



DIVISION FOR
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Bulletin

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

November 2018
Volume XLI, Bulletin No. 11

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I. UN REGISTER OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALL IN OPT REPORTS ON ITS ACTIVITIES

The Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory issued the following [progress report](#) on 9 November 2018 for transmission to the General Assembly:

1. The Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory provides the present progress report, in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution [ES-10/17](#), covering the period from 17 June 2017 to 22 June 2018. The Board's 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 progress reports were contained in documents [A/ES-10/455](#), [A/ES-10/498](#), [A/ES-10/522](#), [A/ES-10/598](#), [A/ES-10/599](#), [A/ES-10/658](#), [A/ES-10/683](#), [A/ES-10/730](#) and [A/ES-10/756](#), respectively. Board progress reports, as well as other basic documents pertinent to the work of the Register of Damage, are posted on the Register's website (www.unrod.org).

2. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage continued to undertake outreach activities in the occupied Palestinian territory in order to collect, process and consider claim forms for inclusion in the Register in accordance with its Rules and Regulations Governing the Registration of Claims.

3. Since its launch in 2008, the community outreach campaign has covered 269 communities with a population of approximately 1.3 million in the governorates of Janin, Tubas, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Thousands of printed posters and leaflets have been distributed to inform potential claimants of the requirements for completing a claim for registration of damage. During the reporting period, more than a hundred meetings were held by the claim intakers of the Register of Damage with governors, mayors, local councils and potential claimants in the areas covered by the outreach campaign. In addition, the Register of Damage organized two specialized seminars for mayors and local council officials from Jerusalem governorate on legal and organizational aspects of claim intake in their communities.

4. By 22 June 2018, 67,235 claim forms for registration of damage and more than 1 million supporting documents had been collected and delivered to the Office of the Register of Damage in Vienna. Claim-intake activities have been carried out in all nine affected governorates: Tubas, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

5. As at 22 June 2018, the Board had decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 30,626 claim forms and to exclude 1,080 claim forms in which none of the losses met the eligibility criteria, bringing the total number of decided claims to 31,706.

6. During the past year, the Office of the Register of Damage continued to process the claim forms at an accelerated pace. However, despite the diligent and dedicated work of the secretariat and the intensive work of the Board, there is a considerable gap between the number of claim forms collected and the number processed by the Office.

7. Since its previous report, the Board has held four meetings in Vienna to review claim forms that had been translated, processed and individually reviewed by Office staff. The Board met from 18 to 22 September and from 11 to 15 December 2017 and from 5 to 9 March and from 18 to 22 June 2018. At the four meetings, the Board reviewed and decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 919 claim forms, 1,099 claim forms, 829 claim forms and 1,013 claim forms, respectively. It decided not to include 6 claim forms, 1 claim form, 27 claim forms and 22 claim forms, respectively, since none of the losses in the forms met the eligibility criteria in the Register of Damage's Rules and Regulations. The Board also decided to defer action on one claim form at its meeting in June.

8. The claim forms reviewed during the reporting period included 3,876 containing category A (agriculture) losses, 9 containing category B (commercial) losses, 15 containing category C (residential) losses and 7 containing category E (access to services) losses.

9. The Board, in its review of claims, continued to apply the eligibility criteria in accordance with article 11 of the Rules and Regulations. In view of the limited time available and the large number of claims for losses included in claim forms submitted to the Board for review by Office staff, the Board continued to employ sampling techniques as provided for in article 12 (3) of the Rules and Regulations. During the four meetings covered by the present report, Board members reviewed in detail approximately 10.2 per cent of the claims for losses included on the claim forms submitted for review. As indicated in the Board report of 2012, the Executive Director of the Register consulted a statistician informally concerning the sampling methodology applied by the Board. The level of sampling is within statistical parameters of reliability. Claims that did not meet the eligibility criteria were either excluded from the Register or returned to the claimants so they could provide clarification.

