

**Statement of State of Palestine before the:
Global Climate Action_ High Level Event**

By: H.E. Ms. Adalah Atira

Minister of Environment Quality Authority

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Chair of the COP24,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset I would like to thank the polish government and people for their hospitality.

Thanks for all who are working to live in dignity and prosperity on this earth as a human being.

I would like to convey to you the greetings of 70% of Palestinians whom are youth and children who are living under Israel Occupation.

In Palestine we recognized early the importance of climate change which is having negative impact on our daily life and considered a serious challenge, accompanied also by the challenge of being under occupation which is considered as an amplifier for the serious negative impacts of climate change.

With guidance and instructions from our leadership and government, Palestine started the national efforts in formulating its national policies and strategies on climate change by developing the National Adaptation Plan, Initial National Communication Report and Nationally Determined Contributions.

These efforts started even before being a State Party to UNFCCC on March 2016. By November 2016 we submitted our INCR and NAP and by August 2017 we submitted our NDC and we fulfilled all reporting commitments to the convention.

We have an ambitious plan on climate change that took into consideration SDGs.

We have two challenges facing us to be able to implement these climate action plans: the Israeli Occupation and the lack of financial resources. The world indeed knows well that sustainable development under occupation is not possible nor achievable. The Israeli occupation is controlling and exhausting our natural resources and have full control of our

lands, especially lands classified as area "C" which the occupation has full security and administrative control on it. Area C is almost 62% of the Palestinian land. The occupation hindering and undermining our abilities to implement our national climate plans. The three wars on Gaza lead to severe humanitarian situation in Gaza and make it inhabitable by all means. The two million people living in Gaza are suffering from extremely crucial humanitarian crisis and looking for the international community to support them and protect them from the occupation as well as from the impact of climate change. UN reports indicate the very high rate of unemployment in Gaza in addition to high percentage of the people of Gaza living in extreme poverty.

Regarding lack of financial resources which is considered a serious challenge to the implementation of our NDCs especially as a result of politicizing the operationalization of some operating entities of the convention. As a state party to the convention and (other conventions as well), Palestine is eligible to access funds from the operating entities, and this is a legitimate right, while some of these entities denied us this right and even they never responded to our continued communications. This is unfair and very disappointing.

We joined the convention with a good faith and aiming at sharing the international community the work to combat the climate change impacts but this is not received in an appropriate manner by some entities and securing the financial supports needed is still an issue to be resolved. This is a call to the international community to secure every possible support to Palestine and Palestinian who suffers a lot from the impact of climate change and have never been a cause to this change in the climate.

I thank you.