



DIVISION FOR  
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

# Bulletin

on action by the United Nations system and  
intergovernmental organizations  
relevant to the question of Palestine

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## **I. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR WELCOMES FULL RETURN OF GAZA CROSSINGS TO THE CONTROL OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

*The following [statement](#) was issued on 1 November 2017 by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov:*

I welcome the full return of the Gaza crossings to the control of the Palestinian Authority. This is a landmark development in the implementation of the intra-Palestinian agreement, signed in Cairo on 12 October. The positive momentum should be maintained and the Palestinian Government must be fully empowered to function in Gaza.

The return of the crossings should facilitate the lifting of the closures, while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns, and unlock increased international support for Gaza's reconstruction, growth, stability and prosperity.

I take this opportunity to remind all factions in Gaza of the importance of maintaining security and ending militant activities that undermine peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis alike.

The United Nations will continue to work with the Palestinian leadership, Egypt and the region in support of this process, which is critical for reaching a negotiated two-state solution and sustainable peace.

## **II. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL SUBMITS REPORT ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*On 1 November 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres submitted to the General Assembly the report on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Occupied Syrian Golan, which was been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The following are the conclusions and recommendations of the report ([A/72/564](#)):*

### **VI. Conclusions**

62. As described in previous reports of the Secretary-General, Israel's establishment and expansion of settlements in the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law. The settlements and their continued expansion have adversely affected the human rights of Palestinians, resulting in forced evictions, the loss of property and sources of livelihood, and restrictions on access to services.

63. Through the takeover of Palestinian land, the settlements have fragmented the West Bank,<sup>1</sup> as have support for settlement outposts and the declaration of State lands, seam zones,<sup>2</sup> firing zones for training purposes, nature reserves and national parks and survey

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<sup>1</sup> See [A/HRC/31/43](#), [A/HRC/22/63](#), [A/70/351](#) and Human Rights Council resolution 25/28.

<sup>2</sup> Seam zones are areas located between the Green Line and the wall.

lands.<sup>3</sup> As indicated in the present report, many of those processes have continued to advance steadily.

64. Moreover, in much of Area C and East Jerusalem, various measures put in place by the Israeli authorities have continued to strengthen a coercive environment. It may amount to forcible transfer, in violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law.<sup>4</sup>

65. Forced evictions resulting from demolitions not only are a violation of the right to adequate housing and a key factor in the creation of a coercive environment, but also have negative impacts on a wide range of human rights. Those negative impacts include restrictions on movement, including strict residency regimes, especially in East Jerusalem, and the denial of access to essential services such as water and sanitation.<sup>5</sup>

66. Settlement activity is incompatible with Israel's obligations under international law. It lies at the core of a range of human rights violations and humanitarian needs in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and also constitutes one of the main obstacles to a viable Palestinian State.

## **VII. Recommendations**

67. On the basis of the present report, the Secretary-General recommends that the Israeli authorities:

(a) Implement all relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Council, inter alia, calls upon Israel to cease all settlement activity, and Council resolution 497 (1981);

(b) Halt and reverse all settlement development and related activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including occupied East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, including through the discontinuation of support for private settler organizations' initiatives aimed at the seizure of Palestinian properties and the forced eviction of their residents;

(c) Immediately halt forced evictions and cease any activity that would contribute to the creation of a coercive environment and/or lead to a risk of forcible transfer;

(d) Cease from taking any initiative to relocate communities in Area C in contravention of international law, including Bedouin and herder communities;

(e) Review planning laws and policies to ensure that they are compliant with Israel's obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law;

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<sup>3</sup> Survey lands are unregistered areas whose status is under examination by the Israeli authorities with a view to retaining them as government property to enable the State to use them.

<sup>4</sup> See [A/HRC/34/39](#), para. 42; Fourth Geneva Convention, arts. 49 and 147; and rule 129 of customary international humanitarian law.

<sup>5</sup> See [A/HRC/34/39](#), paras. 40–57.

(f) Take all necessary steps to ensure that Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Area C of the occupied West Bank are not denied access to essential services, including electricity, water and sanitation, and natural resources, including land for agricultural purposes.

