

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
	Letter dated 14 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/575)				
6617 (closed) 15 September 2011			26 Member States ^b	Assistant Secretary- General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj	
6670 29 November 2011	Report of the Secretary- General on UNMIK (S/2011/675)		Serbia (Minister for Foreign Affairs)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj	All Council members and all invitees

^a The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not make a statement.

^b Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Netherlands.

Middle East

26. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 27 meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” and adopted one presidential statement. Briefings in 2010 focused mainly on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. Following the Gaza flotilla incident on 31 May 2010, many Member States renewed their calls for an end to Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories. In 2011, discussions focused mainly on the resumption and suspension of direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine, the Palestinian bid for membership of the United Nations, and the overall political situation in the Middle East. Developments in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank were also discussed during the period.

In 2011, the Council considered a draft resolution which, inter alia, condemned the continuation of

settlement activities by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories.⁵²⁹ The draft resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

27 January to 18 May 2010: Israel-Palestine peace process and situation in the occupied Palestinian territories

On 27 January 2010, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that despite the impasse in negotiations between Israel and Palestine, the Palestinian Authority continued its efforts to advance its State-building agenda and had continued to make progress in the areas of law and order and combating terrorism, in accordance with the road map. He reported that the partial temporary restraint of settlements in the West Bank continued, but there had been announcements of construction in East Jerusalem.

⁵²⁹ [S/2011/24](#).

He stressed that the settlement activity in the occupied territories was illegal and contrary to the road map, and urged Israel to fully implement its obligations to freeze such activities and dismantle outposts erected since 2001. He noted the substantial increase in Israeli military operations in the West Bank, as well as the numerous violent incidents between Israeli settlers and Palestinians. Regarding the Gaza Strip, he reported that there had been a notable increase in the number of projectiles fired by militant groups, which had been met by Israeli incursions and air strikes. He called for an end to the blockade of Gaza by Israel, stating that although there were some increases in certain types of goods imported, shortages remained, especially fuel. Regarding Lebanon, he noted that progress in relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic was highlighted by the first visit of the Prime Minister of Lebanon to Damascus in December 2009, where he met the President of the Syrian Arab Republic for extensive talks. The Assistant Secretary-General also noted that the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remained quiet but fragile.⁵³⁰

In the debate that followed, the Permanent Observer of Palestine stated that peace negotiations could not resume with Israeli settlement activities continuing, and that the call for the cessation of settlements was not a so-called precondition fabricated by the Palestinian side. He also stated that serious practical measures were necessary to compel Israel to cease its colonization of Palestinian territory and stressed that it was imperative for the Council to effectively shoulder its responsibilities in that regard.⁵³¹ The representative of Israel stated that it had instituted a policy of restraint throughout the settlements in the West Bank, which was a demonstration that his Government was prepared to take difficult steps for peace. He emphasized that the international community should confront the real challenges to peace and security, such as extremism, nuclear proliferation, weapons smuggling and terrorism. He pointed to the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip by Hamas and the continued supply of arms to Hizbullah across the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic as examples of violations of Council resolutions.⁵³² The representative of the

United States underlined that the immediate resumption of negotiations towards a two-State solution was the only realistic way forward. He stated that his Government disagreed with some Israeli actions in Jerusalem, such as the continuing pattern of evictions and demolitions of Palestinian homes. He also expressed concern over the interference by Hamas with international efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to Gaza, the continued smuggling of arms and the launch of rocket attacks against Israel.⁵³³ Most speakers expressed their concern regarding the deadlock in the peace process and their grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and called for full implementation of Council resolution 1860 (2009).⁵³⁴ Many speakers recognized the continuation of the moratorium on settlement expansion by Israel, but called for the permanent ending of illegal settlement activities. Several speakers also stressed the need to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of the two States.⁵³⁵ Several speakers called for the immediate release of an Israeli soldier who had been held captive in Gaza since 2006.⁵³⁶

On 18 February 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that the Governments of Israel and Palestine were seriously considering a proposal by the United States for the parties to begin indirect talks. Regarding the West Bank, he noted that while the partial restraint orders on settlement construction remained in effect, numerous violations had been identified, and in that regard urged the Government to take additional measures to enforce the restraint orders. He stated that the Israeli closure of Gaza, which remained in place, was a counterproductive policy that empowered smugglers and militants while causing unacceptable hardship for the civilian population.⁵³⁷

On 24 March 2010, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his recent visit to Israel and the

⁵³⁰ S/PV.6265, pp. 3-7.

⁵³¹ Ibid., pp. 9-10.

⁵³² Ibid., pp. 10-11.

⁵³³ Ibid., p. 19.

⁵³⁴ By resolution 1860 (2009), the Council, inter alia, called for the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel and medical treatment.

⁵³⁵ S/PV.6265, p. 13 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (France); p. 16 (Turkey); p. 23 (Austria); and p. 29 (European Union).

⁵³⁶ Ibid., p. 11 (Israel); p. 14 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (France); p. 19 (United States); and p. 30 (European Union).

