

OFF-THE-CUFF

Secretary-General remarks with Leader of the Opposition (Israel), Mr. Isaac Herzog

Jerusalem, 13 October 2014

Honourable Opposition Leader, Mr. Herzog,

It is a great honour and pleasure to visit and meet you. After many very tragic violence taking place in Gaza, I believe that it is high time now -- the parties should sit down together and address all these underlying issues, which have been there for a long time, unresolved.

Now [is the time] to show political leadership and commitment for a better future, for both Israelis and Palestinians. We also have to think about the future and well-being of children, and many succeeding generations. This is the moral and political responsibility of political leaders.

We believe that diplomacy, national security and peace should be addressed [in a] bi-partisan [way]. There are no political parties [inaudible] That is why the leader of the opposition party is very important and I count on your leadership. The United Nations will continue to stand with the people of Israel and the Palestinian people to facilitate common ground for their future so that both people can live in peace and security side by side.

Thank you.