11 November 2023

H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis
President of the 78th Session of the General Assembly
United Nations, New York

Excellency,

We write to you in our respective capacities as Chair of the Arab Group and Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group at the United Nations, and in follow-up of the General Assembly resolution ES-10/21, adopted in its tenth emergency special session on 27 October 2023, and in follow-up of the joint meeting of our Groups with Your Excellency on 10 November 2023.

In this regard, we have the honor to request the convening of a meeting of the General Assembly to receive briefings from United Nations officials, including the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the heads of relevant agencies, including UNRWA, UNOCHA, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WFP and UNDP, on the grave situation being suffered by the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of the aggression being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power.

The members of our Groups believe that such a meeting is urgently needed to update and inform the General Assembly membership about the reality on the ground and the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations to address the humanitarian catastrophe and to protect the Palestinian civilian population in order to better inform the ongoing efforts of the General Assembly, in line with its Charter responsibilities, to address this critical matter in accordance with international law, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and its permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is justly resolved in all its aspects.

It is our shared hope that this meeting can be convened as soon as possible in light of the gravity and urgency of the situation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ambassador Tafer Elsonni
Chair of the Arab Group
Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations

Ambassador Sidi-Mohamed Laghdaf
Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations