**President Abbas**:

1. **Jerusalem is not for sale and the rights of the Palestinian people are not for bargaining.**
2. Peace be upon the General Assembly.
3. **We will keep our faith in peace, we will maintain peace, and we will achieve our independent State with peace, because God is with us, our cause is just, our people have sacrificed a great deal and Assembly members are supporters of peace.**
4. God Almighty is against those who are unjust.
5. Allah will suffice me, and He is the best guardian.
6. **During last year’s general debate, I came before the Assembly appealing for freedom, independence and justice for my oppressed people, who have been suffering under the yoke of Israeli occupation for 51 years.**
7. **I return to the Assembly today, as that colonial occupation continues to suffocate us, undermining our unwavering efforts to build the institutions of our cherished State, which the General Assembly recognized in the year 2011.**
8. This year the Palestinian National Council, which is the Parliament of Palestine, convened and renewed the legitimacy of our national institutions through the election of a new leadership for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
9. **The Parliament took important decisions that committed me to reconsidering the political, economic and security agreements that have been reached with the Israeli Government, and to reviewing the future of the Palestinian National Authority, which has, unfortunately, been rendered powerless.**
10. **In addition, the Parliament asked me to suspend the Palestinian recognition of the State of Israel until Israel in turn recognizes the State of Palestine based on the 4 June 1967 borders.**
11. **Moreover, it requested that I approach international courts, including the International Criminal Court, to have them investigate the Israeli Government’s breaches of the treaties it has signed, and investigate the aggressions of the Israeli army and the terrorist practices of settlers against our people, our land and our holy sites.**
12. **The Assembly will note that every single day, Israeli settlers, and even the Israeli army, desecrate our holy sites, in particular the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.**
13. **Last July, Israel adopted a racist law that crossed every red line.**
14. **It is called the Jewish nation-State law.**
15. **It denies the connection of the Palestinian people to their historic homeland and dismisses their right to self-determination, their history and the United Nations resolutions relevant to the Palestinian question.**
16. **It also denies the agreements concluded with Israel, which will inevitably lead to the creation of a single racist, apartheid State, thereby nullifying the possibility of a two-State solution.**
17. **Israel practices racism but has now crowned its practice with that new law.**
18. **The new law also discriminates against Arab citizens of Israel, granting the right to self-determination in the State of Israel exclusively to Jews and thereby legalizing discrimination against the Arab citizens, who make up 20 per cent of the population of Israel.**
19. **In addition, the law discriminates against other non-Jews who have immigrated into Israel, stripping them of their citizenship rights.**
20. **At least 5 per cent of Israel’s current population are non-Jews, mostly Christian and Muslim immigrants, many of whom emigrated from the former Soviet Union.**
21. **Those people have also been stripped of their rights to citizenship.**
22. **The new law constitutes a gross political and legal violation, as well as a real threat that reminds us of the apartheid State that existed in South Africa.**
23. **We therefore strongly reject and condemn it.**
24. **We further call on the international community and the Assembly to take action to reject and condemn it as a racist and illegal law that is null and void, as the United Nations did when it condemned the former apartheid State of South Africa in several resolutions, bearing in mind that thousands of Jews and Israeli citizens have also rejected the new law and demonstrated against it.**
25. **Fifty-six of the Knesset’s 120 members have rejected it, because they deem it a law of racial discrimination.**
26. **I therefore call on the United Nations to follow in the footsteps of those Israeli citizens who have rejected it.**
27. **That racist law talks about the so-called land of Israel.**
28. **Could Assembly members ask the Israeli Government what exactly the land of Israel is?**
29. **What are the borders of the State of Israel?**
30. **I challenge anyone to give me an answer and bring me a map that shows Israel’s borders.**
31. **That racist law constitutes another stigma for the State of Israel and for anyone who keeps silent about it, as well as about other Israeli laws that legitimize piracy, the confiscation of land and the seizure of the funds of the Palestinian people.**
32. **We have always engaged positively with the various initiatives of the international community that seek to achieve peace between us and the Israelis, including the Arab Peace Initiative, which was recognized by the Security Council in resolution 1515.**
33. **We have also been dealing with the Administration of President Trump from the beginning of his tenure in the same positive spirit, and we welcomed his promise to launch a peace initiative.**
34. **I have met with him on numerous occasions.**
35. **While we eagerly awaited his peace initiative, we were shocked by the decisions and actions he took that completely contradict the role and commitment of his Administration to the peace process.**
36. **In November 2017, his Administration made a decision to close the PLO office in Washington, D.C.**
37. **He then announced his recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved his country’s Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.**
38. **He even boasts that he has taken the issues of Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and security off the negotiating table.**
39. **All such decisions threaten the Palestinian national cause and constitute a violation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.**
40. The United States Administration went even further in its aggression by cutting assistance to the Palestinian National Authority, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and Palestinian hospitals in occupied East Jerusalem.