### **III. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL SUBMITS REPORT ON ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS**

*On 1 November 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres submitted his report on “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” to the General Assembly. The following are the report’s conclusions and recommendations ([A/72/565](#)):*

#### **IV. Conclusions**

57. The present report builds on previous reports of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in highlighting some of the ongoing patterns in human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Violations relating to the use of force, detention, the ability of human rights defenders to carry out their work and instances of collective punishment continued during the reporting period.

58. The persistence of serious challenges to ensuring accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against Palestinians will continue to create a more permissive environment for the commission of such violations. Despite efforts to strengthen the system of accountability, including through the establishment of relevant mechanisms and bodies and the adoption of targeted policies, critical steps to ensure the consistent application and operationality of such a system remain unimplemented or not followed in practice. The existence of mechanisms and processes alone is not sufficient in the absence of consistent implementation.

#### **V. Recommendations**

59. The following recommendations should be read in conjunction with the numerous recommendations contained in previous reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Israel should conduct prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial criminal investigations in all instances in which Palestinians are killed or seriously injured in the context of law enforcement. Those responsible should be held accountable in full compliance with international law and standards, with charges and sentences commensurate with the gravity of the offences. The accountability of command leadership for repeated or systemic failures to comply with relevant rules and regulations and applicable standards of international law should be ensured;

(b) Israel should ensure that the rules on the use of force in the context of law enforcement are fully consistent with international standards, including the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; where this is already so, ensure that the rules are appropriately, lawfully and consistently applied by all Israeli

security forces personnel throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza access-restricted areas;

(c) Israel should end all practices that constitute collective punishment;

(d) In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza and East Jerusalem, Israel should lift the blockade of Gaza, end punitive closures and ensure that the right to freedom of movement by all residents of the constituent parts of the Occupied Territory is respected; in the interim, it should ensure that the rights of the residents of Gaza are protected by enabling sustainable economic recovery and development through the facilitation of access to and from Gaza to people and goods;

(e) Israel should promptly end the practice of unlawful administrative detention, that is, charge and try promptly, or immediately release, any detainees currently held in unlawful administrative detention; ensure that all Palestinian detainees are held in facilities located in the occupied territory; in the interim, ensure that the right to family visits and contact with family are not hindered through the restrictive issuance of permits or other measures;

(f) Israeli authorities should respect and protect the rights of human rights defenders and release without charge, as well as suspend procedures against, all individuals who have been detained or charged as a result of engaging in human rights work;

(g) Israel should ensure that all persons are able to exercise peacefully their rights to freedom of expression and assembly that are held in accordance with international human rights law without the threat of legal or administrative penalties;

(h) Israel should take all measures to ensure full respect for international humanitarian law, particularly in respect of civilians living under occupation, and in the conduct of hostilities, and ensure accountability for all violations.

#### **IV. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR BRIEFS THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

*On 20 November 2017, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, briefed the Security Council on “the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The following are excerpts from his briefing [\(S/PV.8108\)](#):*

I brief the members of the Security Council today as critical infra-Palestinian talks are scheduled to open in Cairo tomorrow. The United Nations, the Middle East Quartet and the international community continue to support Egyptian efforts to sustainably implement the recent infra-Palestinian agreement and return Gaza under the control of the legitimate Palestinian Authority.

By signing the Cairo agreement on 12 October, Palestinians embarked on a long road that could lead to reconciliation. First, however, they must resolve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and return the Strip to the full civilian and security control of the Palestinian Authority (PA). If success

is to be achieved, the failed policies of the past must be avoided, security for Palestinians and Israelis must be preserved, and all sides must be willing to compromise in the interest of peace.

Let me start with the good news. On 1 November, we witnessed a landmark step as the Palestinian Authority regained control over Gaza crossings. For the first time in more than a decade, on 18 November, the Rafah border crossing opened under PA control. The handover has eased access at the crossings for Palestinians with permits and ended the illegal taxation imposed by Hamas at the crossings since June 2007. The handover, if translated into full civilian and security control by the Palestinian Authority of Gaza, could be a step towards the normalization of movement in and out of the Strip.

