



**Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Nickolay Mladenov, on latest statements made by some Hamas leaders**

Jerusalem, 22 October 2017

"I condemn the latest statements made by some Hamas leaders reportedly calling for the destruction of the State of Israel. They do not serve the interest of peace and the goal of achieving a negotiated two-state solution.

Under the auspices of Egypt, Palestinian leaders have embarked on a course to solve the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza and enable the government to take up its responsibilities in the Strip. I encourage them not be distracted from this objective."

[ENDS]