



## **Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council**

**New York, 14 December 2001**

Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg

Mr. President,

Ever since this question was placed under the aegis of the UN, Brazil has consistently advocated a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. In the opening statement in the general debate last month, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso renewed our commitment to a balanced and just solution for the question of Palestine, underlining that:

“Just as it supported the creation of the State of Israel, Brazil today calls for concrete measures towards the setting up of a Palestinian State that is democratic, united and economically viable.

The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the respect for the existence of Israel as a sovereign, free and secure State are essential if the Middle East is to rebuild its future in peace.

This is a moral debt owed by the United Nations. It is a task that must not be postponed.”

All peoples of the region deserve an environment of political freedom, peace and stability, where they can concentrate their strengths on prosperity and social and economic development.

For this to happen, the message this meeting is conveying is clear: it is necessary that tolerance prevails over violence, and that political dialogue and a genuine wish for conciliation prevail over extremist attitudes.

The United Nations, especially the Security Council, is the fundamental instrument of the international community for solving conflicts. Its role should be strengthened in times of crisis. In this sense, we reaffirm our support for the work of the Secretary-General and his Representative in the Middle East in regard to the question of Palestine.

We hope this meeting of the Security Council will prove to be a valid step in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. We also hope that in the future, the Security Council will be able to fully exert its responsibilities in this question.

Thank you.