Another important step happened on 2 November when the Palestinian committee tasked with rationalizing and integrating Gaza's public sector held its first meeting. Meanwhile, the transfer of responsibility at Gaza-based public institutions is slowly proceeding as well. Ministers of Education, Health, Transport and Environment, among others, as well as technical teams from ministries in Ramallah, have travelled to Gaza to begin restoring Government control. Some 150 PA-employed teachers have returned to work for the first time since 2007. A 10-day registration period for all PA employees in Gaza began on 12 November to determine staffing numbers, based on an evaluation of qualifications against needs. The process is proceeding in an organized manner. Some ministries, with low numbers of employees, have already accomplished the task, and others are expected to finish within a set time frame. I encourage all sides to use tomorrow's meeting in Cairo to reinforce their commitment to a gradual process of implementing the Cairo agreement and to ensure that positive momentum is sustained by upholding commitments and ensuring follow-up.

Regrettably, there is also some not-so-good news. Despite progress in implementing the Cairo agreement, Gaza residents have not seen any improvements to their daily lives. The lack of electricity has been devastating for the provision of basic services. Power outages of 18 to 20 hours a day continue; most of the population has access to piped water for only three to five hours every five days; untreated sewage continues to flow into the Mediterranean Sea at catastrophic levels; 45 per cent of essential drugs and medical supplies have now reached zero stock in Gaza. Only the most critical health, water and sanitation facilities are functioning, thanks to donor-funded emergency fuel distributed by the United Nations.

As the Palestinian Government seeks to return to Gaza, it should take immediate action to reverse measures that add to the burden of Palestinians living there. The United Nations humanitarian appeal for Gaza for 2017 calls for \$25 million in new funding to meet the most critical priorities — almost \$11 million of which remains unmet. I urge donors to support the appeal in order to save lives. Last week, as co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee, Norway convened a donor meeting in Ramallah to discuss how to support returning Gaza under Palestinian Authority control. The discussion focused on three themes.

The first theme was the need to immediately alleviate the humanitarian situation on the ground, namely, by increasing electricity supply to at least pre-crisis levels, and accelerating the delivery of projects that have direct impact on the lives of Gaza's residents. The envoys of the Middle East Quartet have already tasked the Office of the Quartet with producing a list of projects that can be

expedited. I encourage donors to do the same. Such actions are necessary to sustain support for the Cairo-led process on the ground.

Secondly, the donors also discussed the need to see a realistic plan by the Palestinian Authority on how it intends to take up its responsibilities in Gaza, which the international community can support financially and technically.

Thirdly, our common goal remains the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza. Difficult issues — including security and putting all weapons under Government control, the rule of law and the functioning of the judiciary, civil service reform and other complicated challenges — will have to be dealt with in a step-by-step manner.

Turning to broader political dynamics on the ground, I welcome the restoration of full security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It was publicly announced that that started on 8 November. That is a positive development, as coordination is critical to the security of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

In a very worrying development, however, on 30 October, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) uncovered yet another tunnel that extended from Gaza into Israel. During the operation, at least 12 Palestinian militants were killed underground. According to statements by a spokesperson for Islamic Jihad, the group's aim in constructing the tunnel was to "kidnap Israeli soldiers," and it also stated that it will continue to pursue that goal.

I call on the international community to join the United Nations in condemning the continued construction of tunnels and the utterance of such reckless statements. At a time when Palestinians in Gaza — who have lived with closures for a decade, survived three conflicts and have had to struggle to merely exist — are seeing hope for the future, such actions and statements risk a dangerous escalation that could destroy the prospects for intra-Palestinian reconciliation.

In other developments, on 31 October, a 25-year-old Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli security forces while in his car near a West Bank settlement. The Israeli authorities launched an investigation after an initial IDF probe indicated that the driver did not appear to have been attempting a vehicular attack when he was killed. On 17 November, two Israelis were injured in a ramming attack in the West Bank; the Palestinian driver was shot and injured by the security forces. Violence and incitement remain one of the hallmarks of the conflict, and they need to be addressed in order to rebuild trust between both sides.

