

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

STATEMENT by H.E Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Nga, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations at the Open Debate of the Security Council, in connection with the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question” 18 April 2016

Mr. President, 1. I join previous speakers in thanking the Chinese Presidency for convening this important open debate. My thanks also go to the UN Secretary General for his briefing. Viet Nam aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President, 2. Constructive dialogues, negotiation, and the employment of other peaceful means are the only realistic way to settle international disputes. This is particularly true for the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine. Viet Nam advocates the peaceful settlement of the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, aiming at achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting solution, ensuring legitimate interests of all parties concerned. Viet Nam supports the two-State solution with a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

3. Therefore we are extremely alarmed by the most recent report of the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Process which highlighted that the current negative trends on the ground “are imperiling the viability of a two-state solution”. We are deeply concerned about recent complicated developments in the region, particularly the latest round of violence which has cost hundreds of lives. We are heavy-hearted to see the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the West Bank and Gaza and the plight of millions of Palestinians.

4. We call for an end to all acts of violence. We urge Israel to immediately halt illegal settlement activities, land confiscation, construction of separation walls, and strictly abide by international humanitarian and human rights law. We appeal to all parties concerned to uphold their determination to resolve the conflict through negotiations, and refrain from any action of violence and hostility that escalates tension. It is essential that priority be given to the mitigation of pains and hardships of the Palestinian people, who had suffered for many decades.

Mr. President, 5. Viet Nam has always supported the struggle of the Palestinian people for their fundamental rights, especially the sacred right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state. We call for an early resumption of negotiations between parties concerned and welcome renewed efforts by the United Nations, the Quartet, the League of Arab States and regional countries to help promote the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on all core issues, with a view to achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. I thank you, Mr. President./.