⁵³⁷ S/PV.6273, pp. 2-4.

occupied Palestinian territories, which had included meetings with the leaders of both Governments. Regarding Gaza, he highlighted the humanitarian situation and difficulties faced by the population and stressed that restrictions on land use for housing, agriculture and other needs prevented economic and social development. He recognized the legitimate security concerns of Israel regarding Hizbullah and the importance of addressing them. He emphasized that there was no alternative to negotiations between the parties and that they should not be disrupted by provocations.⁵³⁸

On 14 April 2010, the Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that efforts by the United States and the Quartet aimed at bringing about the conditions for a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks had continued. Regarding the West Bank, he reported there were almost daily clashes between settlers and Palestinians. He said that Israeli security forces had carried out 58 incursions and that during the reporting period 41 Palestinians and 7 Israelis had been injured. Regarding Gaza, he stated that the security situation was again volatile, with clashes occurring between Israeli security forces and Palestinian militants. Regarding Lebanon, he reported that the President had reconvened the National Dialogue Committee for the first time since the parliamentary elections in June 2009.⁵³⁹

The representative of Palestine stated that the situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories had deteriorated due to continuing Israeli acts of aggression, colonization, provocation and incitement against the Palestinian people. He said that as long as Israel continued to violate international law through its policies, in particular its settlement activities, Palestine could not proceed with negotiations, including proximity talks.⁵⁴⁰ The representative of Israel stated that Hamas maintained Gaza as an epicentre of terrorism, and its attacks had exposed the civilian population of southern Israel to serious threats. Therefore, Israel would exercise its right of self-defence. He stated that while the Government of Israel continued to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, the complicated situation there was a direct result of the occupation by Hamas and its rejection of its obligations, including recognition of Israel and a

renunciation of violence.⁵⁴¹ Speakers generally agreed that there was no alternative to achieving a solution other than through negotiations. Many speakers supported the Quartet statement of 19 March 2010, which stated that peace talks should lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State by March 2012. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza.⁵⁴² Some speakers emphasized the importance of conducting investigations into serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law as identified in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, headed by Justice Richard Goldstone, which was presented to the Human Rights Council in 2009.⁵⁴³

On 18 May 2010, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General reported that Israeli-Palestinian proximity talks, mediated by the United States, had commenced and that their goal, as stated by the Quartet in its statement of 19 March 2010, was the resolution of all core issues, an end to the 1967 occupation and two States living side by side in peace and security. He stated that the negotiations needed to address the core issues and could not be allowed to stagnate, and that the process must be sustained by positive actions on the ground. He stressed the scale of the unmet needs of Gaza's civilian population, specifically in the areas of water and sanitation, education and construction, and urged an end to the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip.⁵⁴⁴

31 May to 15 June 2010: response of the Council to the Gaza flotilla incident

On 31 May 2010, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that Israeli forces had intercepted and boarded a six-ship convoy that was en route to the Gaza Strip earlier the same day. The convoy had been attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and break the Israeli blockade. He reported that there had been at least 10 deaths and 30 injuries,

⁵⁴¹ Ibid., pp. 10-11.

⁵⁴² Ibid., p. 16 (Mexico); p. 23 (Uganda); and p. 34 (European Union); [S/PV.6298 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 8 (Cuba); p. 9 (Malaysia); p. 11 (Nicaragua); and p. 17 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

⁵⁴³ [S/PV.6298](#), p. 29 (Egypt); [S/PV.6298 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 9 (Malaysia). The report is contained in [A/HRC/12/48](#).

⁵⁴⁴ [S/PV.6315](#), pp. 2-5.

⁵³⁸ [S/PV.6292](#), pp. 2-5.

⁵³⁹ [S/PV.6298](#), pp. 2-6.

⁵⁴⁰ Ibid., pp. 6-8.

and that six Israeli military personnel had been injured in the incident. Noting that, given the circumstances, it was not possible to state definitively the sequence or details of what had happened, he underscored the importance of a full investigation into the incident. He stressed that the developments came at a time when efforts should be focused on the need to build trust and advance Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and in that regard it was vital that proximity talks should continue. He pointed out that the incident could have been avoided if repeated calls on Israel to end the counterproductive and unacceptable blockade of Gaza had been heeded.⁵⁴⁵

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey stated that the actions by Israel against a multinational civilian endeavour carrying humanitarian aid in international waters constituted a breach of international law tantamount to banditry and piracy. He emphasized that Israel must be prepared to face the consequences and be held accountable for its crimes. He stressed the need for the Council to react strongly and adopt a presidential statement demanding an urgent inquiry into the incident and calling for the punishment of all responsible authorities and persons.⁵⁴⁶

The representative of Palestine emphasized that the international community must condemn the crime, which ran counter to international humanitarian and human rights norms. He called for an independent, impartial investigation to punish the perpetrators. He stated that it was the responsibility of the Council, by virtue of the Charter, to take the necessary measures to maintain international peace and security and to put an end to the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories.⁵⁴⁷

The representative of Israel stated that the flotilla was not a genuine humanitarian-only mission, since its organizers had not accepted the offer by Israel to transfer the aid to Gaza via existing overland crossings in accordance with established procedures. He suggested that the organizers of the flotilla were using the guise of humanitarian aid to send a message of hate and to implement violence. He also emphasized that a maritime blockade was a legitimate and recognized measure under international law. Israeli naval personnel had boarded the vessels when it became

clear that the protest flotilla intended to violate the blockade despite repeated warnings. However, soldiers boarding one of the ships had been attacked violently with life-threatening means and that, without any doubt, they had acted in self-defence.⁵⁴⁸

The representative of the United States stated that it was deeply disturbed by the incident, and stressed the need for a credible and transparent investigation. He noted that mechanisms existed for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and that direct delivery of humanitarian aid by sea was neither appropriate nor responsible. He also stated that the interference of Hamas with international assistance shipments and the work of non-governmental organizations complicated efforts in Gaza, and that its continued arms smuggling and its commitment to terrorism undermined security and prosperity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.⁵⁴⁹

Most speakers stressed the need for a full investigation into the incident. Many speakers emphasized the importance of all parties fully complying with resolution 1860 (2009) and for Israel's restrictions on access to Gaza be lifted.⁵⁵⁰ Some speakers stressed the importance of continuing the proximity talks between Israel and Palestine.⁵⁵¹ Other speakers warned that the incident could create great unrest and grave consequences for peace in the Middle East.⁵⁵²

On 1 June 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it requested, inter alia, the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel, and took note of the statement of the Secretary-General on the need to have a full and impartial investigation into the incident. In addition, the Council underscored that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was an agreement negotiated between the parties, and re-emphasized that only a two-State solution could bring peace to the region.⁵⁵³

⁵⁴⁸ Ibid., pp. 13-15.

