

Äänestyselitys / pidättäytyminen

Mr. President,

Finland abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution ES-10/L.30.

The tragic events of the past months have once again demonstrated that lasting peace in the Middle East requires a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Finland considers the two-state solution the only sustainable way to guarantee the security and rights of both peoples and to achieve sustainable peace. The entire international community must strive to advance this goal.

Sustainable peace requires the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in their own independent state. Finland has been a reliable partner to the Palestinians for decades in supporting the construction of the Palestinian state both politically and through development cooperation.

The international community now needs to create clear steps towards a Palestinian state. Palestine's UN membership is one of these steps. It is of utmost importance that the membership is not merely symbolic, but comes as part of a broad-based plan that produces concrete improvements to the situation of the Palestinians and the security of the whole region. Unfortunately, the international community has not yet agreed on such a plan.

Finland wants to see an independent, internationally recognized Palestinian state as a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible. Despite the difficult situation, it is important that all peoples in the region become aware of the necessity of the two-state solution. The leadership of both parties must act in a manner that makes the two-state solution credible in the eyes of the citizens.

Mr. President,

the protection of civilians must immediately become the highest priority. Israel must stop all its illegal activities in the West Bank, and release the Palestinian revenues it is withholding. The Palestinian government needs to implement its reform program.

We all must acknowledge openly that there is no return to the status quo ante of 7th of October. Finland continues to call for a sustainable ceasefire in Gaza, and the immediate release of all hostages. Ultimately, the benefits of the two-state model clearly outweigh disadvantages for all residents in the region. The peoples of Israel and Palestine deserve a better, secure future, and the Palestinians have the right to decide on their own affairs.