

December 31, 2014

**Statement by PLO Executive Committee Member Dr. Saeb Erekat on Palestine's
Accession to International Treaties**

Tonight was a historic moment for our people and for all those around the world who seek justice and peace.

The State of Palestine signed a number of international treaties, all of which are consistent with the values of our nation, the foremost of which is respect for international human rights and humanitarian law.

Yesterday evening, the Security Council was presented with an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to peace by approving a resolution that is in conformity with international law and several previously adopted United Nations resolutions. Although the majority of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, certain countries continue to actively block steps towards ending Israel's belligerent occupation and its systematic violations of international law.

We signed the treaties, and particularly the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in order to ensure the protection and advance the rights of our people. There must be accountability and those who are concerned about courts, should stop committing crimes.

This does not constitute a unilateral step. On the contrary, this is a step towards the internationalization of the solution. Palestine has, and will continue to use, all legitimate tools within its means, in order to defend itself against Israeli colonization and other violations of international law.

Tonight, we call upon the international community to assume its responsibility in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in Palestine, including ending the occupation that began in 1967. We have provided our people, and all those who seeking a just peace, a horizon of hope. We trust that the international community will stand by us, as we seek to exercise the long overdue rights of our State and of our people.

List of treaties signed tonight by H.E Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine.

1. Convention on the Political Rights of Women
2. Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the 'New York Convention')
3. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
4. Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

5. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)
6. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III)
7. Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses
8. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents
9. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
10. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel
11. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
12. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity
13. Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court
14. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
15. Declaration in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
16. The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
17. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
18. Convention on Cluster Munitions

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