



IBSA FORUM

India – Brazil – South Africa

**Human Rights Council
19th Regular Session
Item 7 –General Debate
Geneva, 19 March 2012**

Thank you Madam President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the IBSA Forum, comprising India, Brazil and South Africa.

2. Our delegations thank the High Commissioner for the report presented, on the follow-up to resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1. We note with appreciation that the Palestinian Authority is willing to cooperate with OHCHR to address challenges and build its human rights capacity. Our delegations echo the High Commissioner's request for Israel to develop greater dialogue with her Office.

3. We encourage all parties to comply with their obligations under human rights and international humanitarian law, including by implementing the referred resolutions.

4. As the High Commissioner's report clearly shows the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories remains of grave concern. India, Brazil and South Africa call upon Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza and pending such measure, further facilitate the movement of persons and goods to and from Gaza, including material for reconstruction.

5. Our countries regret the recent violence in Gaza and Southern Israel, with 26 persons reported dead, and 80 injured. We commend Egypt for facilitating the cease-fire and call upon all sides to refrain from violent measures, including targeted killings and rocket-launching.

6. With regard to the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the IBSA countries are particularly concerned at the violence of Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property. We urge all sides to refrain from measures which may pose additional difficulties to achieve peace.

Madam President,

7. Occupation remains the main cause of human rights violations in Palestine. Existing conflicts remain political in nature and cannot be resolved by force by any side.

8. In their meeting last October, the Leaders of India, Brazil and South Africa welcomed the Palestinian request for full membership at the UN, which they support as a key step towards the full realization of the two-state solution, and expressed their expectation of a positive response by the Security Council to the Palestinian request. The Leaders called for the urgent resumption of effective and result-oriented negotiations aimed at realization of a sovereign, democratic, independent, united and viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, coexisting peacefully alongside Israel, within secure borders. They called for the monitoring of the Quartet's activities by the Security Council. The Leaders called for an immediate freeze in all settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian Territories and East Jerusalem and lifting the siege against Gaza.

Madam President,

9. Development strategies play a key role in the achievement of sustainable peace. In that sense, the IBSA countries are sponsoring projects in Palestine, such as the construction of a Multipurpose Sports Center in

Ramallah, innaugurated last November; the rehabilitation of the Culture and Hospital Center for the Palestinian Red Crescent; and the construction and equipping of a Center for People with Severe Intellectual Disabilities in Nablus.

10. In their meeting last October, the Leaders of India, Brazil and South Africa highlighted the importance of the IBSA Fund as an instrument to alleviate poverty and hunger and a useful vehicle for meaningful South-South cooperation, and reiterated their commitment to such and other projects.

11. Finally, Madam President, allow me to reiterate the commitment, shared by India, Brazil and South Africa, to increased dialogue and understanding, both here and in other fora, with a view to promoting the enjoyment of human rights in Palestine.

Thank you Madam President.