Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the 77th Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (Agenda Item 83):

We align ourselves with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

On the peaceful settlements of disputes, the State of Palestine reaffirms its consistent position and longstanding adherence to all peaceful, political, legal, and diplomatic means for peaceful settlement of dispute and the different means therein. We believe in a multilateral system that is anchored in collective solidarity and security and rooted in international law and the UN Charter.

The efficacy of the UN Charter is embodied in the universal, judicial, and peaceful power of the ICJ. It is embodied in those who embrace multilateral solutions including for the longstanding questions before the international community. There is no multilateral order without the ICJ as its cornerstone. It remains the world’s court, for all and excluding none. We recall that the obligations and responsibility of States to use the instruments and forums available for the peaceful settlement of disputes enjoys the status of customary law.

We commend the work of the ICJ in peaceful settlement of disputes. Despite these tremendous challenges, the decisions of the ICJ have proven their centrality to the peaceful settlement of disputes. Both prevention and conflict resolution command giving the greater possible role to the ICJ in enforcing and promoting the Charter.

We also reaffirm the importance of the advisory capacity of ICJ to provide legal opinions on different questions concerning all of us and call on the Security Council to make better use of it for the peaceful settlement of dispute. The Court, in delivering its opinions with authority and credibility, relies on the rules of international law and peremptory norms which all States are obligated to observe and therefore contribute to stability and consistency in international relations.

Respect for, and compliance with, the Court’s decisions and opinions is indispensable to preserving the rule of law at the international level. We also continue with our calls on all States to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. The ICJ remains at the apex of the international legal order and the minimum necessary for its maintenance. We must defend the ICJ, empower it, and help it advance its decisive role in delivering justice, ensuring respect for the rule of international law, and maintaining international peace and security.

Finally, the State of Palestine reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Charter, its purposes and principles and to the ICJ, as it holds the greatest promise towards making this world more just, peaceful, and secure, which are the foundations of prosperity and longevity all of our peoples seek.