Turning to the question of settlements, Israeli planning authorities have approved building permits for at least 418 housing units in the East Jerusalem settlements of Gilo and Ramat Shlomo. They also issued a conditional approval of 178 housing units in the settlement of Nof Zion, located in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabel Mukaber. On 10 November, the Israeli Prime Minister pledged to advance \$226 million for the construction of infrastructure in the occupied West Bank that improves the connectivity of settlements to Israel, potentially facilitating their expansion.

The United Nations considers all settlement activities illegal under international law. They constitute a substantial obstacle to peace and should cease. Unfortunately, legislative action that undermines the viability of the two-State solution also continues. The Knesset considered a



legislative amendment that would require a majority of 80 out of 120 members to approve any transfer of territory currently included in Israel's defined municipal boundaries of Jerusalem to a "foreign entity".

Against that backdrop, the Israeli authorities demolished or seized 30 Palestinian structures, displacing 53 persons, including 31 children, across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Bedouin herding communities in Area C, including Ain al-Hilweh, Um al Jmal and Jabal al-Baba, are at risk of having a total of 520 structures demolished after receiving removal-of-property orders in recent weeks. Donor-funded structures serving as schools that are also threatened with demolition are of particular concern.

...

Let me conclude with a few observations on Palestinian unity efforts. I again commend Egypt for its leadership throughout the process. Many previous attempts to bridge the Palestinian divide have failed. We cannot allow this current effort to become another missed opportunity. From the outset, I have consistently engaged with Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, the region and all stakeholders. Everyone understands that failure today will destroy hope for the foreseeable future. That division damages the Palestinian cause for statehood. Two million Palestinians in Gaza have high hopes that the Government's return will improve their lives. After living in abject misery under Hamas control and locked in by the closures, their situation is close to exploding.

With all the difficulties inherent in the Egyptian-led process and concerns about the timing and modalities of the Palestinian Authority's assumption of full civilian and security control of Gaza, the process must not be allowed to fail. If it does, it will most likely result in another devastating conflict. Whether that conflict would be triggered by a meltdown of law and order in Gaza, by the reckless action of extremists or by strategic choice, the result will be the same — devastation and suffering for all. That cycle must be avoided at all costs.

All of us, especially Palestinian leaders, Israel and the international community, have an important responsibility to advance the peace efforts. In that context, I am concerned about the implications of the latest developments related to the Palestinian Liberation Organization representative office in the United States. Only through constructive dialogue can we hope to advance peace, and I call on all parties to remain engaged in the peace effort.

I believe and hope that a genuine change in Gaza, including full security control by the Palestinian Authority, will contribute to restoring confidence in the feasibility of a comprehensive peace agreement. That is a Palestinian-owned process. All Palestinian factions must seize this opportunity to open a new page for their people.

## **V. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ISSUES MESSAGE IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

*The following is Secretary-General António Guterres' message released on 27 November 2017 before the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed on 29 November 2017 ([SG/SM/18800-OBV/1757-PAL/2217](#)):*

The question of Palestine is inextricably linked with the history of the United Nations and is one of the longest unresolved issues on the Organization's agenda. Seventy years since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181, a sovereign and independent State of Palestine has yet to emerge alongside the State of Israel. I remain convinced that the two-State solution recognized by that resolution is the only premise for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The resolution of this conflict would also create momentum for greater stability throughout the region.

Last August, during my visit to Israel and Palestine, leaders on both sides restated their commitment to a negotiated peace. I encouraged them to tangibly demonstrate this commitment and create the conditions for a return to meaningful negotiations. The recent positive developments on intra-Palestinian unity should be harnessed by all to move the process in the right direction.

I reiterate my readiness to work with all stakeholders, including the Middle East Quartet and countries in the region, to support a serious political process, drawing on all relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and agreements, that will realize a two-State solution, end half a century of occupation and resolve all final status issues. Now is the time to end the conflict by establishing an independent Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel.

## **VI. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL MARKS SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF PARTITION RESOLUTION 181 (II)**

*The following is Secretary-General António Guterres' message, delivered by Chef de Cabinet Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, marking the seventieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) at the Queens Museum, in New York released on 28 November 2017 ([SG/SM/18801-GA/11980](#)):*

I send warm greetings to all those gathered to mark the seventieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 181, thereby forging the basis of the international consensus that two independent States shall be established in order to achieve enduring peace.

