

**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General regarding Prime Minister Netanyahu's comments about the occupied West Bank**

The Secretary-General is concerned by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement declaring his intention, if elected, to annex the Jordan Valley and northern Dead Sea as a first step to applying Israeli sovereignty over all settlements and other areas in the occupied West Bank.

Such steps, if implemented, would constitute a serious violation of international law. They would be devastating to the potential of reviving negotiations and regional peace, while severely undermining the viability of the two-State solution.

The United Nations remains committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Road Map, as well as in compliance with prior agreements between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and realizing the vision of two states -- Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State -- living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General  
New York, 11 September 2019



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