

**Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
on Israeli settlement activity**

The Secretary-General condemns the approval of plans for the building of 1,600 new housing units in East Jerusalem by the Israeli Ministry of Interior earlier today. He reiterates that settlements are illegal under international law. Furthermore, he underscores that settlement activity is contrary to Israel's obligations under the Roadmap, and undermines any movement towards a viable peace process.

New York, 09 March 2010