41. Then they talk about humanitarian aid, and even that they have already stopped.
42. With all of those decisions, the Administration has reneged on previous United States commitments and undermined the possibility of a two-State solution, while revealing the falsity of its claims of concern about the humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people.
43. **It is very ironic that the United States Administration still talks about what it calls the “deal of the century”.**
44. **What is there left for the Administration to offer the Palestinian people, humanitarian solutions alone?**
45. **If it has removed Jerusalem, refugees, security and other issues from the negotiation table, what is left for a political solution in the Middle East?**
46. The United States Congress continues to insist on viewing the PLO as a terrorist organization, although it is recognized as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people by the overwhelming majority of countries of the world, including Israel.
47. However, the United States Congress continues to claim that the PLO is a terrorist organization, even though it is recognized by Israel, while the State of Palestine is cooperating with a majority of countries of the world, including the United States, to combat terrorism.
48. Why is there then such animosity towards the Palestinian people, who are suffering under the yoke of an occupation that is supported by the United States?
49. We would like to tell that Administration that our position is firm and clear for all to see.
50. We challenge them to find a single mistake that we have made during our long journey.
51. However, the United States Congress says that the PLO is a terrorist organization.
52. Why?
53. I do not know.
54. The Congress has decided and we must listen.
55. For years, we have affirmed to the United States Administration our willingness to establish a Palestinian-American committee to examine the political and legal status of the PLO, as a means of demonstrating to the Administration that the PLO is committed to achieving peace and combating terrorism, as well as showing that the decision of the Congress regarding the PLO is arbitrary, unlawful and unjustified, while the Congress deliberately ignores the official agreement between the PLO and the United States Administration on combating terrorism, an agreement that we have also concluded with 83 other countries.
56. We have protocols with 83 countries under the heading of combating terrorism, including the United States.
57. However, the United States Congress calls us terrorists.
58. Despite all of that, I renew from this rostrum my call to President Trump to rescind his decisions and decrees regarding Jerusalem, refugees and settlements, which contravene international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as the understandings that we have reached aimed at salvaging the peace process and achieving security and stability for future generations.
59. Incidentally, here is an example of those understandings.
60. There is a letter signed by the United States Administration and ourselves concerning many issues, but the Administration now ignores all of them.
61. **Consistent with our commitment to peace and a two-State solution, and the negotiations that we never rejected leading to their achievement, I challenge anyone to cite a single instance in which we refused to come to the negotiation table.**
62. **On the contrary, we have been invited more than once by several countries in this very Hall to sit down with the Israelis and with Mr. Netanyahu.**
63. **Every single time, I accepted.**
64. **I challenge anyone to tell me that I ever refused or that he accepted even once.**
65. **We have never refused those negotiations, because we want to rescue the peace process.**
66. **I appeared before the Security Council on 20 February of this year and presented an initiative calling for the convening of an international peace conference based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and internationally endorsed terms of reference.**
67. **Such a conference should involve broad international participation, including of regional and international stakeholders, led by the permanent members of the Security Council and the Quartet.**
68. **We will circulate to Members a document laying out the initiative in its entirety and hope that the Assembly will adopt it.**
69. **In that regard, I reiterate that we are not at all against negotiations, and we have never once rejected them.**
70. **We will continue to extend our hand to achieve peace.**
71. **We believe in peace as the only path to reach our cause, as I said at the beginning of my statement.**
72. **We do not believe in violence and terrorism.**
73. **We miss no opportunity to reiterate that fact.**
74. **What is required of us, Negotiations on the basis of international legitimacy?**
75. **None of the international legitimacy resolutions since 1947 has been respected up to now, so what solutions are we talking about?**
76. **Peace in our region cannot be realized without an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital including all the holy sites.**
77. **Some people try to outsmart us by asserting that our capital is in Abu Deis and other places surrounding Jerusalem.**
78. **That is a manipulation of words.**
79. **No.**
80. **Our capital is East Jerusalem, not “in East Jerusalem”.**
81. **I would ask others not to try to outsmart us by saying “Abu Deis” or “in East Jerusalem” so that they can pick and choose an area here or there.**
82. **No, it is East Jerusalem, which has been occupied since 1967, that is our capital.**
83. **Peace is not possible otherwise, because there can be no peace in a State of temporary and unknown borders, like the State of Israel with its unknown borders.**
84. **They invented the idea of a State with temporary borders and said:**
85. **“We will give you a State but with unknown borders”.**
86. **Subsequently, they said, “Let us talk”.**
87. **No, we unconditionally want a State with very well-defined borders and rights.**
88. **Only then can we coexist with the Israelis.**
89. There are 138 States in the Assembly that have recognized the State of Palestine, recently joined by Colombia.
90. That makes 139.
91. I therefore call on the countries of the world that have yet to recognize the State of Palestine to make that long-overdue recognition happen.
92. I can no longer see a convincing reason justifying the continued delay in the recognition of the State of Palestine by certain countries.
93. In that regard, I want to draw the Assembly’s attention to the fact that in 2019 the State of Palestine will chair the Group of 77 and China.
94. Ten minutes ago, I met His Excellency President Al Sisi of Egypt in a conference room, and he announced that we have been freely elected by 134 countries to chair the Group of 77 and China.
95. Nevertheless, there are certain countries that say,
96. “We recognize both countries”.
97. If so, why do they not recognize Palestine?
98. That is entirely unacceptable.
99. **We tell those countries that if they recognize us, it does not mean that we will not pursue negotiations.**
100. **On the contrary, that will bolster our international standing, and, together with their support, we will be able to participate in negotiations assisted by their recognition of the State of Palestine.**
101. **That recognition should not be unilateral in the sense of recognizing one State only, while refusing to recognize the other.**
102. **They have to recognize both States.**
103. **I would like to remind the Assembly once again that Israel has not implemented a single one of the hundreds of General Assembly resolutions on this topic.**
104. **The General Assembly has adopted 705 resolutions on the problem since 1947.**
105. **And the Security Council has adopted 86 resolutions since 1948.**
106. **Not a single resolution has been implemented by Israel.**
107. **Unfortunately, I have to say frankly that Israel is supported in that by the United States.**
108. **The General Assembly gave us 139 votes in favour, while 42 States abstained.**
109. **Only eight countries voted against.**
110. **For how long will Israel be an outlaw, do whatever it wishes and act as a rebel backed by whomever it wants?**
111. **We are resisting the Israeli occupation by legitimate means that have been recognized by the United Nations and include primarily peaceful popular resistance.**
112. **We will use no other means, only peaceful popular resistance.**
113. **Is that illegal?**
114. **By contrast, Israeli settlers are using weapons against the Palestinian people.**
115. **They destroy cities, towns and villages with their weapons.**
116. **I am not talking about the army and the police.**
117. **I am talking about the Israeli settlers.**
118. **We reject and will continue to reject violence and the use of force.**
119. **We will reject every type of weapon and will not accept the use of arms anywhere.**
120. We call on the world to pursue efforts to achieve disarmament, including of both nuclear and traditional weapons.
121. **We currently face a problem in Khan Al-Ahmar, where Israel is insistent on destroying a village that has been populated by Palestinians for more than 50 years.**
122. **If Israel destroys that village, it will be destroying the unity of the West Bank, which will consequently be divided into north and south.**
123. **That is what Israel wants to do.**
124. **Does the Assembly agree with that?**
125. **There is also the continued aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque.**
126. **Does the Assembly remember the previous attacks on Al-Aqsa, which were stopped by peaceful popular resistance?**
127. **We are now being told that the Israeli Supreme Court will approve a decision to divide Al-Aqsa by time and space.**
128. **We will definitely not accept that, and I am sure that people with courage, dignity and a desire for peace will not accept it either.**
129. **Israel should bear the brunt.**
130. **Its senseless thuggery must come to an end.**
131. **Every day there is a new decision taken as though we do not exist.**
132. **A United Nations resolution was successfully adopted for our international protection, because every day we are being attacked, and we are not capable of protecting ourselves.**
133. **That resolution was adopted, but who will implement it?**
134. In all honesty, it is not sufficient for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution without implementing it just like other resolutions.
135. The General Assembly must respect its own resolutions.
136. We applauded that resolution, but it is not being implemented.
137. Please, tell us how we can implement that resolution.
138. That is the Assembly’s responsibility.
139. While we welcome the economic and humanitarian support being provided through legitimate international institutions to our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, we reject the notion that such support can be considered a substitute for a political settlement.
140. Our cause has many humanitarian aspects, but with a political settlement, that humanitarian aid would not be needed.
