

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the President of Egypt and the Prime Minister of Norway, met in Oslo, Norway, on Monday 9 December. Norway and Egypt enjoy close bilateral cooperation. Norway and Egypt established diplomatic relations in 1936 and today we reaffirmed our commitment to further develop our close and friendly relationship. We agreed on holding regular political consultations on issues of mutual interest to strengthen our partnership and combining efforts towards our joint interest in achieving stability, peace and prosperity.

We both reiterated our shared principles in line with the UN Charter of respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

We underlined our grave concern about the situation in the Middle East, including the enormous civilian suffering and dire humanitarian needs, and agreed on the need for all parties to break the cycle of violence and take immediate and substantive measures to address the situation.

We condemned all violations of international humanitarian law and agreed on the urgent need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages and detainees in consistency with UNSCR 2735. Norway, on its part, condemns the Hamas terrorist attack on 7 October 2023 and calls for the immediate release of the hostages. We stressed that all parties have an obligation to protect civilians. We emphasized Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law to allow and facilitate safe and unimpeded humanitarian access through all routes and throughout Gaza. These were also core messages during the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza on December 2nd. We also rejected all kinds of forced displacement of the Palestinian people in Gaza. We also expressed our concern towards the escalating situation, the increase of settler violence and military incursions in the West Bank.

We welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire in Lebanon and urged both parties to implement it.

We also addressed our deep concern about Israel's systematic obstruction of UNRWA and other organizations providing aid, including the recent legislation adopted by Knesset. If implemented, the legislation would prevent UNRWA from continuing its operations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. This would have devastating consequences for the hundreds of thousands of civilians and contravene Israel's obligations under international law. We stressed our joint efforts to support the indispensable role of UNRWA and to put forward a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly requesting The International Court of Justice to provide an Advisory Opinion on the matter.

We discussed the many challenges facing the Palestinian Authority and reiterated our support to the efforts of Palestinian Government led by Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa to address these challenges. We stressed the need for the unification of Gaza and the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority, with a view of consolidating the Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, pursuant to international law and relevant UN resolutions. We agreed that Israel needs to make fundamental changes to its policies and practices in order for the Palestinian Authority to be able to function and deliver to its people. We stressed the need to continue to coordinate these issues in the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLIC).

We agreed that putting an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the implementation of the two-state solution, where Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side in peace and security, is vital for stability in the region. We also discussed how we and others should coordinate initiatives going forward, including within the Global Alliance for the implementation of the two-state solution. We share the view that a political solution, based on international law, is key for coexistence, cooperation, and peace in the Middle East.

Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of Egypt.

Jonas Gahr Store, Prime Minister of Norway.