



**STATEMENT BY MR. A. GOPINATHAN, ACTING PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, ON ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE ON THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
WALL IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AT THE EMERGENCY
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON JULY 16, 2004**

Mr. President,

Please allow me to convey our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Austria on the passing away of H.E. President Klestil. We join others in conveying our sympathies to the Government and people of Nicaragua on the loss of lives and damages to property in the recent floods in that country.

Mr. President,

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this meeting of the resumed session of the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly to consider the Advisory Opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

We have noted that the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion has ruled that the Israeli Separation Wall in Occupied Palestinian Territory is contrary to international law and should be dismantled. We call on Israel to take into account the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in keeping with the overwhelming international opinion on the matter.

Mr. President,

The outbreak of violence in West Asia since September 2000 has claimed over 3,500 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli lives, leaving countless more injured, physically and otherwise. Israel's policies of closure, containment and curfew in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have not brought the two sides any closer to settlement of their dispute. On the

contrary, it has only exacerbated the plight and suffering of the Palestinian people and fuelled the violence afflicting the region.

The Secretary General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process stated recently that "the impact of the conflict on the population goes beyond deaths and injuries; the violence also affects the economies on both sides and the living conditions of Israelis and Palestinians alike, spreading the misery further and deeper". He has quoted a recent World Bank report detailing the misery prevailing in the Palestinian territories, which describes the recession as "the worst in history". He reports that the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories continues to be severe, with unemployment at 28% and half the Palestinian population in the territories living under the poverty line.

India has maintained consistently that the only solution to the ongoing violence lies in the path of political dialogue and reconciliation. The absence of any progress in the political process is a matter of considerable concern. There is, however, no alternative but to persevere with the search for a peaceful solution. Recent opinion polls, both in Israel and in the Palestinian territories, indicative of widespread public opinion in favour of peace and reconciliation, are signs of optimism that both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority should heed and exploit.

Unfortunately, both sides have made no progress on their core obligations in the implementation of the Quartet Roadmap. India calls upon the parties to fulfil their obligations under the Roadmap, which, for the time being, represents the only framework towards attaining peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)