

Secretary-General SG/SM/14777 GA/11337

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN ADDRESS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CALLS 'TYRANNY' OF STATUS QUO 'ANOTHER BRAKE ON OUR COMMON PROGRESS'

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2013 will be a critical year for the Mddle East peace process. As illegal settlement activity continues and Israelis and Palestinians remain polarized, five key priorities stand out: first, we must renew collective international engagement; second, we must resume meaningful negotiations; third, we must preserve stability in Gaza; fourth, we must make progress on Palestinian reconciliation; and fifth, we must prevent the financial collapse of the Palestinian Authority. Concerted action is essential if we are to salvage the two-State solution.

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