



STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ASCOMARE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

The 'Associazione di Consulenza in Diritto del Mare' (ASCOMARE) expresses its grief for all the victims of the tragic events unfolding in the Middle East region, and unequivocally condemns any act of aggression and retaliation against the civilian population.

ASCOMARE had the privilege of working closely with Palestinian and Israeli academics and institutions on a number of Law of the Sea projects. Colleagues and friends today standing on the opposite sides of the smokescreen, with the same hopes.

For no reason violence ought to be legitimized, including when it is perpetrated as a form of compensatory justice disguised as self-protection. Yet, denying the underlying historical complexities and dynamics of the situation only prevents rightful engagement with this issue. Foregrounding such complexities in understanding the causes of violence is imperative to break the ongoing cycle of despair and horror impacting people living this reality.

We are convinced that a peaceful solution is possible. A solution building on sovereign equality and the full realisation of the inalienable right of the Palestinian population to self-determination, including its free movement and access to marine spaces and resources.

We call on political leaders to cooperate in promoting confidence and respect for human rights, whether on land and at sea, and do the utmost to facilitate a peace dialogue between the Parties. Avoiding any escalation of the hostilities must be the priority, now.

Brussels, 12 October 2023

Pierandrea Leucci

(Director of ASCOMARE)