

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of the State of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة  
المراقبة  
الدائمة  
لدولة  
فلسطين  
لدى الأمم  
المتحدة

**Statement by Mr Rabii Al Hantouli, First Secretary, at the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development before the Action on the draft resolution entitled “New trends in migration: demographic aspects” (New York April 26, 2013):**

Thank you Mr Chair,

I want to reiterate our appreciation for your effort and the hard work done by all the team to try to have a balanced outcome, a text that takes into consideration the concerns of all of us. I will speak about one specific issue and it is operative paragraph 6. Unfortunately this paragraph fails to address the plight of people living under foreign occupation that are subject to forced internal and external migration. It is a fact that Israel, the occupying Power, is implementing official policies via illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, forcing the Palestinian civilian population to leave their home towns, villages and lands. The range of illegal Israeli practices goes from home and property demolitions, confiscation and expropriation of lands, and tremendous restrictions on the movement of persons and goods. Such practices also impede the access of Palestinian people to basic services of health and education.

Mr Chair,

this serious situation is and has been reflected several times in UN reports, including OCHA reports, high UN officials statements in which they clearly declared their serious concerns over forced displacement of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities and called on Israel to respect its obligations as an occupying

power under the international law to protect the Palestinian civilian population.

Mr Chair,

Op6 is not addressing even the minimum of the rights of people who are forcibly displaced and forced to migrate because of the foreign occupation. It ignores the very rightful inclusion in the text of this serious concern, as was requested several times during the negotiations by the G77, the Arab Group and by the State of Palestine. This final text failed to deliver a balanced language on this important subject and only accommodates the position of one party and the one who is continuing to protect the occupying power and its illegal practices.

I will kindly ask you to include my intervention in the record of the work of this Commission.

Thank you.