

**THIRTY- SEVENTH (37TH) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**INTERVENTION OF THE HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH, PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS ON  
PALESTINE**

**Mr Chair,**

The situation in the Middle East continues to inflict a considerable toll on the people of Gaza. We have condemned the attack by Hamas on innocent civilians in Israel on October 7, 2023 and we equally and forcefully condemn the use of indiscriminate and disproportionate force by Israel on the Palestinian people ever since.

We are concerned that despite the provisional measures announced by the International Court of Justice in the case between South Africa and Israel, requesting Israel to take immediate steps to prevent genocidal actions in Gaza and allow access to humanitarian aid there does not appear to be any change in Israeli action.

**Mr Chair,**

We fear that the escalation of the conflict will engulf the neighbouring countries especially with the incidents in the Red Sea. It is therefore crucial that the international community multiplies its efforts at different levels, to firstly, bring an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire; and secondly, reset the momentum to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

**Mr Chair,**

Mauritius has, for decades, lent its unflinching support to the cause of the Palestinian people. We have been voting in favour of all UN resolutions that emphasize the importance and urgency of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, through the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian State, living side by side with Israel, in line with the Two-State Solution.

In December 2022, Mauritius voted in favour of a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly requesting the International Court of Justice to give an Advisory Opinion on the ongoing violation by Israel of the rights of the Palestinian people. We have made a written submission to the International Court of Justice and next week, we will participate in the oral proceedings.

Mauritius will continue to support initiatives both at the AU and UN levels that will contribute in bringing a just, peaceful, comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict based on past resolutions, international law and the inalienable Rights of Palestine for self-determination.

I thank you.