10. Previous Board progress reports identified some of the issues addressed and decisions reached during previous reporting periods. The following are among the issues addressed and decisions reached by the Board during the present reporting period:

(a) Land division agreements: the Board had previously decided that in cases where a land division agreement signed by all the heirs is provided, the agreement constitutes sufficient proof of the relinquishment of shares by the heirs who did not submit a claim, and shares may be recorded in accordance with the land division agreement, even if they differ from the shares set out in the relevant certificate of legacy. During its 2017/18 session, the Board decided that in cases where a land division agreement is signed by some of the heirs only, but purports to concern the shares of all heirs, including those whose signatures are missing, the shares will be recorded as unclear, as such an agreement does not constitute sufficient proof of the relinquishment of all the heirs' shares;

(b) Date of death: in several category A claims, claimants asserted the death of the relative from whom they inherited their shares in the land, but did not provide evidence of the date of the relative's death. In some of those cases, local authorities confirmed that the claimants' relatives had died either "a long time ago" or "before the construction of the Wall". The Board decided that, in the absence of any contradicting information, such

confirmation provided by the local authorities will be considered sufficient to establish the claimants' interest in the land at the time of the construction of the Wall;

(c) Inaccurate claimed shares: in the absence of official documents evidencing share allocation, sometimes claimants submit claims for shares ostensibly based on the traditional distribution of shares under sharia law. However, in some claim forms, the claimed shares were entered using an erroneous mathematical formula, resulting in different share values from those that the claimants presumably intended to claim on the basis of sharia law. In such cases, the Board decided that the claimants' shares will be recalculated and recorded according to Islamic inheritance rules;

(d) Competing claims: the Board noted that in several cases where different claimants claimed the same losses, it was not possible to determine which claim was valid on the basis of the information provided. In such cases, the Board decided that, since each claim appeared to meet the eligibility criteria, they should each be included in the Register with a notation that they are "competing claims";

(e) Duplication: some claimants from the villages of Bayt Kahil, Kafr Dan, Umm Salamuna and Qatanna submitted two category A claims for essentially the same livestock losses, but provided no explanation as to why the second claim was filed. In such cases, the Board decided that the claims with the earlier submission date may be included in the Register, while the claims with a later submission date will be rejected as duplicates;

(f) Position of grazing land in relation to the Green Line: claimants from some villages located near the Green Line submitted claims for losses stemming from the loss of access to private or communal pasture "west" of their villages after the construction of the Wall. Upon examination of maps and satellite images of the areas, it appears that some of the pasture located "west" and "behind" the Wall in relation to the villages is likely to be located on the Israeli side of the Green Line. The Board confirmed that in such cases, loss of access to those areas should be included in the Register if the claimant had unfettered access to the pasture prior to the construction of the Wall, and absent any indication that access had been lost for any reason other than the Wall. The Board took into consideration the fact that livestock grazed in a wide area west of the villages and that there was no demarcation of the Green Line or signs on the terrain, thus making it impossible to determine where the pasture crossed into Israel, and that prior to the Wall the claimants had not been prevented from accessing the area and grazing livestock there;

(g) Grazing in communal land: the Board decided that, in cases in which a person submits a claim for loss of access to grazing areas behind the Wall but has not clarified the basis of the right to use those areas, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary it should be assumed that the claimant used communal pastures and should be recorded as a "user of communal land";

(h) Shadow instances: the Board decided to insert a new explanation into its decision clarifying that "shadow instances" refer to additional instances created by the Office of the Register of Damage in the course of reviewing claims in order to allow the claimant's losses to be recorded more accurately.

11. As before, the Board would like to express its appreciation for the indispensable cooperation extended by the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage, as well as for the support provided by local governors, mayors and members of village councils on many practical aspects, without which outreach and claim-intake activities could not be undertaken successfully. As for the Government of Israel, it continues to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the Wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. On the practical level, the Executive Director of the Register of Damage continues to maintain constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities, and, during the reporting period, the Office of the Register of Damage did not experience any problems with access, the delivery of needed materials or the issuance of required visas. On occasion, the security situation impeded claims-intake activity.

12. The Board of the Register of Damage notes with satisfaction the good cooperation with United Nations agencies and offices present on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as called for in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution [ES-10/17](#). The Board especially appreciates the efficient and tangible contribution provided by the United Nations Office for Project Services in the areas of logistics, procurement, human and financial resources, and management in support of the Register of Damage. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage also continued to benefit from the advice and assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs.

13. The outreach and claim-intake activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are conducted by claim intakers of the Register of Damage. As of January 2018, the team of claim intakers was reduced from 10 to 3 staff members in view of the difficulties of raising extrabudgetary contributions. Such voluntary contributions had been received from 21 donors. The Governments of Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Finland, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Turkey, as well as the European Commission and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, have donated more than \$6.7 million. Several Governments, as well as the OPEC Fund, have donated to the Register of Damage two or more times.