Resolution 181 was subsequently cited in the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel, marking the beginning of a relationship between Israel and the United Nations that has endured and deepened, even during challenging times.

Since Israel became a Member State of the United Nations in 1949, our cooperation has come to encompass many areas — from peacekeeping and sustainable development to humanitarian challenges and disaster relief around the world. When I visited Israel three months ago, I witnessed remarkable examples of innovation and solutions that hold promise

for the developing world and for all States in fighting climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am determined to strengthen this relationship. I will continue to speak out against anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, hate speech and the use of anti-Semitic appeals by violent extremist groups to recruit new followers. And I will continue to do my part to help Israelis and Palestinians take the historic steps to achieve a two-State solution and attain the peace that has proven so elusive for so long. Please accept my best wishes for this important commemoration.

## **VII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*On 30 November 2017, the General Assembly adopted, under agenda item “Question of Palestine”, resolutions on “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat” ([A/RES/72/11](#)), “Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information” ([A/RES/72/12](#)), “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” ([A/RES/72/13](#)) and “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” ([A/RES/72/14](#)). Also, under agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”, the Assembly adopted a resolution on “Jerusalem” ([A/RES/72/15](#)). The resolutions are reproduced below:*

### **A/RES/72/11. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note,* in particular, of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

*Recalling* its resolution [32/40](#) B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution [71/21](#) of 30 November 2016,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution [71/21](#);

2. *Considers* that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a constructive and positive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35 ([A/72/35](#)).

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to effectively carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee and under its guidance;

4. *Requests* the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, to organize international meetings and activities in support of the Committee's mandate with the participation of all sectors of the international community and to ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and international renowned experts in these meetings and activities, to be invited on a par with the members of the Committee, to liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, including through the Working Group of the Committee and its associated "UN Platform for Palestine", to develop and expand the "Question of Palestine" website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, to prepare and widely disseminate the publications listed in paragraph 87 of the report of the Committee,<sup>1</sup> in the relevant official languages of the United Nations, and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine and to develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. *Also requests* the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

*60th plenary meeting  
30 November 2017*

**A/RES/72/12. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note*, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

*Recalling* its resolution [71/22](#) of 30 November 2016,

*Convinced* that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

*Recalling* the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

*Affirming its support* for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,<sup>2</sup> and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>4</sup>

*Taking note* of its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution [71/22](#);

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35 ([A/72/35](#)).

<sup>2</sup> [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution [14/221](#).

<sup>3</sup> [S/2003/529](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of peace efforts and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2018–2019, in particular, inter alia:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the objective of peace;

(b) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual and online materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning relevant recent developments, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine displayed in the General Assembly Building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and peace efforts and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular through its annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;

4. *Encourages* the Department to continue organizing encounters for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

*60th plenary meeting  
30 November 2017*

## **A/RES/72/13. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, [31/20](#) of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution [71/20](#) of 30 November 2016,

*Recalling also* its resolution [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

*Affirming its support* for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session<sup>2</sup> and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016, and underscoring in this regard, inter alia, the call upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its statement of 21 September 2010,

*Recalling also* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>4</sup> and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Taking note* of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/72/35).*

<sup>2</sup> [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution [14/221](#).

<sup>3</sup> [S/2003/529](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

<sup>5</sup> [A/66/371-S/2011/592](#), annex I.

*Recalling* its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,<sup>6</sup>

*Taking note* of the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

*Noting with deep regret* the passage of 50 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and 70 years since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) on 29 November 1947 and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, and stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report,<sup>1</sup> including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof, inter alia the recommendations for the redoubling of international efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, for an expanded multilateral framework for the revitalization of peace efforts, and for efforts to ensure fullest accountability and implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and thereafter;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international

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<sup>6</sup> [A/67/738](#).



solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>2</sup> and the Quartet road map;<sup>3</sup>

5. *Commends* the efforts and activities of the Committee in upholding its mandate, including through cooperative initiatives with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations;

