



**Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on statements by the Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister
on the Arab Peace Initiative**

Jerusalem, 31 May 2016

I welcome yesterday's statements by the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Liberman on the Arab Peace Initiative (API). This can help advance negotiations on achieving a two-state solution. It follows the call by the President of Egypt to Israelis and Palestinians to continue the historic step toward peace taken by Israel and Egypt 37 years ago.

The Middle East Quartet has repeatedly emphasized the significance and importance of the API with its vision for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and as an opportunity for building a regional security framework.

This opportunity should not be missed and must be followed up with concrete and timely action.

ENDS