14. The Board would like to express its appreciation to those donors for providing funding and political support enabling the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution [ES-10/17](#).

15. The Board commends the staff of the Office of the Register of Damage for their diligent and dedicated work.

16. The Board of the Register of Damage will continue to provide periodic reports.

II. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES RELEASES REPORT

On 9 November, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories submitted its report pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/84](#). Below are the recommendations contained in the report ([A/73/499](#)):

VI. Recommendations

88. The Special Committee calls upon the Government of Israel:

(a) To implement all prior recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, and to facilitate access by the Special Committee to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan;

(b) To end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, as well as its occupation of the Syrian Golan, in compliance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#);

(c) To cease all settlement activity, in compliance with Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and construction of the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which contravenes international law and undermines the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people;

(d) To immediately freeze and end the illegal practice of demolitions, including administrative and punitive demolitions, which further constitute illegal collective punishment and which contribute to the creation of a coercive environment and may lead to the forcible transfer of vulnerable communities, in violation of international humanitarian law and the rights of the Palestinian people;

(e) To ensure that Palestinians have access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process that will advance the interests of the protected population in Area C, including Palestine refugees;

(f) To rescind all demolition, eviction and seizure orders that are likely to lead to the forcible transfer of Bedouin communities in the occupied West Bank, which affects their pastoralist lifestyle, leading to the breakdown of their traditional economies and damaging their distinct social fabric;

(g) To ensure that Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are not subject to discriminatory requirements, that their right to family life is fully respected and protected and to immediately end the illegal practice of punitive residency revocation for residents of East Jerusalem;

(h) To take all measures to end illegal practices of collective punishment, including punitive home demolitions, revocation of insurance benefits, residency revocation, arrest and detention and any other measures that are intended to penalize the family members of attackers or alleged attackers, which are inhumane and have no deterrent effect;

(i) To lift the illegal land and sea blockade that has been imposed on Gaza for more than 11 years and open up opportunities for trade and increasing movement of Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank;

(j) To immediately address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which has been made acute by the electricity shortage, and to uphold its obligations as an occupying Power with respect to the protected Palestinian population;

(k) To facilitate access to medical treatment for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with a focus on the urgency of the need in Gaza due to the deteriorating conditions caused by the blockade and closure and the electricity crisis;

(l) To take all precautions necessary to ensure that Israeli forces act in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;

(m) To systematically investigate all cases of excessive use of force that have led to death or serious injury, including in the context of the “Great March of Return” and demonstrations, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable;

(n) To conduct a prompt, thorough, transparent and independent investigation into all cases of alleged extrajudicial executions and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice;

(o) To release the bodies of the Palestinians that have not yet been returned to their relatives as soon as possible in order to bring dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

(p) To ensure that detainees are treated in accordance with provisions in international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular with respect to the detention of children, and to end the practice of administrative detention;

(q) To ensure the protection necessary for the Palestinian civilian population and human rights defenders engaged in the promotion of human rights issues affecting the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment;

(r) To combat the environmental degradation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, halt the exploitation of natural resources and address the lack of access for Palestinians and Syrians to important natural resources, notably water resources in the West Bank, Gaza and the occupied Syrian Golan;

(s) To cease all settlement and other illegal activities in the occupied Syrian Golan and ensure access to a non-discriminatory planning and zoning process that will advance the interests of the protected population.

89. The Special Committee also calls upon the international community:

(a) To call upon Israel to end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, namely, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, as well as the occupied Syrian Golan, in compliance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#);

(b) To use its influence to end the blockade of Gaza, which has a significant detrimental effect on Palestinians, and, in particular, to immediately address the acute humanitarian crisis;

(c) To use its influence to cease all settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which contravenes international law and has a detrimental effect on the protected population;

(d) To address the pattern of non-cooperation by Israel with the United Nations, in particular regarding the implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and mechanisms established by the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies;

(e) To give effect to its legal obligations, as contained in the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, on the separation wall;

(f) To review national policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures in relation to business activity to ensure that they effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of human rights abuses in the occupied territories;

(g) To ensure that corporations respect human rights and cease to fund or enter into commercial transactions with organizations and bodies involved in settlements or the exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan.