⁵⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 9.

⁵⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 6 (United Kingdom); p. 7 (Mexico); p. 7 (Brazil); p. 8 (Austria); p. 10 (Uganda); p. 10 (China); p. 10 (France); p. 11 (Gabon); p. 11 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and p. 12 (Lebanon).

⁵⁵¹ Ibid., p. 6 (United Kingdom); and p. 7 (Mexico).

⁵⁵² Ibid., p. 8 (Nigeria); and p. 10 (Uganda).

⁵⁵³ S/PRST/2010/9.

⁵⁴⁵ S/PV.6325, pp. 2-4.

⁵⁴⁶ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

⁵⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 13.

On 15 June 2010, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process outlined the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an international panel, under the aegis of a third party, to investigate the flotilla incident. The Special Coordinator stated that the panel, together with the public commission announced by Israel, would fully meet the international community's expectation for a credible and impartial investigation. He reported that the United Nations had obtained the consent of the cargo owners to take possession of the entire cargo and ensure its timely distribution in Gaza for humanitarian purposes, as called for in the presidential statement of 1 June 2010. He stated that, as a guiding principle, all goods should be allowed into Gaza unless there was a specific and legitimate security reason.⁵⁵⁴

21 July 2010 to 19 January 2011: resumption and subsequent suspension of direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine

On 21 July 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that six rounds of proximity talks between Israel and Palestine had been facilitated by the United States, and urged the parties not to miss the existing opportunity to make progress in the talks and to move to direct negotiations. He noted several steps taken by the Government of Israel, such as the announcement of measures aimed at easing the blockade on Gaza, including new guidelines for the entry of goods into Gaza, and approvals for a number of additional United Nations projects in the area of education and health. He also reported that the Government of Israel had initiated investigations into the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010, while the Secretary-General was in contact with the parties involved to gain agreement for his proposal for an international panel of inquiry. Regarding the West Bank, he reported that although the 10-month moratorium on West Bank settlement construction was largely being observed, it was set to expire on 26 September 2010. He called for its extension as well as its expansion to cover all settlement activity throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.⁵⁵⁵

The representative of Palestine stated that although his Government had engaged in the proximity talks in good faith, the same could not be said for Israel, which was sabotaging the peace process through

illegal and reckless actions, such as continued settlement activity and wall construction in the occupied Palestinian territories.⁵⁵⁶

The representative of Israel called for direct negotiations with Palestine without any preconditions or delays. He noted that despite important progress towards direct negotiations, there existed a dangerous phenomenon where so-called activists were supporting terrorist forces in Gaza under the guise of humanitarian aid. Noting reports that another flotilla was departing Lebanon for Gaza, he called upon the international community to exert its influence on the organizers of those actions, and upon the Government of Lebanon to prevent it from happening.⁵⁵⁷

Most speakers recognized the progress in the proximity talks between Israel and Palestine, but emphasized the need for the parties to proceed to direct negotiations. Reflecting on the flotilla incident, many speakers suggested measures such as the complete lifting of restrictions on access of goods to Gaza. Some speakers stressed that the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza should be done exclusively through established channels.⁵⁵⁸ Many speakers noted that the moratorium on settlement activity was due to end shortly and called for its extension and expansion. Several speakers expressed concern regarding Hamas for its interference with international assistance, which continued to complicate efforts in Gaza.⁵⁵⁹

Briefings on the significant developments in the region were held by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 17 August 2010 and by the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for the Middle East Peace Process on 17 September 2010, respectively. It was reported that following several rounds of proximity talks to map out areas of mutual interest and outline their respective issues of priority, Israel and Palestine had launched direct negotiations under the auspices of the United States. The leaders of both Governments had agreed to seek a two-State solution, to be completed within one year, aiming to resolve issues concerning borders, security, refugees and the question of Jerusalem, among all other core issues. Reporting on Gaza, they said that Palestinian

⁵⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 6-7.

⁵⁵⁵ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

⁵⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 10 (United States); and p. 14 (Mexico).

⁵⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 10 (United States); p. 12 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and p. 18 (United Kingdom).

⁵⁵⁴ S/PV.6340, pp. 2-6.

⁵⁵⁵ S/PV.6363, pp. 2-5.

militant groups had fired rockets and mortars into Israel, to which Israel had responded with air strikes and incursions. The Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 flotilla incident, launched by the Secretary-General, had commenced its work, meeting twice in August 2010. In the West Bank, the partial moratorium on settlement construction was due to end on 26 September 2010, and the Assistant Secretary-General urged that it be extended beyond that date. Regarding Lebanon, there was increased political tension in the country, linked to speculation that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon might issue indictments.⁵⁶⁰

