

9 January 2009

**Statement of Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly,
on Gaza**

The President of the General Assembly, Miguel D' Escoto, welcomes the resolution passed last night as an important step. He recognizes that politics, whether we like it or not, is the art of the possible, and this resolution reflects a minimalist response of the Security Council to a horrific aggression. The Council's action, important as it is, was neither prompt nor effective, as demanded by Article 24 of the United Nations Charter. Rather than responding to the warnings of a likely new aggression against Gaza, the Council fiddled while Gaza burned, which is the reason he answered the request of member states to convene a meeting of the General Assembly.

Gaza is still burning, but the Security Council resolution could be at least a first step in a process to quench that fire. The President is aware that the Security Council resolution does not eliminate the continuing obligations of the United Nations as a whole, including the General Assembly to the people of Gaza. He will continue his efforts to meet those obligations.