III. SECRETARY-GENERAL, CLOSELY FOLLOWING EVENTS IN GAZA, URGES MAXIMUM RESTRAINT

On 12 November, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General released the following [statement](#) (SG/SM/19342):

The Secretary-General is following closely the latest security developments in Gaza. He urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint. The United Nations Special Coordinator, Nickolay Mladenov, is working closely with Egypt and all concerned parties to restore calm.

IV. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR TELLS SECURITY COUNCIL GAZA STILL ON BRINK OF ARMED CONFLICT, DESPITE CEASEFIRE

The Security Council, at its 8405th meeting of 19 November, was briefed by the Special Coordinator on the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Excerpts from the Special Coordinator's briefing ([S/PV.8405](#)) are excerpted below.

In recent days, we have witnessed another dangerous escalation of violence in Gaza that risked unleashing an armed conflict with catastrophic consequences for 2 million impoverished Palestinians — people who live under the control of Hamas and have endured three wars and crippling Israeli closures. The Secretary-General warned that a new war in Gaza would bring forth another unbearable tragedy and urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint. My team and I worked closely with Egypt and all concerned parties to ensure a return to the 2014 ceasefire arrangements. Thankfully, a precarious restoration of calm has now been achieved. We must all work to ensure that this calm is maintained.

The period of 11 to 13 November saw one of the fiercest exchanges of fire since the 2014 Gaza conflict. The escalation was triggered by an operation Israel Defense Forces (IDF) inside the Gaza Strip in which a local commander of Hamas Al-Qassam Brigades and six other Palestinians were killed. One IDF officer was also killed and a second injured in an incident. In the following two days, militants in Gaza launched some 450 rockets and mortars at Israel, including at the towns of Ashkelon, Sderot and Netivot, killing one Palestinian civilian and seriously wounding one Israeli civilian. An IDF soldier was also seriously wounded by a targeted anti-tank guided-missile strike on a bus transporting military personnel in Kfar Aza. The IDF responded in turn with a series of air strikes on 160 militant targets, including a Hamas-affiliated television station and a hotel, resulting in the killing seven Palestinians — at least four identified by the Israeli army as members of armed groups.

The fragility of the situation underscores the urgent need to fundamentally change the dynamics on the ground that address the underlying political issues. Two million Palestinians in Gaza cannot be held hostage to political grandstanding and brinkmanship. Their lives matter and they deserve real leadership that addresses the real problems of Gaza.

The latest outbreak of violence came just as the United Nations and its partners were intensifying efforts to alleviate Gaza's deepening humanitarian and economic crises and, critically, to provide space for ongoing Egyptian-led efforts to advance intra-Palestinian reconciliation. This is essential to ending the occupation and resolving the wider political conflict.

Significant headway has already been made on the implementation of the package of urgent interventions endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of International Assistance to Palestinians at its September meeting, held in New York. In October, the United Nations started importing and monitoring the delivery of donor-funded fuel to Gaza's power station. This resulted in the greatest supply of electricity since March 2017 — a minimum of 11 hours per day. I reiterate the United Nations sincere gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar for the generous funding to this end.

The impact has been immediate. Water supply has increased, the risk of sewage overflow has been reduced, hospitals are less dependent on precarious generators, street lights are on again, children can study and play, and families have more cash in hand to meet their daily needs. These improvements, however, are temporary. They provide much-needed relief, but can do little to reverse the long-standing, structural problems affecting Gaza, driven by years of crippling closures and Hamas control.

The implementation of the other urgent humanitarian interventions in Gaza must also be expedited. My team and I will continue to engage with the Palestinian Government, donors and partners on the ground to support several initiatives. These include finding a sustainable solution to Gaza's electricity and health problems, increasing the supply of potable water and medical supplies, and sewage treatment. These should take place alongside concerted efforts to rescue the economy through cash-for-work and other emergency measures.

Yet, the international community cannot bear the burden of addressing Gaza's problems alone. The primary responsibility falls on the parties themselves. The clock on intra-Palestinian reconciliation is ticking. I urge all Palestinian parties to not waste time and engage in earnest and achieve visible progress in the coming six months. This is in the interests of the Palestinian people. It is in the interests of peace. The success of international efforts in Gaza depends on the parties' willingness to confront the inevitable hurdles, withstand the internal political consequences and stay committed to the reconciliation process over the long term. If any side fails, every side fails.

Hamas and militant groups must stop all provocations and attacks. Israel must significantly improve the movement and access of goods and people to and from Gaza as a step towards the lifting of the closures, in line with resolution 1860 (2009). The Palestinian Authority must strengthen its engagement in Gaza, which is an integral part of the Palestinian territory.

In earlier incidents, before the most recent escalation on 26 and 27 October, 34 rockets were launched by Palestinian Islamic Jihad towards Israel. In response, the IDF targeted 95 Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad military sites across the Strip. A hospital in the vicinity of one of the targets was damaged, as were several homes in Gaza City. On 28 October, the IDF struck and killed three Palestinian children aged 13 to 15 in the southern Gaza Strip, who they said were placing improvised explosive devices at the security fence — a claim refuted by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. Protests the next day saw some 3,000 participants, with 1 Palestinian killed and another 15 injured by IDF live fire.

I remain very concerned by Israel's persistent use of live fire against protesters. I call on the authorities to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from using lethal force, except as a last resort. I also urge Hamas and other Palestinian militants to end the indiscriminate firing of rockets into southern Israel and to stop all violence near the fence, including attempts to breach it.

Overall in the reporting period, Israeli security forces killed 31 Palestinians in Gaza, including four children. One IDF soldier was killed during the 11 November operation. Meanwhile, in the occupied West Bank, Israeli security forces killed four Palestinians. On 22 October, Israeli security forces shot and killed a Palestinian man in Hebron after he was

reported to have stabbed and injured an Israeli soldier. Three other attempts against Israeli civilians or Israeli security forces personnel were reported near the Kiryat Arba and Kfar Adumim settlements on 5 and 6 November, and in Jerusalem on 14 November. On 24 October, a 21-year-old Palestinian man was shot and killed by the IDF during clashes following an IDF weapons search near Tubas in the northern West Bank. On 26 October, in the context of clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians near Ramallah, Israeli security forces shot and killed a 33-year-old Palestinian and injured nine others; another 28-year-old Palestinian subsequently died of his wounds later in November.

Israeli settlement activity continues to advance, eating away at the viability of a contiguous future Palestinian State. I reiterate that all settlement activities are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace, and must immediately cease. On 5 November, Israeli authorities advanced two plans for a total of 264 housing units in the East Jerusalem settlement of Ramot. The demolition and confiscation of Palestinian-owned structures also continue, with a total of 31 structures demolished or seized by the authorities, citing a lack of building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain in the Israeli-controlled Area C and East Jerusalem. As a result, some 25 people were displaced and, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the livelihoods of 200 others were affected.

Meanwhile, on 4 November the Israeli authorities informed the High Court of Justice of their decision to demolish an illegal outpost comprising some dozen Israeli families that had been established in recent months in an abandoned military base in the Jordan Valley. I welcome the announcement by the Israeli authorities on 21 October to delay the demolition of Khan Al-Ahmar/Abu Al-Helu and reiterate the call of the international community for plans for the demolition of that community and all others facing similar pressures to be annulled

On 28 and 29 October, the Palestine Liberation Organization Central Council held its thirtieth session in Ramallah. In its final statement, the Central Council reaffirmed recent decisions taken to suspend its recognition of the State of Israel until the latter recognizes the State of Palestine, based on 4 June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as to end security coordination in all of its forms and disengage economically from Israel. A follow-up committee chaired by President Mahmoud Abbas was established to discuss the implementation of those decisions.

...

In closing, let me make two important points.

First, on Gaza, it is vital that all stakeholders work to de-escalate the deteriorating situation and seize the current window of opportunity to advance urgent humanitarian and economic interventions, in line with the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. I would also like to reiterate the importance of sustained support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and extend our gratitude to the State of Kuwait for the swift disbursement of its \$42 million contribution to the Agency.

Palestinian factions must seize the opportunity to engage in earnest with the Egyptian-led efforts to bring Gaza back under the control of the legitimate Palestinian Government. We in the international community must do all we can to support those efforts. Israel must also recognize that Gaza is about to explode, and in order to prevent such an explosion, people must also see a normalization of their lives, for which the closures need to be relaxed and ultimately lifted.

We cannot stand idle and allow the division between the West Bank and Gaza to be further entrenched. The Palestinian people are demanding that their leadership finally reunite Gaza and the West Bank, advance the goal of peacefully ending the Israeli occupation and establish a viable Palestinian State based on the relevant United Nations resolutions. That is what people desire; that is what they deserve.