141. Do not try to fool us by saying that the Assembly is helping us.
142. We want the right to the self-determination of our people, no more, no less.
143. Any people, large or small, should enjoy the right to self-determination.
144. There are 13 million Palestinians around the world.
145. Why are we being denied the right to self-determination?
146. It would harm no one.
147. **We want to establish an independent State that will live alongside the State of Israel.**
148. **What is wrong with that?**
149. **What crime we would be committing?**
150. We are facing another problem.
151. We continue to make genuine and serious efforts to put an end to the current division in our governance and achieve reconciliation despite the many obstacles preventing us from attaining those aims.
152. To this day, we still uphold our responsibilities towards our people in the Gaza Strip.
153. We express our appreciation to our Arab brethren, particularly our brother Arab Republic of Egypt, for their efforts to end the division, hoping that those efforts will be successful.
154. We entered into an agreement, with Egypt as a sponsor, on 12 October 2017.
155. The agreement is very simple.
156. The Palestinian Government will carry out its responsibilities, both in Gaza and in the West Bank, and then we will establish our State on a basis of unified law, authority, regime and legitimate arms.
157. We reject the notion of militias.
158. However, that agreement has not been accepted by the other party.
159. Perhaps, over the coming days, we will witness a final round of talks before taking the next steps.
160. I would like to sum up by saying the following.
161. First, the Palestinian population numbers about 13 million human beings, even if not everyone views them as human beings.
162. We are not superfluous people.
163. A population is never superfluous, regardless of its size.
164. Why are we treated as a superfluous people that the world should get rid of?
165. That is totally unacceptable.
166. Yet we are patient and steadfast, and we believe in peace and in peaceful means.
167. We want to be viewed as humans.
168. We are not superfluous.
169. Secondly, we have entered into agreements with the United States Administration, which has, however, reneged on all those agreements.
170. We are committed to and will abide by our part of the agreements, but if the United States Administration fails to honour them, then we will not abide by them either.
171. So an agreement should be respected by all parties to it.
172. I respect those agreements fully, but if the other side does not respect them, I will not respect them or be committed to them either.
173. **The United States wishes to act as a mediator, and yet we see now that the United States cannot single-handedly act as a mediator.**
174. **We have the Middle East Quartet, which any country can join, whether from Europe, the Americas, Africa or even the Arab region.**
175. **Any country may join the Quartet to act as a mediator between Palestine and Israel, but the United States cannot act as the sole mediator, because it is too biased towards Israel.**
176. **Thirdly, there are also agreements with Israel, such as the Oslo Accords and the Paris Agreement.**
177. **Those agreements have all been abrogated by Israel, and we call on it to re-engage with them.**
178. **If it does not, we will certainly not uphold our commitments.**
179. We have also concluded an agreement with Hamas, and our brothers in Egypt recognize that we have upheld our side of the agreement.
180. However, Hamas has failed to fulfil its obligations, which is why we will not bear any responsibility from now on for the failure of that agreement, if Hamas insists on rejecting it.
181. I would like to be perfectly clear that we will not bear any responsibility while Hamas continues to refuse to abide by the agreement.
182. Despite all the injustice we experience from the world, we will never resort to violence or terrorism.
183. We will continue to combat violence and terrorism all over the world.
184. We will never accept aggression against any country, whether that country recognizes us or not and whether it likes us or not.
185. I would like to make a very important point.
186. The United States Administration stated that the number of Palestinian refugees is only 40,000.
187. How was that number calculated?
188. It need only consult UNRWA to see that the number it has calculated is wrong.
189. It does not want to consult UNRWA;
190. rather, it wants to obliterate it, so as to end the refugee issue forever.
191. UNRWA was established in 1949 in order to help the Palestinian refugees until their issue is resolved.
192. To this day, that issue has not been resolved.
193. Of 13 million Palestinians, there are still 6 million refugees — not 40,000, as claimed by the United States Administration.
194. That number has been arrived at haphazardly by the Administration, just the way it decided to abolish UNRWA and expected the world to agree with it.
195. No, that will never happen.
196. **Lastly, I call on our people to remain patient and steadfast and to continue to make sacrifices until we achieve independence and self-determination, with the establishment of an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital, not merely “in Jerusalem”.**
197. **Let them not fool us.**
198. **I pay tribute to our righteous martyrs and our courageous prisoners.**
199. **Israel considers them criminals.**
200. **Why?**
201. **Israel has thousands of people who have attacked all kinds of people and are considered heroes.**
202. **Why is it that the person who killed Yitzhak Rabin is considered a hero, while our people are criminals?**
203. **I send greetings to our heroic martyrs and prisoners.**
204. **I would like to say to everyone that soon the dawn of freedom and independence will shine and the dark occupation will come to an end, God willing.**

**Mr. Netanyahu**:

