

**Statement of the State of Palestine at the Seventh Summit of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in
Asia (CICA)**

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan – 15 October 2026

**H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Highnesses, Excellences, and Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
H.E. Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and
Confidence Building Measures in Asia,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour to represent the State of Palestine at this Summit and to convey to you greetings of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine and his appreciation, and best wishes for the success of your deliberations.

I also convey President Abbas's greetings to H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, and his thankfulness to the Republic of Azerbaijan, its leadership, government, and people, for hosting this Summit and in presiding over the Conference.

I extend my appreciation to the Republic of Kazakhstan, the host country and founder of this important Asian framework, and to H.E. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Secretariat of the Conference, for their efforts in developing its institutions and strengthening dialogue and cooperation among its Member States.

Hignesses, Excellences, and Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

We meet to discuss interaction and confidence building in Asia at a time when the principles upon which trust among States and peoples are being tested: respect for international law, the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, the protection of civilians, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

These principles cannot safeguard peace and security unless they are respected and applied without selectivity.

I address you today on behalf of a people facing a threat to its life and existence on its own land. In the Gaza Strip, the war has left widespread destruction and immense humanitarian suffering.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, settler attacks are escalating, settlement expansion is continuing, and demolitions and land seizures persist.

The E1 project threatens to sever East Jerusalem from its Palestinian surroundings, cut territorial contiguity between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, and undermine the possibility of establishing an independent and geographically contiguous Palestinian State.

President Mahmoud Abbas affirmed, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 24th, that our people will not leave their homeland, will not accept displacement, and will not allow anyone to decide their future on their behalf. He called upon world leaders not to allow another Nakba and further massacres against the Palestinian people.

The Gaza Strip is an integral part of the State of Palestine. We reject the displacement of its population, its separation from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, or the imposition of arrangements that determine its future without the consent of the Palestinian people and their legitimate state institutions.

We have welcomed international efforts to end the war, the twenty-point peace plan, and Security Council Resolution 2803. We call for the swift implementation of the second phase, ensuring a permanent ceasefire, the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, the full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the commencement of recovery and reconstruction, and the empowerment of the State of Palestine to assume its responsibilities in the Strip.

In the West Bank, we call for an end to settlement activity, settler attacks, and all other measures that undermine the institutions of the State of Palestine and the prospects for peace.

We also call upon the Security Council to implement its Resolution 2334 and to halt the E1 plan before it creates an irreversible reality on the ground that would make the realization of the two-State solution impossible.

Hignesses, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our national project is founded upon protecting our people and our land, ending the occupation, realizing the independence of the State of Palestine on the June 4 1967 border, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and achieving a just solution to the refugee issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

We seek a genuine peace that ends the occupation, not another process for managing the conflict while the reality on the ground changes every day.

Our vision for peace is based on a Palestinian State living alongside Israel, ensuring security, dignity, and prosperity for all. No lasting security can be built upon the occupation of another people and the denial of their legitimate rights.

From this Asian forum, we call upon the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia to translate the principles of the Conference into practical steps: protecting civilians, preventing displacement, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance, rejecting settlement and annexation, and supporting the implementation of resolutions. Building confidence requires our people to see that international law protects their rights, and that the path to peace runs through their freedom and independence.

The State of Palestine appreciates the positions of Asian countries in support of the rights of our people and reaffirms its readiness to continue constructive engagement with all Members of the Conference, guided by its belief in dialogue and cooperation, respect for the sovereignty of States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

On behalf of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, I renew our thanks to H.E. President Ilham Aliyev and to the Republic of Azerbaijan for their gracious hospitality.

Our appreciation also goes to the leaders and heads of delegations participating in this Summit, as well as to the Secretariat. We wish this Summit every success in its deliberations and in achieving its aspired objectives.

Thank you.