Secondly, on the broader peace efforts, it is essential that we prevent the further collapse of the foundations that must underpin any future agreement. We must continue to consistently push back against the entrenchment of the military occupation and the erosion of international consensus on the final status issues. Together, we must work with determination and vigilance to establish an environment conducive to the return of negotiations that will end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in line with the recommendations of the Middle East Quartet report of 2016 (S/2016/595, annex). The United Nations remains firmly committed to advancing all efforts towards a just and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace, based on the relevant Council resolutions.

V. SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES ISRAEL, PALESTINE TO REALIZE TWO-STATE SOLUTION PROMISE IN PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY DAY MESSAGE

On 23 November, Secretary-General António Guterres issued the following [message](#) on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed annually on 29 November (SG/SM/19361-OBV/1841-PAL/2229):

This year's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People takes place at a time of turmoil, trouble and torment. The decades-long Palestinian struggle for self-determination, independence and a life of dignity faces numerous obstacles, including: continued military occupation of Palestinian territory; ongoing violence and incitement; continued settlement construction and expansion; deep uncertainties about the peace process; and deteriorating humanitarian and economic conditions, particularly in Gaza.

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is providing indispensable services and needs our full support.

I urge Israel, Palestine and all others with influence to restore the promise and viability of the two-State solution premised on two States living side by side in peace, harmony and within secure and recognized borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and to building a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

VI. GA PRESIDENT IN SOLIDARITY DAY MESSAGE CALLS THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION A PRIORITY THAT DESERVES THE UTMOST ATTENTION

On 28 November, Amb. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the United Nations General Assembly, delivered the following [message](#) on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

I would like to start by thanking the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their leadership in organizing this event.

When I consider the concept of ‘solidarity’ I am immediately drawn to the theme of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly: ‘Making the UN Relevant to All’.

I would like to emphasize this point: relevant to all. Our solidarity with the Palestinian people must not be rooted just in sympathy. As worthy as that is, the Palestinian people are entitled to more than that. As we seek to respond to the needs of people everywhere, in order not to leave anyone behind, we owe the Palestinian people an obligation to do everything in our power to end their current nightmare.

As we stand with the Palestinian people on this day, we must use this opportunity to fight the incoming humanitarian desensitization that occurs when suffering and death becomes a daily reality and the media does not even report on them on the back pages.

The state of the Palestinian people remains a scar on our collective conscience and we all have a responsibility to press the urgency of the need for expeditious resolution. I call on world leaders, including religious and other leaders, to make the Palestinian question a priority that deserves utmost attention.

Because it is not enough to say that we stand with people if we do not exercise the political will needed to make the stand count.

Colleagues, I would like to note two areas of concern, and one area of opportunity.

My first concern relates to the ongoing humanitarian situation in Palestine.

According to the Office of Humanitarian Affairs, 43 per cent of the Palestinian population are refugees and half of these are below the age of 18.

Furthermore, food insecurity, a basic human right and one of the Sustainable Development Goals, afflicts 47 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip.

Average water consumption, meanwhile, stands at 79 and 66 litres per person in the West bank and Gaza Strip respectively, well below the recommended ration of 100 litres per person per day.

I could go on and on.

If we are to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people then we must address these challenges, even as we push for implementation of the two-state solution. We cannot leave an entire people and entire generations to suffer.

This brings me to my second concern, that of funding and resources for UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

Years of budget cuts have left the agency with a chronic shortfall, restricting their efforts to reach the Palestinian people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Member States who stepped up and helped fill the gap. The \$122 million that was received has prevented an immediate shut down of key UNRWA services, including areas such as primary education and food security, and this is commendable.

At the same time, this solution is not tenable; a long-term fix to the underfinancing of UNRWA and more support in general to the people of Palestine is necessary.

Which brings me to my final point and call to action

Colleagues,

We need to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Occupied Territories to improve the lives and livelihoods of the Palestinian people.

With sufficient investment, and with support from UNRWA and other UN and multilateral partners, we can help to empower women and girls; expand access to education; create jobs and livelihoods; and ensure access to affordable healthcare.

These efforts not only directly benefit the people themselves; they can reduce exclusion and marginalization and further increase the prospects for the peace process.

Dear Friends,

In the General Debate of the General Assembly in September, world leaders declared their firm support for multilateralism and called for a strong UN. For the Palestinian people, the paralysis of the peace process may be seen as a reflection of the weak state of multilateralism and the delivery capacity of the UN.