1. When I spoke here three years ago, Israel stood alone among the nations.
2. Of the nearly 200 countries that sit in this Hall, only Israel openly opposed the nuclear deal with Iran.
3. We opposed it because it threatens our future, even our very survival.
4. We opposed it because the deal paved Iran’s path to a nuclear arsenal.
5. By lifting the sanctions, it has fuelled Iran’s campaign of carnage and conquest throughout the Middle East.
6. We opposed it because the deal was based on a fundamental lie, that Iran is not seeking to develop nuclear weapons.
7. Israel exposed that lie earlier this year.
8. In February 2018, Israel conducted a daring raid on Iran’s secret atomic archive.
9. We obtained more than 100,000 documents and videos that had been stashed in vaults in an innocent-looking building in the heart of Tehran.
10. In May, I presented a short summary of what we obtained to the international media.
11. I provided hard evidence of Iran’s plans to build nuclear weapons and its plans to deceive the international community.
12. Israel shared that information and even more damning evidence that we found with members of the five plus one group and with the International Atomic Energy Agency.
13. Months have passed, and the IAEA has still not taken any action.
14. It has not posed a single question to Iran.
15. It has not demanded to inspect a single new site discovered in that secret archive.
16. Given that inaction, I have decided, therefore, to reveal today something else that we have shared with the IAEA and with a few intelligence agencies.
17. What I am about to say has not been shared publicly before.
18. Today I am disclosing for the first time that Iran has another secret facility in Tehran, a secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and materiel from Iran’s secret nuclear-weapon programme.
19. In May, we exposed the site of Iran’s secret atomic archive.
20. It is in the Shorabad district of Tehran.
21. Today I am revealing the site of a second facility, Iran’s secret atomic warehouse, which is located in the Torquzabad district of Tehran, just three miles away from the archive.
22. Let me show exactly what the secret atomic warehouse looks like.
23. From this image, it looks just like the atomic archive, another innocent-looking compound.
24. For listeners at home using Google Earth, this no-longer-secret atomic warehouse is on Mehr Alley.
25. The coordinates are on the image.
26. Anyone can try to get there.
27. And for those who try to get there, it is a hundred meters from the Kalishoi, a rug-cleaning operation.
28. By the way, I hear they do a fantastic job of cleaning rugs there.
29. But by now they may be radioactive rags.
30. That is the second secret site.
31. Now countries with satellite capabilities may notice some increased activity on Mehr Alley in the days and weeks ahead.
32. The people they will see scurrying back and forth are Iranian officials desperately trying to finish the job of cleaning up that site.
33. Since we raided the atomic archive, they have been busy cleaning out the atomic warehouse.
34. Just last month, they removed 15 kilogrammes of radioactive materiel.
35. What did they do with it?
36. They had to get those 15 kilogrammes of radioactive materiel out of the site, so they took it out and spread it around Tehran in an effort to hide the evidence.
37. The residents of Tehran, now endangered, may want to know that they can get a Geiger counter on Amazon for only $29.99.
38. At today’s exchange rate, that is just 4 million Iranian rials.
39. But we will get to that later.
40. I will talk about the Iranian economy in a minute.
41. They took that radioactive material and spread it around Tehran.
42. The Iranian officials cleaning out the site still have a lot of work to do, because they had at least 15 gigantic ship containers full of nuclear-related equipment and materiel stored there.
43. Since each of those containers can hold 20 tons of materiel, the site must have contained as much as 300 tons of nuclear-related equipment and materiel, all in that very place.
44. We now have to ask ourselves a question.
45. Why did Iran keep a secret atomic archive and a secret atomic warehouse?
46. After all, when South Africa and Libya gave up their nuclear programmes, the first thing they did was to destroy both the archives and the materiel and equipment.
47. The answer to the question is simple.
48. The reason Iran did not destroy its atomic archive and its atomic warehouse is because it has not abandoned its goal to develop nuclear weapons.
49. In fact, it planned to use both of those sites in a few years when the time was right to break out the atom bomb.
50. Delegations may rest assured that that will not happen.
51. It will not happen because what Iran hides Israel will find.
52. I have a message for the Head of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano.
53. I believe he is a good man.
54. I believe he wants to do the right thing.
55. I therefore ask him to do the right thing now.
56. The IAEA should inspect that atomic warehouse immediately, before the Iranians finish clearing it out.
57. Do delegations remember the time when we were promised that inspections could take place anytime, anywhere?
58. Well, how about inspections of Mehr Alley right now?
59. And while Mr. Amano is at it, he should inspect the other sites that we told him about.
60. Once and for all, he should tell the world the truth about Iran.
61. I also have a message today for the tyrants of Tehran.
62. Israel knows what they are doing, and Israel knows where they are doing it.
63. Israel will never let a regime that calls for our destruction develop nuclear weapons — not now, not in 10 years, not ever.