6. *Also commends* the efforts of the Working Group of the Committee in coordinating the efforts of international and regional civil society organizations regarding the question of Palestine;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation that they have at their disposal;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation and support to the Committee in the performance of its tasks, recalling its repeated call for all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to compile a report to the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution [69/20](#) of 25 November 2014, on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people, and, while drawing attention to the alarming findings, as reflected in the recent report on United Nations Conference on Trade and Development assistance to the Palestinian people: developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>7</sup> calls for the exertion of all efforts for the provision of necessary resources to expedite completion and publication of the report, including the facilitation and coordination of pertinent inputs from the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

11. *Requests* the Committee, bearing in mind the solemn anniversaries being observed in 2017 and the absence of tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, to continue to focus its activities throughout 2018 on efforts and initiatives to end the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and to organize activities in this regard, within existing resources and in

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<sup>7</sup> [TD/B/63/3](#) and [TD/B/63/3/Corr.1](#).

cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, aimed at raising international awareness and mobilizing diplomatic efforts to launch credible negotiations aimed at achieving without delay a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the facilities necessary for the performance of its tasks.

*60th plenary meeting  
30 November 2017*

## **A/72/RES/14. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

*Recalling also* its resolution [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004,

*Recalling further* relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1544 \(2004\)](#) of 19 May 2004, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

*Recalling* the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

*Expressing its deep concern* that it has been 70 years since the adoption of its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 50 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967, and that a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine has yet to be achieved,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution [71/23](#) of 30 November 2016,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>2</sup> and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

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<sup>1</sup> [A/72/368-S/2017/741](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

*Convinced* that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

*Stressing* that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

*Reaffirming also* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>3</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening international peace founded upon freedom, equality, justice and respect for fundamental human rights and of developing friendly relations among nations irrespective of their political, economic and social systems or the level of their development,

*Bearing in mind* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16,

*Stressing* the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

*Reaffirming* the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

*Expressing grave concern* about the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including on the contiguity, integrity and viability of the Territory, the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and the efforts to advance a peaceful settlement in the Middle East,

*Expressing grave concern also* about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

*Reaffirming* the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole, and demanding their immediate cessation,

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

*Expressing its grave concern* about tensions, provocations and incitement regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and urging restraint and respect for the sanctity of the holy sites by all sides,

*Reaffirming* that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

*Encouraging* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

*Expressing deep concern* about the continuing Israeli policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian and economic, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Expressing deep concern also* about the consequent negative impact of such policies on the contiguity of the Territory and the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which remains a disastrous humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, as well as on the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, including reviving the agricultural and productive sectors, while taking note of developments regarding the situation of access there based on the trilateral agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard and on the resumption of some trade from Gaza to the West Bank for the first time since 2007, and, while recalling Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009, calling for the full lifting of restrictions on the movement and access of persons and goods, taking into account the Agreement on Movement and Access of November 2005, including exports, which are crucial for social and economic recovery,

*Recalling* the mutual recognition 24 years ago between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,<sup>4</sup> and stressing the urgent need for efforts to ensure full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

*Recalling also* the endorsement by the Security Council, in its resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict<sup>5</sup> and the call in Council resolution [1850 \(2008\)](#) for the parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations on a final peace settlement,

*Stressing* the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

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<sup>4</sup> See [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> [S/2003/529](#), annex.

*Underscoring* the demand by the Security Council, most recently in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard,

*Recalling* the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,<sup>6</sup> and stressing its importance in the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace,

*Urging* renewed and coordinated efforts by the international community aimed at restoring a political horizon and advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the initiative launched by France, and taking note of the joint communiqué of 3 June 2016, aimed at mobilizing international support for Palestinian-Israeli peace and convening an international peace conference, the ongoing efforts of the Quartet in the recent period to address the unsustainable situation on the ground and to promote meaningful negotiations and the ongoing regional efforts to advance the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as the respective efforts by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

*Taking note* of the report of the Quartet of 1 July 2016,<sup>7</sup> and stressing its recommendations as well as its recent statements, including those of 30 September 2015, 23 October 2015, 12 February 2016 and 23 September 2016, in which, inter alia, grave concerns were expressed that current trends on the ground are steadily eroding the two-State solution and entrenching a one-State reality and in which recommendations were made to reverse those trends in order to advance the two-State solution on the ground and create the conditions for successful final status negotiations,