The only outlet to the Palestinian question is therefore to honor existing UN resolutions, to reboost dialogue and find a truly lasting political solution.

Let us demonstrate our commitment to the Palestinian people by strengthening multilateralism and making the United Nations work for all people-for human rights, peace and security and sustainable development.

Thank you very much.

**VII. SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, IN SOLIDARITY DAY MESSAGE,
NOTES THAT A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI
CONFLICT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS**

On 28 November, Amb. Ma Zhaoxu, President of the United Nations Security Council, delivered the following [message](#) on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

I would like to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for inviting me, in my capacity as President of the Security Council, to address the Special Commemorative Meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of Oslo Accords which remind us that a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means, through dialogue and negotiations. Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions, the Council remains fully committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past year, the Security Council has remained seized of the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Security Council received monthly briefings on the situation from the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Department of Political Affairs and held open debates on a quarterly basis. Meetings were convened in response to the situation around the Gaza Strip. The Security Council also continued to receive the Secretary-General's reports, in briefings by the Special Coordinator every three months and received one in written form in June.

The situation in the Middle East remains a concern for the Council. The Council members express concerns regarding the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip and call for increased international support to alleviate its humanitarian and economic situation. The Council members condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism.

The Council members reiterate their call for the resumption of peace negotiations as soon as possible and for intensified efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The Council, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, remains committed to the achievement of just, lasting and peaceful solution in order to achieve peace and security that the Israeli and Palestinian people both need and deserve.

VIII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RENEWS MANDATE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND DPI SPECIAL PROGRAMME; PASSES RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM

On 30 November, the General Assembly adopted six resolutions, which renewed the mandate of the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; reiterated the need for peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine; renewed the mandate of the Special Information Programme on question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information; and renewed the mandate for the Division for Palestinian Rights. In addition, a resolution on Jerusalem (A/RES/73/22) was adopted.

A/RES/73/18. 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 [72/13](#) of 30 November 2017,

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,¹

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 session² and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,³ endorsed by the Security Council in resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003,

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,

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 35 ([A/73/35](#)).

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

³ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

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,⁴ 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 2011,⁵

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,⁶

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 51 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and over 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 to 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,¹ 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

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

⁵ [A/66/371-S/2011/592](#), annex I.

⁶ [A/67/738](#).

necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth 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 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 their 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 Initiative² and the Quartet road map;³

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

6. *Commends* the Working Group of the Committee on its efforts 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. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to report to the General Assembly 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 reports⁷ in this regard, calls for the exertion of all efforts for the provision of the resources necessary to expedite the 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;

⁷ [A/71/174](#) and [A/73/201](#).

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 regrettable absence of tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, to continue to focus its activities throughout 2019 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 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.

*43rd plenary meeting
30 November 2018*

A/73/RES/19. 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 deep concern that it has been over 70 years since the adoption of its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 51 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 [72/14](#) of 30 November 2017,¹

¹ [A/73/346-S/2018/597](#).

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,² and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

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 1949,³ 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 to 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

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

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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,

Expressing 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 international efforts and the efforts of the Palestinian Government aimed at rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, including reviving the agricultural and productive sectors, 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, which are crucial for social and economic recovery,

Recalling the mutual recognition 25 years ago between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian

people,⁴ 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 conflict⁵ 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,

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 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 2002,⁶ 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, all regional and international efforts aimed at promoting meaningful negotiations and achieving a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and on the long-standing terms of reference, as called for in Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#),

Taking note of the report of the Quartet of 1 July 2016,⁷ and stressing its recommendations as well as all its recent statements, 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 its 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,

⁴ See [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

⁵ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

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

⁷ [S/2016/595](#), annex.

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, chaired by Norway, and noting its recent meeting at United Nations Headquarters, on 27 September 2018, 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,

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 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,

Deploring the continuing negative repercussions of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip and the large number of Palestinian civilian casualties in the recent period, including among children, and any violations of international law, and calling for full respect for the relevant principles of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the principles of legality, distinction, precaution, limitation and proportionality, as well as the need for independent and transparent investigation into the use of force,

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,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, stressing that Israel must respect the right to peaceful protest, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including the firing of rockets by armed groups against Israeli civilian areas, resulting in loss of life and injury,

Deploring any actions that could provoke violence and endanger lives, and calling upon all actors to ensure that protests remain peaceful,

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, bearing in mind numerous United Nations agency reports, including the reports of the United Nations country team, 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 2014,⁸

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,

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 that 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, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population,⁹

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

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, formed consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles, 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 that 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

⁸ [S/PRST/2014/13](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* ([S/INF/69](#)).