64. And Israel will do whatever it must do to defend itself against Iran’s aggression.
65. We will continue to act against it in Syria.
66. We will act against it in Lebanon.
67. We will act against it in Iraq.
68. We will act against it whenever and wherever we must.
69. We must act to defend our State and to defend our people.
70. Three years ago, a few weeks after the nuclear deal was completed, I asked this question from this very podium: does anyone seriously believe that flooding Iran’s radical theocracy with weapons and cash will curb its appetite for aggression?
71. But many of the deal’s supporters believed just that.
72. They believed that Iran’s regime would become more moderate, more peaceful.
73. They believed that Iran would use the billions of dollars it received in sanctions relief to improve the lives of its people — solving the water problem, the trucking problem, the electricity problem and improving hospitals and schools.
74. That is what they believed.
75. Perhaps some people here today also believed that.
76. Well, it did not happen.
77. Instead, Iran used the money to fuel its vast war machine.
78. Just this past year, Iran has attacked Kurds in Iraq, slaughtered Sunnis in Syria, armed Hizbullah in Lebanon, financed Hamas in Gaza, fired missiles into Saudi Arabia and threatened the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Bab El-Mandeb.
79. That is some peace, some moderation.
80. If people think that Iran’s aggression has been confined to the Middle East, they need to think again.
81. Last month, two Iranian agents were arrested for plotting terror attacks here in the United States, and several weeks ago, Iranian agents were arrested for plotting terror attacks in the heart of Europe.
82. Yet while the United States is confronting Iran with new sanctions, Europe and others are appeasing Iran by trying to help it bypass those new sanctions.
83. Now, I have just used a tough word, a very strong word: appeasement.
84. I use it reluctantly.
85. But unfortunately that is exactly what we are seeing again in Europe.
86. We need to think about that.
87. The same week that Iran was caught red-handed trying to murder European citizens, European leaders were rolling out the red carpet for President Rouhani, promising to give Iran even more money.
88. As the son of a historian, I have to ask — and I ask it not merely as a historian’s son, but as a Jew, a citizen of the world and someone who has lived through the twentieth century — have these European leaders learned nothing from history?
89. Will they ever wake up?
90. We in Israel do not need a wake-up call, because Iran threatens us every day.
91. Despite the best of hopes — and there were many hopes around the nuclear deal — that deal did not push war further away.
92. It brought it ever closer to our borders.
93. In Syria, Iran is trying to establish permanent military bases against us and has already launched missiles and drones into our territory.
94. In Gaza, Iran is arming terror groups to launch rocket attacks on our cities and terror attacks on our civilians.
95. In Lebanon, Iran is directing Hizbullah in the building of secret sites for converting inaccurate projectiles into precision-guided missiles that can hit targets deep inside Israel with an accuracy of within 10 metres.
96. The Assembly needs to listen to this.
97. Hizbullah is deliberately using the innocent people of Beirut as human shields.
98. It has placed three of these missile-conversion sites alongside Beirut’s international airport.
99. I can show a picture that is worth a thousand missiles.
100. In it, we can see Beirut’s international airport, the first missile site, which is in the Ouzai neighbourhood, on the water’s edge, a few blocks away from the runway.
101. There is also a second site, which is underneath a soccer stadium, two blocks away, and a third site, which is adjacent to the airport itself, right next to it.
102. I therefore have a message for Hizbullah today.
103. Israel also knows what it is doing.
104. Israel knows where it is doing it.
105. And Israel will not let it get away with it.
106. Just as supporters of the nuclear deal were wrong about what would happen when sanctions were removed, they were dead wrong about what would happen when sanctions were restored.
107. They argued that United States sanctions alone would have little economic impact on Iran.
108. That is what they said.
109. It is hard to believe.
110. Let us take a look at what has happened to Iran’s economy now that President Trump has forced companies to choose between doing business with Iran and doing business with the United States, whose gross domestic product is 50 times the size of Iran’s gross domestic product.
111. A year ago, Iran’s economy was booming.
112. Now it is collapsing.
113. Iran’s currency is plummeting.
114. Inflation and unemployment are soaring.
115. British airlines, German banks, French oil companies, Japanese oil importers and many others are scrambling to get out.
116. If that is little economic impact, we can imagine what will happen with the next batch of United States sanctions, which will be imposed in November.
117. The deal’s supporters were also wrong when they argued — and it is hard to believe that they argued this, despite the fact that I have had many arguments with them — that restoring sanctions would rally the Iranian people around the regime.
