

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE MIDDLE EAST**

The Secretary-General expresses his concern over the Government of Israel's approval of a resumption of construction of 750 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Givat Zeev. Any settlement expansion is contrary to Israel's obligations under the Road Map and to international law. The Secretary-General calls on the Government of Israel to halt settlement expansion and reiterates that the fulfillment of Road Map obligations by both parties is an important measure underpinning the political process between them.