⁹ [A/ES-10/794](#).

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 2011,¹⁰

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 further of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,¹¹

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,¹²

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. *Calls for* the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and stresses, 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;

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* in this regard the intensification and acceleration of renewed international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations

¹⁰ [A/66/371-S/2011/592](#), annex I.

¹¹ [A/67/738](#).

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

resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative,⁶ the Quartet road map⁵ and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and underscores in this regard the importance of the ongoing efforts, including by the European Union, the Russian Federation, the United Nations and the United States of America, as members of the Quartet, as well as efforts by the League of Arab States, Egypt, France, China and other concerned States and organizations;

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;

6. *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;

7. *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, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, urgently reverse negative trends, including all measures taken on the ground that are contrary to international law, and create the conditions necessary for the launching of a credible political horizon and the advancement of peace efforts;

8. *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;

9. *Stresses* the need, in particular, for an immediate halt to all actions contrary to international law that undermine trust and prejudice final status issues;

10. *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;

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

12. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at immediately 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 taking 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 for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

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

15. *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 economic recovery;

16. *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, 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 stresses that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone of peace and security in the region;

17. *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;

18. *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;

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

20. *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 Justice² and as demanded in the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

21. *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;

22. *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;

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

24. *Calls upon* all States, consistent with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions, inter alia:

(a) Not to recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;

(b) To distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

(c) Not to render aid or assistance to illegal settlement activities, including not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories, in line with Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980;

25. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations to continue and 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;

26. *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-fourth session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

*43rd plenary meeting
30 November 2018*

A/RES/73/20. 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,¹

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

Recalling its resolution [72/12](#) of 30 November 2017,

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,² and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,³ endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003,

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,⁴

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 its resolution [72/12](#);

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

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 35* ([A/73/35](#)).

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

³ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

⁴ 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 2019–2020, 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.

*43rd plenary meeting
30 November 2018*

A/RES/73/21. 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,¹

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 [72/11](#) of 30 November 2017,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution [72/11](#);

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;

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, 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 81 of the report of the Committee,¹ 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

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 35* ([A/73/35](#)).

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.

*43rd plenary meeting
30 November 2018*

A/RES/73/22 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,¹ 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

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

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,

Reaffirming also the importance of the City of Jerusalem for the three monotheistic religions,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,²

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;

² [A/73/322/Rev.1](#).

4. *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 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-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*43rd plenary meeting
30 November 2018*

IX. ICJ TO CONSIDER JURISDICTION AND ADMISSIBILITY IN CASE ON RELOCATION OF US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

On 30 November, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, issued the following [press release](#):

By an Order dated 15 November 2018, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, decided that the written pleadings in the case concerning the Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America) would first be addressed to the question of the jurisdiction of the Court and that of the admissibility of the Application. It fixed 15 May 2019 and 15 November 2019 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by the State of Palestine and a Counter-Memorial by the United States of America.

It is recalled in the Order that the State of Palestine seeks to found the jurisdiction of the Court on Article I of the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes (1961), to which the State of Palestine acceded on 22 March 2018.

The Order notes that, by a letter dated 2 November 2018, the United States informed the Court of the communications it had submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2014 and 2018, in which it declared that it did not consider itself to be in a treaty relationship with the Applicant under the Vienna Convention or the Optional Protocol. In its letters, the United States further observed that the Applicant had been aware of these communications before it submitted its Application, and it concluded that, in its view, “it [was] manifest that the Court ha[d] no jurisdiction in respect of the Application” and that the case ought to be removed from the List.

The Court further notes in its Order that, by a letter of the same date, the United States informed the Registry that it would not participate in the proposed meeting to be held on 5 November 2018 by the President with the representatives of the Parties, in order to ascertain their views with regard to questions of procedure in the case. The Court states that, at that meeting, Palestine expressed the wish that the Court decide in favour of its claim and indicated a strong preference for the submission of a Memorial dealing with both the

jurisdiction of the Court and the merits, explaining that it would need six months to prepare that pleading.