*Reiterating* support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in its resolution [1850 \(2008\)](#) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, and stressing the importance of multilateral support and engagement for the advancement and acceleration of peace efforts towards the fulfilment of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine,

*Noting* the important contribution to peace efforts of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including within the framework of the activities of the Quartet and with regard to the trilateral agreement and recent developments regarding the Gaza Strip,

*Welcoming* the ongoing efforts of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, and noting its recent

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<sup>6</sup> [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution [14/221](#).

<sup>7</sup> [S/2016/595](#), annex.

meeting at United Nations Headquarters, on 18 September 2017, and the ongoing efforts to generate sufficient donor support in this critical period for urgently addressing the immense humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind the detailed needs assessment and recovery framework for Gaza developed with the support of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union, and furthering Palestinian economic recovery and development,

*Recognizing* the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

*Expressing concern* about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, owing to the negative impact of the current instability and financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

*Recognizing* the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

*Urging* the full disbursement of pledges made at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

*Recalling* the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and Jakarta in March 2014 as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including via exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development, and encouraging the expansion of such efforts and support in the light of worsening socioeconomic indicators,

*Recognizing* the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, noting the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

*Recognizing also* that security measures alone cannot remedy the tensions, instability and violence, and calling for full respect for international law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

*Gravely concerned* over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the escalation of violence and excessive use of force, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, as well as the continued construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, the arbitrary arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians, the acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property, including religious sites, and infrastructure and the demolition of homes, including if carried out as a means of collective punishment, the internal forced displacement of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and the consequent deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

*Deploing* the continuing, negative repercussions of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip, the most recent in July and August 2014, which caused thousands of civilian casualties, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure and the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, as well as any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard, and continued delays in reconstruction and recovery,

*Taking note* of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,<sup>8</sup> and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

*Expressing grave concern* over the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade,

*Expressing grave concern also* about the lasting consequences of such conflicts and measures on the civilian population and the living conditions in the Gaza Strip, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled “Gaza: two years after”, and the report of 11 July 2017, entitled “Gaza ten years later”, and stressing that the situation is unsustainable and that urgent efforts are required to reverse the de-development trajectory in Gaza and respond adequately and immediately to the immense humanitarian needs of the civilian population,

*Recalling* the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,<sup>9</sup>

*Stressing* the need for calm and restraint by the parties, including by consolidating the ceasefire agreement of 26 August 2014, achieved under the auspices of Egypt, to avert the deterioration of the situation,

*Reiterating* the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

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<sup>8</sup> [A/HRC/29/52](#).

<sup>9</sup> [S/PRST/2014/13](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* ([S/INF/69](#)).



*Stressing* that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

*Expressing grave concern* about the imprisonment and detention by Israel of thousands of Palestinians, including children, under harsh conditions, and all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law which have occurred in this regard,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including the firing of rockets,

*Stressing* the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, consistent with the provisions and obligations of international humanitarian law,

*Stressing also* the need to respect the right of peaceful assembly,

*Welcoming* the formation of the Palestinian Government of national consensus under the leadership of the President, Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles, and emphasizing the need for respect for and the preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Affirming* the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, welcoming in this regard the efforts of Egypt to facilitate and support Palestinian unity, and taking note of the Quartet statement of 28 September 2017,

*Stressing* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement and for concerted initiatives to support the parties in building a climate for peace, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating direct peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the Quartet road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

*Taking note* of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,<sup>10</sup>

*Taking note also* of its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [A/66/371-S/2011/592](#), annex I.

<sup>11</sup> [A/67/738](#).



