



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 May 2015

Excellency,

Allow me to congratulate you on the formation of the new Government of the State of Israel and to wish you success in carrying out your responsibilities.

I look forward to working closely with you to advance peace and security for both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples. I do not underestimate the challenges in finding common ground. Nor do I underestimate the complex security environment in which difficult decisions must be taken by all sides. I am convinced, however, that, as you begin your fourth term in office, your personal commitment to peace, security and the two-State solution is necessary and remains vital to the process.

I also look forward to working with you and with the Palestinian leadership to identify options for a return to negotiations. It is my firm belief that both parties must expend every effort to build upon existing agreements, including relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative, to gain momentum towards a final status agreement. The goal towards which we all strive remains the same: Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition. I simply do not see how any other possibility could bring lasting peace or security to the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. My new Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, stands ready to support this process.

His Excellency
Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister and Minister of Public
Affairs and the Diaspora of the State of Israel
Jerusalem

SG: to PM Netanyahu
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: AK/SA/BS
Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 20 May 2015

Your leadership in taking credible steps, including a freeze on all settlement activity and the promotion of meaningful negotiations, will also be critical.

The United Nations looks to Israel, as a member of the community of nations, to take concrete measures to advance the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a sovereign, independent and viable state. I am encouraged by a number of recent steps Israel has taken to ease restrictions on Palestinians, and I remain hopeful that your Government will expand on these efforts.

Please rest assured of my personal resolve and that of the United Nations, to work with the parties to ensure that the peace process leads to the objectives we all seek so fervently.

I should also like to take this opportunity to commend the assistance Israel gave to the people of Nepal in their time of need after the recent devastating earthquakes.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "moon".

BAN Ki-moon