and to enable the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the south of the Litani River, extending its control over the entire country.

We express our appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for holding a dedicated session on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon and look forward to following-up on the outcomes of our deliberations.