On 18 October 2010, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were at an impasse six weeks after commencing and that the parties had not met since 15 September. The partial settlement moratorium by Israel that had expired on 26 September 2010 had not been renewed, resulting in the resumption of previously frozen settlement construction. In response, Palestine had indicated it would not continue the negotiations unless Israel froze settlement activity. He noted that intensive diplomatic efforts, led by the United States, were ongoing to create conditions conducive to the continuation of negotiations. Regarding the West Bank, he reported that there had been 44 violent incidents between local Palestinians and Israeli settlers, resulting in injuries and damage. During the period, Israeli security forces also carried out 353 operations, resulting in two deaths and 157 injuries. Regarding Lebanon, he reported that tensions generated by speculation and allegations related to the potential indictments by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon had grown steadily in recent weeks, raising fears of sectarian violence.⁵⁶¹

The representative of Palestine stated that the proximity talks did not make tangible progress owing to Israel's intransigence and refusal to comply with its legal obligations and the road map requirement to cease all settlement activities. He expressed regret that Israel had not extended its moratorium to freeze settlement activities, including East Jerusalem. He asserted that Israel was responsible for the critical situation on the ground and for undermining the peace negotiations.⁵⁶² The representative of Israel pointed

out that his country faced diverse and dangerous threats, such as the continued build-up of military capabilities and armaments by Hizbullah in Lebanon and attacks against Israel by Hamas in Gaza, with support from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵⁶³ The representative of the United States reiterated its call to Israel to extend the settlement moratorium, and called upon the President of the Palestinian Authority to resume negotiations with Israel. With respect to Lebanon, she emphasized that efforts to discredit, hinder or delay the work of the Special Tribunal should not be tolerated.⁵⁶⁴

Most speakers called upon both Israel and Palestine to return to the negotiating table and to make the necessary compromises to agree on a two-State solution. Many speakers also called upon Israel to renew its moratorium on settlement activity. Regarding Lebanon, they expressed support for the independence of the Special Tribunal and stressed the important role it played towards ending impunity.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process briefed the Council, on 23 November and 14 December 2010, respectively, on the significant developments in the region. It was reported that efforts by the United States to create an environment conducive to the resumption of direct talks were inconclusive, with the President of the Palestinian Authority reaffirming that he would not return to direct negotiations unless Israel froze its settlement activity. In the West Bank, there had been a significant increase in construction in a number of settlements since the expiry of the partial settlement moratorium, in addition to announcements of further construction by Israel. Palestinian security forces continued to make commendable efforts to maintain security in areas under their control. The number of Israeli troops in the West Bank was estimated to be at its lowest level since 2005, but tensions persisted, with a large number of incursions and operations carried out by Israel, which cited security concerns. Regarding the Gaza Strip, rockets and mortars continued to be fired by militant groups from Gaza into Israel, while Israel responded with air strikes and incursions. In reference to Lebanon, it was reported that political activity in the country continued to be dominated by speculation over the Special Tribunal, with political differences causing

⁵⁶⁰ S/PV.6372, pp. 2-6; S/PV.6388, pp. 2-6.

⁵⁶¹ S/PV.6404, pp. 2-6.

⁵⁶² Ibid., pp. 7-9.

⁵⁶³ Ibid., pp. 10-11.

⁵⁶⁴ Ibid., pp. 12-13.

the suspension of Cabinet meetings in the Government.⁵⁶⁵

On 19 January 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations remained deadlocked, while tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon had increased. He noted that the target dates set by the Quartet for reaching a framework agreement on permanent status and for completion of the Palestinian Authority's two-year State-building programme were approaching in eight to nine months, and that the viability of the political process and the credibility of the Quartet were at stake. In addition, he expressed serious concern at the continuing lack of progress in the search for a negotiated settlement. He stated that in the West Bank the sharp increase in Israeli settlement construction activity since the end of the settlement moratorium on 26 September 2010 had continued. During the period, Israeli security forces had carried out 486 search operations in the West Bank and 87 Palestinians were injured. He noted that the Palestinian Authority had continued to make strides in its State-building agenda and had also continued its efforts to promote security in its area of control, despite mounting challenges. He expressed concern over the situation in Gaza, as there had been an increase in the number of rockets and mortars fired into Israel, while Israel had carried out 11 incursions and 26 air strikes. He stated that a fundamental goal of the United Nations continued to be the revitalization of the economy of Gaza and the search for an end to the Israeli closure policy within the framework of resolution 1860 (2009). Regarding Lebanon, he reported that the political crisis, which had been provoked by divergent views on the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, had continued to deepen. On 12 January 2011, the resignation of 10 Cabinet ministers from the opposition along with one minister from the bloc of President Sleiman had forced the collapse of the Government of national unity. The Secretary-General had called for continuing dialogue among the parties, while emphasizing the importance of preserving calm, and reiterated his call on all parties to refrain from attempts to interfere in, or influence, the work of the Special Tribunal, underlining that the independent judicial process should not be linked with any political

⁵⁶⁵ S/PV.6430, pp. 2-5; S/PV.6448, pp. 2-5.

debate and that it was important not to prejudge its outcome.⁵⁶⁶

The representative of Palestine noted that two years had passed since the Israeli attack on Gaza, and the Palestinian people were still being prevented from reconstructing and rehabilitating their communities and lives. He stated that there had been no accountability for the crimes perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces and no justice for the victims. He reiterated his call for the immediate and full lifting of the Israeli blockade on Gaza and the sustained opening of its border crossings. He also drew attention to the situation in East Jerusalem, which remained the target of an extremely aggressive campaign to illegally alter its demographic composition, status and character. He stated that after nearly two decades of the peace process, the demise of the two-State solution would become a reality if nothing was done to stop the unlawful and destructive settlement activity.⁵⁶⁷

Many speakers called on Israel to halt all settlement activity and emphasized the need for further steps to ease restrictions on the flow of goods and people in and out of Gaza, while calling for intra-Palestinian reconciliation. Regarding Lebanon, speakers called on all parties to seek a negotiated political solution to the current situation, while expressing support for the independence of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

18 February 2011: draft resolution regarding Israeli settlement activity

On 18 February 2011, the Council met to consider a draft resolution⁵⁶⁸ submitted by 79 Member States that, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the Israeli settlements established in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were illegal; reiterated the demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and called upon both parties to act on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations.

