



**Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Nickolay Mladenov, on new restrictions at Kerem Shalom crossing**

Jerusalem, 10 July 2018

“I am concerned by the consequences of Israel’s decision to temporarily suspend imports and exports with the exception of basic humanitarian supplies through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Humanitarian assistance is no substitute for commerce and trade. I urge the authorities to reverse this decision.

Hamas and other Palestinian factions in Gaza should also do their part by maintaining calm, stopping incendiary kites and preventing other provocations.

The United Nations is continuing its engagement with Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, as well as regional and international partners, to reduce tensions, support intra-Palestinian reconciliation and resolve all humanitarian challenges. This latest development must not divert us from this urgent course of action.

Everyone must step back from the trajectory of confrontation and escalation.”

[ENDS]