*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

*Acknowledging* the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

*Recalling* the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,<sup>12</sup>

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

*Affirming once again* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and making tangible progress towards implementing that solution and justly resolving all final status issues;

2. *Recalls* Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and, inter alia, the call upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its statement of 21 September 2010, and calls for its full implementation;

3. *Calls once more for* the intensification of efforts by the parties, including through negotiations, with the support of the international community, towards the conclusion of a final peace settlement;

4. *Urges* the undertaking of renewed international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,<sup>6</sup> the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>5</sup> and the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

5. *Stresses* the need for a resumption of negotiations based on the long-standing terms of reference and clear parameters and within a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement, and in this regard encourages serious efforts by all concerned international and regional partners, including by the United States of America, the

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<sup>12</sup> [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#), advisory opinion, para. 161.

European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, as members of the Quartet, and by the League of Arab States;

6. *Commends and encourages* continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

7. *Welcomes* the initiative launched by France aimed at mobilizing international support for Palestinian-Israeli peace, including the efforts to organize an international peace conference in Paris in January 2017, and the ongoing efforts of the Quartet to address the unsustainable situation on the ground and to promote meaningful negotiations, while stressing its recommendations, and the respective efforts by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation and the United States to promote dialogue and negotiations between the two parties;

8. *Calls for* the timely convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in its resolution [1850 \(2008\)](#), for the advancement and acceleration of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

9. *Calls upon* both parties to act responsibly on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in both their policies and actions, in order to urgently reverse negative trends on the ground and create the conditions necessary for the launching of a credible political horizon and the advancement of peace efforts;

10. *Calls upon* the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation, to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000 and to refrain from actions that undermine trust or prejudice final status issues;

11. *Calls upon* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and calls for respect for the historic status quo at the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, in word and in practice, and for immediate and serious efforts to defuse tensions;

12. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability, building trust and fostering the peace process, and stresses the need, in particular, for an immediate halt to all settlement activities and home demolitions, ending violence and incitement and undertaking measures to address settler violence and ensure accountability, and for the further release of prisoners and an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions;

13. *Stresses* the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

14. *Also stresses* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

15. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#);

16. *Reiterates* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access of persons and goods, as well as for commercial flows, including exports, and all necessary construction materials, and stresses the urgent need to accelerate comprehensive reconstruction and to address the alarming unemployment rate, including among youth, including through the implementation of United Nations-led projects, civilian reconstruction activities and job-creation programmes, all of which are essential for alleviating the disastrous humanitarian situation, including the impact of the large-scale displacement of civilians in July and August 2014, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

17. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and all unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Territory, including the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations, with a view to achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

18. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and for the consideration of measures of accountability, in accordance with international law, including without limitation in relation to the continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities and stressing that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region;

19. *Underscores* in this regard the affirmation by the Security Council in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations, and its call upon States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, as well as its determination to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions;

20. *Reiterates* the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

21. *Calls for* the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

22. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the

International Court of Justice<sup>2</sup> and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion;

23. *Reaffirms its commitment*, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

24. *Calls for*:

(a) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(b) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

25. *Stresses* the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

26. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Government during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, including with regard to the reporting required pursuant to resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

*60th plenary meeting  
30 November 2017*

## **A/RES/72/15 Jerusalem**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* its resolution [36/120](#) E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution [56/31](#) of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in

particular the so-called “Basic Law” on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

*Recalling further* the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the “Basic Law” on Jerusalem,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016, in which the Council affirmed that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations,

*Recalling also* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>1</sup> and recalling further its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

*Expressing its grave concern* about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

*Expressing its grave concern also*, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including measures regarding the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on Palestinian access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudice a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

*Expressing its grave concern further* about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and other civilian infrastructure in and around East Jerusalem, the revocation of residency rights, and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, including Bedouin families, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city, including desecration of mosques and churches,

*Expressing its concern* about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

*Expressing its grave concern*, in particular, about tensions, provocations and incitement regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and urging restraint and respect for the sanctity of the holy sites by all sides,

*Reaffirming* that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/72/333](#).

1. *Reiterates its determination* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. *Stresses* that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by people of all religions and nationalities;

3. *Also stresses* the need for the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, and expresses its grave concern in particular about the recent series of negative incidents in East Jerusalem;

4. *Calls for* respect for the historic status quo at the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, in word and practice, and urges all sides to work immediately and cooperatively to defuse tensions and halt all provocations, incitement and violence at the holy sites in the City;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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