Before the vote, the representative of Lebanon noted that since the end of the settlement moratorium in September 2010, Israeli settlement activity had doubled. He stated that the purpose of the draft

⁵⁶⁶ S/PV.6470, pp. 2-5.

⁵⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁵⁶⁸ S/2011/24.

resolution was to have the Council play its required role and choose the side of justice and righteousness.⁵⁶⁹

The draft resolution was then put to the vote but was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

Following the vote, the representative of the United States stated that the opposition of the United States to the draft resolution should not be misunderstood to mean that it supported settlement activity. She stated that, to the contrary, the United States rejected in the strongest terms the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity. While it was in full agreement about the urgent need to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine on the basis of a two-State solution, she stressed that the only way to reach that common goal was through direct negotiations between the parties. The draft resolution risked hardening the positions of both sides, could encourage the parties to stay out of negotiations and, if they did resume negotiations, could encourage them to return to the Council whenever they reached an impasse. She asserted that it was unwise for the Council to attempt to resolve the core issues that divided the parties, and therefore the United States had voted against the draft resolution.⁵⁷⁰

Many speakers reiterated that the settlements were illegal under international law and were an obstacle to peace and a two-State solution, and advocated a prompt resumption of direct negotiations.⁵⁷¹

The representative of Palestine expressed the view that the Council had failed to uphold its responsibility to respond to the crisis. He reiterated that it was high time to send a clear and firm message to Israel that it must comply with its international legal obligations, in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions, and cease all of its violations and its obstruction of the peace process. However, the message sent by the Council through the failure to adopt the draft resolution might be one that only encouraged further Israeli intransigence and

impunity.⁵⁷² The representative of Israel reiterated that direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians were the only way forward, and therefore the draft resolution should never have been submitted. Instead, the international community and the Council should have called upon the Palestinian leadership to immediately return to the negotiating table without preconditions in order to resolve all outstanding issues.⁵⁷³

24 February to 25 August 2011: developments in Palestine and Lebanon

Briefings to the Council on the significant developments in the region were conducted on 24 February 2011 by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process and on 22 March 2011 by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, respectively. It was reported that the Quartet had met on 5 February and reiterated its commitment to the two-State solution and a conclusion of the talks by September 2011. Despite the continued construction of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Palestinian Authority was forging ahead with its State-building agenda and now had established strong institutions representing the basis of a “State-in-waiting”. However, efforts to restart the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations had failed to produce any visible results, and there had been an increase in violent incidents and tensions on the ground. In Gaza, the period was marked by an increase in violence, with an escalation of rocket attacks against Israel by militant groups, Israeli air raids and repeated confrontations in the border area. Hamas security forces also took forcible action against participants in large-scale demonstrations calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and the Palestinian division. The depressed economic situation in Gaza and the continuing impact of Israeli closure measures was also reported to be a point of concern. In the West Bank, it was reported that the murder on 11 March of five members of an Israeli family in the settlement of Itamar prompted the Government of Israel to approve approximately 400 housing units in reaction to the incident, while search operations conducted by Israeli security forces in the West Bank resulted in a large number of injuries. In Lebanon, the collapse of the Government on 12 January 2011 had led to an increase

⁵⁶⁹ S/PV.6484, pp. 3-4.

⁵⁷⁰ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

⁵⁷¹ Ibid., p. 3 (Lebanon); p. 5 (United Kingdom); p. 6 (Portugal); p. 7 (South Africa); p. 7 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 8 (India); and p. 8 (Brazil).

⁵⁷² Ibid., p. 10.

⁵⁷³ Ibid., p. 11.

in the level of political tension in the country. Consultations continued on the formation of a new Government.⁵⁷⁴

On 21 April 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs expressed regret at the continued stalemate in negotiations between Israel and Palestine. He noted that according to the assessment of the United Nations, the governmental functions of the Palestinian Authority were now sufficient for a government of a State in six areas: governance; rule of law and human rights; livelihoods and productive sectors; education and culture; health; social protection; and infrastructure and water. Regarding Gaza, he reported that the period had seen the highest levels of violence since Operation Cast Lead more than two years earlier, and expressed alarm at the actions of Hamas in escalating the violence, endangering civilians on both sides and risking a deeper confrontation with Israel. Regarding the West Bank, he welcomed the decision of Israel on 6 April to systematically investigate all Palestinian casualties in the West Bank caused by Israeli fire among individuals not engaged in hostilities. Regarding Lebanon, he reported that several months after the nomination of the Prime Minister a new Government had not yet been formed. While the overall situation in the area of operations of UNIFIL had remained generally stable, elsewhere in Lebanon there had been several security incidents, such as the kidnapping of seven foreign nationals in an area close to the border with the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵⁷⁵

The representative of Palestine stated that there had been renewed efforts to promote Palestinian reconciliation and unity, as well as non-stop work by the Palestinian leadership to implement the State-building plan launched nearly two years earlier, which was rapidly advancing to completion by August 2011.⁵⁷⁶

The representative of Israel stated that since the beginning of March 2011, Hamas and other terrorist groups had launched numerous rockets against civilians throughout southern Israel, as part of what was the most serious escalation of attacks emanating from Gaza in more than two years. He asserted that the Council and the international community had not paid appropriate attention to the illegal smuggling of arms

into Gaza, a critical aspect of resolution 1860 (2009). Noting reports of a large flotilla being planned for May by a number of non-governmental organizations and other groups as well as individuals with many ties to Hamas and other terrorist organizations, he emphasized that it was clearly designed to serve purely as a political provocation and not to advance any humanitarian goal.⁵⁷⁷