118. While they are definitely rallying, their rallying is definitely not around the regime.
119. They are rallying against the regime.
120. They are not chanting “Death to America”.
121. They are chanting “Death to the dictator”.
122. They are not chanting “Export the Islamic Revolution”.
123. They are chanting “Leave Syria”, “Leave Lebanon”, “Leave Gaza”, and “Take care of us in Iran”.
124. I listen to those protests.
125. I talk to Iranian people.
126. I show videos and get so many responses — from Iranians.
127. At first, I thought they were Iranian exiles — in the safety of London or Paris or Los Angeles.
128. No, these are Iranians from Iran, embracing Israel, criticizing their regime — that is an understatement — with their names.
129. Shortly after the protests broke out, I asked my intelligence people,
130. “What is going on?”
131. Those protests are an indicator of something extraordinary that has been taking place there.
132. Through those protests, the Iranian people are showing unbelievable courage.
133. The protests are now embracing the whole of Iran — from the urban centres to distant villages, from the striking merchants in the bazaars to the young women uncovering their hair.
134. The people of Iran are bravely standing up to a regime that has brutally repressed them for four decades and that has squandered — and still squanders — their money in bloody wars across the Middle East.
135. This is what I say to Europe’s leaders and to others.
136. Instead of coddling Iran’s dictators, join the United States and Israel and most of the Arab world in supporting new sanctions against a regime that endangers all of us across the world.
137. Israel is deeply grateful to President Trump for his bold decision to withdraw from the disastrous nuclear deal with Iran.
138. A great many of our Arab neighbours are also grateful.
139. And everyone who cares about the peace and security of the world should also be grateful.
140. But I have an important confession to make.
141. It may be surprising, but I have to admit that the Iran deal has had one positive consequence, an unintended but positive consequence.
142. By empowering Iran, it has brought Israel and many Arab States closer than they have ever been before, in an intimacy and friendship that I have not seen in my lifetime and that would have been unimaginable a few years ago.
143. When friendships are formed around a threat or a challenge, opportunities are quickly seen, not just for security but for how to bring a better life to our peoples, which is what Israel can and wants to contribute to.
144. Israel deeply values those new friendships, and I hope the day will soon arrive when Israel will be able to expand peace, a formal peace, beyond Egypt and Jordan to other Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians.
145. I look forward to working with President Trump and his peace team to achieve that goal.
146. I also want to take the opportunity now, here at the United Nations, a place I know something about because many years ago I served here as Ambassador for many years, to express Israel’s appreciation to President Trump and Ambassador Haley for the unwavering support they have provided to Israel at the United Nations.
147. They have unequivocally backed Israel’s right to defend itself.
148. They rightly pulled out of a history-denying UNESCO and a morally bankrupt Human Rights Council.
149. I think that more resolutions about Israel than about the rest of the world combined have been introduced in those bodies, and tenfold the number of resolutions on Iran, Syria or any other State.
150. It is not even fair to say “tenfold”, because there are no multiples of zero.
151. President Trump and Ambassador Haley also stopped funding an unreformed United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, an organization that perpetuates the Palestinian refugee problem instead of solving it.
152. Day after day, the Trump Administration has stood up to what has long been a specialty here at the United Nations, slandering Israel.
153. Even though the shameful resolution 3379 comparing Zionism to racism was repealed 25 years ago, I am sorry to say that its foul stench still clings to these halls.
154. Israel airlifted Ethiopian Jews to freedom and a new life in Israel, in the Jewish State.
155. Yet here at the United Nations Israel is absurdly accused of racism.
156. Israel’s Arab citizens vote in our elections, serve in our Parliament, preside over our courts and have exactly the same individual rights as all other Israeli citizens.
157. Yet here at the United Nations Israel is shamefully accused of apartheid.
158. Today there are at least five times as many Palestinians as there were in 1948, the year of Israel’s founding.
159. Yet here at the United Nations Israel is outrageously accused of ethnic cleansing.
160. Do those here know what that is?
161. It is the same old anti-Semitism with a brand-new face.
162. That is all it is.
163. Once it was the Jewish people who were slandered and held to a different standard;
164. today it is the Jewish State that is slandered and held to a different standard.
165. Here is an example.
166. Take the outlandish attacks that have been levelled against Israel after our Knesset, our Parliament, recently adopted a law declaring Israel the nation-State of the Jewish people.
167. Nevertheless, Israel is a free country.
168. People can oppose that law, and people have done so.
169. People can call for different wording in this or that clause, or add or delete a clause.
170. People can do that.
171. But when Israel is called racist for making Hebrew its official language and the Star of David its national flag, when Israel is labelled an apartheid State for declaring itself the nation-State of the Jewish people — that is downright preposterous.
