



UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

“The threat of de facto annexation - What next for Palestine?”

Convened by the
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)

New York, 4 April 2019

CONCEPT NOTE

Title

“The threat of de facto annexation - What next for Palestine?”

In recent years, Israel has tightened control of the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, maintained its blockade of the Gaza Strip and strove to unlawfully alter the demographic makeup of the occupied territory through massive land confiscation, increasing construction in illegal settlements, and the imposition of a regime of regulations and military orders resulting in systemic discrimination and coercion of Palestinians. In addition, there have been explicit calls by Israeli politicians – including members of the Government – for the annexation all or parts of the West Bank. As described by international legal scholars and experts, this mechanism, through intentionally imposing measures that permanently alter the character and demographics of the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), is resulting in the occupation of West Bank territory increasingly resembling a *de facto* annexation, next to the *de jure* annexation of East Jerusalem, in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.

Objective

The one-day Forum will address the question of occupation and annexation, policies and measures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, its impact on the viability of the two-State solution and on the prospects to find a peaceful resolution to the Question of Palestine. Forum panels will raise awareness of the creeping annexation in the occupied Palestinian territory including in and around East Jerusalem and highlight viable and practical strategies to end it.

The Forum will provide an opportunity for expert speakers to inform about and analyze the reality on the ground, as well as opportunities for Member States and civil society to engage decision-makers and stakeholders with the aim of finding viable strategies, based on applicable international legal frameworks, to reverse the negative trends and preserve the two-State solution based on the 1967 borders.

Date and Venue

The Forum is expected to be held on 4 April 2019 at UNHQ in New York. United Nations partners – among them DGACM, DGC and DSS – will also be involved in the planning of the Forum for support and logistical advice.

Participation

Participants will consist of representatives of Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations as well as the public. Panel speakers will include Palestinians from the OPT, incl. East Jerusalem, Israeli and other international experts, representatives of CSOs/NGOs.

Format

The Forum will be held over the course of one day and consist of an Opening Session, two plenary sessions and a Closing, as well as a Reception by the Committee Chair. The working languages for the Forum will be the six official languages of the United Nations.

Media Coverage

The Division for Palestinian Rights will work with DPI to ensure maximum possible coverage of the conference in local and international media, including disseminating the webcast of the sessions inside the OPT and possibly streaming by local channels and universities in the West Bank and Gaza. Information about the conference will be disseminated by DPR through its website as well as its Twitter and Facebook accounts. The coverage and wide dissemination, particularly inside the OPT, will be in line with the GA goal “to make UN relevant for all.”

Expected Outcomes

The Forum is expected to deliver the following outcomes vis-à-vis Israeli occupation:

- Serve as an international platform to inform about the reality of the situation on the ground vis-à-vis the Israeli occupation, the *de jure* and *de facto* annexation of occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Increase awareness among Member States about the impact of annexation policies impact on the prospect for the two-state solution and the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people.
- Recommended set of viable and practical steps based on international legal norms that could help halting the incremental annexation of Palestinian territory and end the occupation.
- Foster support for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People.

Outputs

The Forum outputs will include:

- A Chair Summary of the discussions within a week of the end of the Forum (to be circulated to Committee members and published on the Committee website);
- A full report within two months after the conference (to be circulated to all Member States and participants in the Forum and published on the Committee website);
- Multimedia materials.