The representative of the United States condemned the recent attacks on civilians and expressed concern at the escalation of rocket and mortar fire from Gaza into southern Israel, as well as at reports of increased use of advanced weaponry. She emphasized the need to work together to stop Hamas and other violent extremists from launching terrorist attacks. She also expressed deep concern regarding reports that groups were organizing another flotilla to Gaza.⁵⁷⁸

Many speakers expressed their concern over the planned Gaza flotilla, and stressed that it was critical for Israel and Palestine to restart negotiations. Many speakers condemned the recent attacks against southern Israel that had resulted in the deaths of civilians, but urged both sides to show restraint. Several speakers commended and expressed support for the State-building efforts by the Palestinian authorities.⁵⁷⁹

Several speakers referred to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and called upon the Government to respect human rights and allow political protests.⁵⁸⁰ The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic reported a number of steps that his Government was taking towards reform, but emphasized that the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States must be respected. He expressed the view that the calls by some speakers for the overthrow of legitimate Governments represented an irrational attempt to use international law to take advantage of the meeting, which was limited to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and were a misuse of the agenda item.⁵⁸¹ The representative of the Russian Federation

⁵⁷⁷ Ibid., pp. 9-10.

⁵⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 12.

⁵⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 24 (Brazil); p. 27 (India); S/PV.6520 (Resumption 1), pp. 3-4 (Norway); p. 6 (Japan); p. 12 (Tajikistan); and p. 18 (Bangladesh).

⁵⁸⁰ S/PV.6520, p. 13 (United States); p. 15 (United Kingdom); p. 21 (France); and pp. 23-24 (Germany).

⁵⁸¹ S/PV.6520 (Resumption 1), pp. 14-15.

⁵⁷⁴ S/PV.6488, pp. 2-5; S/PV.6501, pp. 2-5.

⁵⁷⁵ S/PV.6520, pp. 2-5.

⁵⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 8.

stated that any external interference in Syrian affairs or those of other States in the region was unacceptable.⁵⁸²

Briefings to the Council on the significant developments in the region were provided by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process on 19 May 2011 and by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 23 June and 25 August 2011.

Direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine did not take place during the period. Amid continued expansion of Israeli settlements, Palestine was reported to be preparing to approach the United Nations in September to seek recognition of a Palestinian State. A reconciliation agreement was signed by Fatah and Hamas under the auspices of Egypt on 27 April, stipulating that a Palestinian Government of national "capables", or technocrats, was to be formed, which would then prepare for simultaneous elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council, the presidency and the Palestinian National Council. It was reported that the period was marked by serious confrontations between Israeli security forces and Palestinians in the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories. One incident occurred on 15 May 2011, as Palestinians demonstrated in large numbers marking Nakba Day, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. Another incident occurred in the Golan Heights on 5 June 2011, when large crowds of demonstrators attempted to breach the ceasefire line and cross the technical fence, resulting in numerous deaths. In Lebanon, several months after the nomination of the Prime Minister, a new Government was formed on 13 June 2011. There were a number of security incidents of concern, including the 26 July 2011 attack on a UNIFIL convoy which injured five peacekeepers. On 9 August 2011, the Lebanese authorities notified the Special Tribunal for Lebanon that they were unable to arrest and transfer those accused in the assassination of the former Prime Minister. Subsequently, on 18 August 2011, the President of the Special Tribunal ordered the public advertisement of the indictment.⁵⁸³

⁵⁸² S/PV.6520, p. 27.

⁵⁸³ S/PV.6540, pp. 2-6; S/PV.6562, pp. 2-5; S/PV.6602, pp. 2-5.

26 July to 20 December 2011: application of Palestine for membership in the United Nations, and developments relating to the Syrian Arab Republic

On 26 July 2011, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process reported that the political process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was in a profound and persistent deadlock, while efforts to find the necessary common ground for resumed negotiations had proven extremely difficult, given the differences and lack of trust between the parties. He stated that in the absence of a framework for meaningful talks and with Israeli settlement activity continuing, Palestine was actively exploring approaching the United Nations. While President Mahmoud Abbas had stated that efforts in the United Nations would help to preserve the two-State solution, Israel opposed this course of action, believing that it would make negotiations towards such a solution more difficult to achieve.⁵⁸⁴

The representative of Palestine stated that the failure of the Quartet to adopt clear and fair parameters for the solution to allow for the resumption of negotiations was a serious missed opportunity and a failure that was caused by Israel, which had refused to accept the legitimate basis for negotiations. He noted that the coming months would be critical, as September 2011 was the date set by the Quartet and endorsed by the international community for concluding a peace agreement. He stated that the Palestinian National Authority would shortly complete its implementation of the two-year plan to build the foundations of the Palestinian State, end the occupation and achieve independence. He stated that Palestinians had fulfilled their responsibilities and were ready to govern themselves.⁵⁸⁵

The representative of Israel stated that the Palestinian initiatives at the United Nations distracted from the true path to peace, which could only be achieved through bilateral negotiations. While recognizing that the Palestinian Authority had made progress over the past two years, he stated that it was clear that much more still needed to be done to create a functioning and peaceful State, as the Palestinian Authority did not maintain control over all of its territory nor did it hold a monopoly on the use of force,

⁵⁸⁴ S/PV.6590, p. 2.