172. And does the Assembly know why?
173. Because represented in the Hall today are more than 100 countries that have only one official language, even though many other languages are commonly spoken within those countries.
174. There are more than 50 countries here that have crosses or crescents on their flags, even though they have many non-Muslims and non-Christians living in their midst.
175. And there are dozens of countries that define themselves as nation-States of a particular people, even though there are many ethnic and national minorities within their borders.
176. None of those countries have been denigrated or libeled for celebrating their unique national identity.
177. Only Israel is denigrated.
178. Only Israel is libeled.
179. What is unique about the Jewish people is not that we have a nation-State.
180. What is unique is that many still oppose our having a nation-State.
181. **Moments ago, President Abbas outrageously said that Israel’s nation-State law proves that Israel is a racist, apartheid State.**
182. **President Abbas should know better.**
183. **He wrote a dissertation denying the Holocaust.**
184. **His Palestinian National Authority imposes death sentences on Palestinians for selling land to Jews.**
185. **Let me repeat that.**
186. **If a Jew buys an apartment or a piece of land anywhere in the Palestinian territories, the Palestinian who sold him that land is executed.**
187. **That is what the law says.**
188. **President Abbas proudly pays Palestinian terrorists who murder Jews.**
189. **In fact, the more they slay, the more he pays.**
190. **That is in their law too.**
191. **Then how can he condemn Israel’s morality and call Israel racist?**
192. **That is not the way to peace.**
193. **That is not the way to achieve the peace that we all want and need and to which Israel remains committed.**
194. **This body should not be applauding the Head of a regime that pays terrorists.**
195. **The United Nations should condemn such a despicable policy.**
196. **And the United Nations, which brokered an Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire in 2014, should demand that Hamas release our fallen soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin.**
197. **The latter was kidnapped when Hamas violated that very ceasefire.**
198. **Hamas should also release the two Israeli citizens whom it holds captive, Avera Mengistu and Hisham Al-Sayed.**
199. Every time I stand here I feel as I do today.
200. I am privileged to stand here as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, a Jewish and democratic State.
201. Some believe that Israel cannot be both Jewish and democratic.
202. That is false.
203. Israel is both, and Israel will always remain both.
204. Ever since Abraham and Sarah made their journey to the promised land, nearly 4,000 years ago, the land of Israel has been our homeland.
205. It is the place where Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah and Rachel carried out their eternal covenant with God.
206. It is where Joshua made us a sovereign nation, where David ruled and Isaiah preached, where the Maccabees fought and where Masada fell.
207. It is the place from which we were exiled and to which we returned, rebuilding our ancient and eternal capital, Jerusalem.
208. The nation-State of Israel is the only place where the Jewish people proudly exercise our collective right of self-determination.
209. That right was recognized nearly a century ago by the League of Nations, and more than 70 years ago by the United Nations when it supported the establishment of a Jewish State.
210. That is what resolution 181 said, “a Jewish State”.
211. At the same time, Israel is a vibrant democracy, where all its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike, enjoy equal individual rights, and those rights are guaranteed by law.
212. In Israel, whether a person is a Jew or an Arab, a Christian or a Muslim, a Druze or a Bedouin or anything else, that person’s individual rights are exactly the same and will always remain the same.
213. In the Middle East that is not obvious.
214. Now that is an understatement.
215. In the Middle East, where women are often treated as property, minorities are persecuted and gays are hanged, Israel stands out as a shining example of freedom and progress.
216. I could not be more proud to represent my country, Israel.
217. I am proud that we have made Israel a global technological Power of breathtaking creativity in information technology and precision agriculture.
218. Is the Assembly aware that we target the fertilizer and the water down to the individual plant — not to a field, not to part of a field, but down to the plant?
219. I am proud of those geniuses that have brought those unbelievable developments in water management, cybersecurity, autonomous vehicles, digital health, medical devices and so many other fields that are improving the lives of billions of people around the world.
220. I am proud of Israel’s brilliant scholars, innovative entrepreneurs, talented artists, devoted teachers and compassionate doctors, and of our search-and-rescue teams who save lives from Haiti to Mexico, from Nepal to the Philippines.
221. I am also proud of Israel’s courageous soldiers, the men and women who bravely defend our homeland while upholding the highest values.
222. Most of all, I am proud of the people of Israel, who draw extraordinary strength from the deep wellsprings of our heritage, who possess an unbreakable spirit and who are as determined as ever to build a secure and magnificent future for the one and only Jewish State.