⁵⁸⁵ Ibid., pp. 7-8.

with Hamas maintaining control over Gaza. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran remained the centre of terrorism in the region, by transferring arms to Hamas, Hizbullah and other terrorist groups in violation of numerous Council resolutions.⁵⁸⁶

The representative of the United States emphasized that the only place where issues regarding the permanent status of Palestine could be resolved was in negotiations between the parties, not in international forums such as the United Nations, and that symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the opening of the General Assembly in September would not create an independent Palestinian State. She stated that the United States would not support any such unilateral campaigns.⁵⁸⁷

Many speakers expressed their disappointment at the continuing deadlock in the negotiations and asserted that Israel's settlement activities had directly caused the stalemate. Several speakers stressed that the issue of Palestinian statehood could no longer be delayed.⁵⁸⁸ Some speakers explicitly expressed support for Palestine's application for membership to the United Nations.⁵⁸⁹ Most speakers affirmed support for the newly formed Government in Lebanon and expressed the hope that it would continue to uphold the country's international obligations, including preserving the work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Several speakers referred to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and called upon the Government to stop the violence and allow peaceful protests and freedom of speech.⁵⁹⁰ Other speakers urged all parties to exercise restraint.⁵⁹¹ The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic asserted that some speakers were seeking to engage the Council in its internal affairs on fragile and unfounded pretexts that had nothing to do with the Council's role or responsibilities. He also noted various reform initiatives that were being undertaken by his Government.⁵⁹²

⁵⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

⁵⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁵⁸⁸ *S/PV.6590 (Resumption 1)*, p. 2 (Kyrgyzstan); and p. 6 (Uganda).

⁵⁸⁹ *S/PV.6590*, pp. 13-14 (Lebanon); p. 16 (South Africa); and pp. 20-21 (Brazil); *S/PV.6590 (Resumption 1)*, p. 7 (Iceland); and p. 8 (Kuwait).

⁵⁹⁰ *S/PV.6590*, p. 12 (United States); and p. 18 (France).

⁵⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 13 (Nigeria); and p. 20 (Portugal).

⁵⁹² *S/PV.6590 (Resumption 1)*, pp. 15-16.

On 27 September 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that on 23 September, the President of the Palestinian Authority had submitted an application to the Secretary-General for membership in the United Nations. In accordance with the Charter and the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General had transmitted the application to the President of the Security Council on the same day and had sent a copy to the President of the General Assembly. The application was now before the Council for its consideration. He also reported that the Quartet had noted this application, while calling for resumed negotiations between the parties. The Under-Secretary-General reported that in the Syrian Arab Republic, the political and human rights crisis had escalated, resulting in at least 2,700 deaths since March 2011. The polarization between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the growing popular opposition continued to deepen. He also reported that the Human Rights Council had appointed experts to form an international commission of inquiry and expressed the hope that the Government would extend full cooperation to the commission.⁵⁹³

The Prime Minister of Lebanon voiced support for the application of Palestine for membership in the United Nations. He stated that continued settlement activities by Israel, its construction of the separation wall and changes to the geographic and demographic features of East Jerusalem were attempts to erase the Arab identity of Palestine. He called upon Israel to fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as from occupied Lebanese territory, in particular the Shab'a farms, the Kfar Shuba hills and the northern part of Al-Ghajar village. He also reaffirmed the commitment of Lebanon to respect the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.⁵⁹⁴

On 24 October 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that the application by Palestine for membership in the United Nations was being examined by the Council. In addition, the Palestinian request for membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was being reviewed. He stated that the Secretary-General was increasingly concerned about the ramifications of such a step for the United Nations as a whole and had asked all involved to act wisely in determining a course of action. He

⁵⁹³ *S/PV.6623*, pp. 3-5.

⁵⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

emphasized that regardless of those developments, a negotiated two-State solution must remain the highest priority. Regarding Gaza, he reported that on 18 October 2011, Israel and Hamas had implemented the first stage of a prisoner exchange agreement, with an Israeli soldier held in Gaza since 2006 released by Hamas in exchange for 427 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. He noted that of the approximately 5,000 Palestinian prisoners still held by Israel, a further 550 were to be released within two months in the second phase of the exchange agreement. Regarding Lebanon, he noted that the country continued to be affected by developments in the neighbouring Syrian Arab Republic. Regarding the Syrian Arab Republic, he noted that the political and human rights crisis continued, leading to the deaths of more than 3,000 people since March 2011. He stated that the face-off between the regime and the opposition would likely continue, with all of the negative consequences for that country and the region. He said that the Secretary-General continued to call upon the Syrian leadership to take urgent action to stop the killing, and to emphasize the need for the international community to act in a coherent manner to prevent further bloodshed. He noted that the League of Arab States had met on 16 October 2011 to discuss the situation and that a ministerial delegation would travel to Damascus on 26 October.⁵⁹⁵

The representative of Palestine said that to date, 130 countries had recognized the State of Palestine. Noting that the Council had been debating the application of Palestine for nearly a month, he expressed the view that it was time for it to shoulder its responsibilities, approve the application and make a positive recommendation to the General Assembly for the admission of Palestine to membership. He stated that Palestine's view was that negotiations should commence on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders and that Israel was expected to meet its legal obligations, including those under the road map, to halt all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. If the Quartet were to succeed in securing a commitment from the Israeli side on that basis, then the Palestinian side was willing to resume negotiations. He also reiterated that there was no contradiction between resuming negotiations

within that framework and the Palestinian efforts to become a State Member of the United Nations.⁵⁹⁶

The representative of Israel stated that the unilateral action of Palestine at the United Nations was in breach of the Oslo Accords, the Interim Arrangements, the Paris Protocol and other bilateral agreements that formed the basis of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation. In addition, he asserted that the unilateral initiative would raise expectations that could not be met and was a recipe for instability and, potentially, violence. Rejecting Palestine's assertion that the primary obstacle to peace was Israel's settlements, he stated that this was instead a pretext for Palestine to avoid negotiations. He said that the Palestinians were far from meeting the basic criteria for statehood, and that the President of the Palestinian Authority had zero authority in the Gaza Strip, which he had been unable to visit since 2007.⁵⁹⁷

Many speakers expressed support for the application of Palestine for membership in the United Nations.⁵⁹⁸ Several speakers, while not explicitly endorsing the application, took note of the action.⁵⁹⁹ Regarding the Syrian Arab Republic, many speakers expressed their concern regarding the continued violence, and welcomed the mediation efforts by the League of Arab States. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his disappointment that the Council was incapable of appropriately censuring the Syrian regime, owing to the use of the veto by two permanent members,⁶⁰⁰ and stated that it was time for the Council to take the strong collective action that was required to deter the regime from its violent course.⁶⁰¹ The representative of the Russian Federation stated

⁵⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7.

⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

⁵⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 13 (India); p. 16 (China); p. 17 (Brazil); p. 18 (Russian Federation); p. 23 (South Africa); p. 26 (Lebanon); p. 32 (Jordan); pp. 33-34 (Saudi Arabia); [S/PV.6636 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 4 (Turkey); p. 5 (Malaysia); p. 11 (Viet Nam); p. 12 (United Arab Emirates); p. 16 (Morocco); p. 18 (Cuba); p. 20 (Bangladesh); p. 21 (Iceland); p. 21 (Pakistan); p. 22 (Sri Lanka); p. 23 (Indonesia); p. 24 (Democratic People's Republic of Korea); p. 24 (Kazakhstan); p. 25 (Kuwait); p. 29 (Bahrain); p. 30 (Tunisia); p. 30 (Sudan); and p. 32 (Qatar).

⁵⁹⁹ [S/PV.6636](#), p. 24 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); [S/PV.6636 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 7 (Japan); and p. 16 (Norway).

⁶⁰⁰ For more information, see part I, sect. 27, "The situation in the Middle East".

⁶⁰¹ [S/PV.6636](#), p. 19.

⁵⁹⁵ [S/PV.6636](#), pp. 2-5.

that the strategy of certain members of the international community, consisting of threats and pressure to impose sanctions, did not work.⁶⁰²

Briefings to the Council on the status of the application of Palestine for membership in the United Nations and on significant developments in the region were conducted by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process on 21 November 2011 and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 20 December 2011, respectively. It was reported that the Palestinian application for membership in the United Nations remained before the Council. On 31 October, the UNESCO General Conference had voted in favour of membership for Palestine. It was also reported that the Palestinian bid for membership in the United Nations was viewed negatively by Israel and that the transfer of tax and customs revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority was initially withheld by the Government of Israel following the vote at

UNESCO, but was renewed on 30 November. Palestinian unity had not moved forward, though there was speculation about future developments. Gaza had once again witnessed a dangerous escalation in violence, including rocket fire by militants into Israel and Israeli strikes. The situation along Lebanon's border with the Syrian Arab Republic remained a concern. A number of incidents in the area of operations of UNIFIL had taken place, including a bomb attack targeting a UNIFIL patrol, which had injured five peacekeepers and two Lebanese civilians. It was reported that in the Syrian Arab Republic popular protests had continued to be met with violent repression, resulting in numerous deaths, injuries and detentions. The League of Arab States had agreed to dispatch an Arab observer mission. The United Nations continued to monitor the influx of displaced Syrian nationals into northern Lebanon.⁶⁰³

⁶⁰² Ibid., p. 18.

⁶⁰³ S/PV.6662, pp. 2-5; S/PV.6692, pp. 2-5.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6265 27 January 2010			23 Member States ^a	Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
6273 18 February 2010				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6292 24 March 2010				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Secretary-General	
6298 14 April 2010			17 Member States ^b	Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6315 18 May 2010				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6325 31 May 2010	Letter dated 31 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/266)		Israel	Palestine, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members and all invitees	
	Letter dated 31 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/267)					

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2010-2011

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6326 1 June 2010	Letter dated 31 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/266)					S/PRST/2010/9
	Letter dated 31 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/267)					
6340 15 June 2010				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6363 21 July 2010			19 Member States ^c	Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6372 17 August 2010				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
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<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6388 17 September 2010				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6404 18 October 2010			23 Member States ^d	Palestine, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6430 23 November 2010				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
6448 14 December 2010				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6470 19 January 2011			23 Member States ^e	Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6484 18 February 2011		Draft resolution submitted by 79 States ^f (S/2011/24)	73 Member States ^g	Palestine	Palestine, 14 Member States ^h	Draft resolution not adopted (S/2011/24) 14-1-0 ⁱ
6488 24 February 2011				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2010-2011

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6501 22 March 2011				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
6520 21 April 2011			24 Member States ^j	Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6540 19 May 2011				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6562 23 June 2011				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
6590 26 July 2011			21 Member States ^k	Palestine, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6602 25 August 2011				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
6623 27 September 2011				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Lebanon (Prime Minister), Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
6636 24 October 2011			31 Member States ¹	Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6662 21 November 2011				United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	
6692 20 December 2011				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question)

^a Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

^b Botswana, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^c Bangladesh, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^d Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^e Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^f Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

^g Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

^h Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Gabon, India, Israel, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

ⁱ *For:* Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom;
against: United States.

^j Australia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^k Bangladesh, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^l Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.