



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2019

Original: English

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Summary record of the 392nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 November 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Gertze (Vice-Chair). (Namibia)

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In the absence of Mr. Niang (Senegal), Mr. Gertz (Namibia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and developments in the political process

2. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that it was appropriate that the current meeting was being held on 15 November, the anniversary of the day when Palestinians had declared their independence in 1988. He condemned the most recent Israeli aggression against Gaza, which had been sparked by a botched Israeli undercover operation, and expressed gratitude to Egypt for intervening to help contain the situation. Unfortunately, the Security Council had not been able to act effectively to condemn the aggression. However, it was a positive development that the possibility of sending a Security Council delegation to the region had been raised.

3. The Council of the League of Arab States, in an emergency meeting held that very day in Cairo at the level of Permanent Representatives, had condemned the latest attacks against Gaza and had stressed the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in that regard. It had also reiterated that the Arab Peace Initiative must be implemented in the correct order, meaning that there could be no normalization of relations with Israel by any Arab country prior to Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory. The League had also strongly opposed the efforts by the United States of America for a stand-alone resolution that condemned a particular component of the Palestinian political movement. Member States should similarly oppose any moves in that direction. He expressed gratitude to the European Union for the negotiations on the package of resolutions that the Committee was about to approve for submission to the General Assembly, which he believed took into account the concerns of all parties.

Consideration of draft resolutions on the question of Palestine

Draft resolution: Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Draft resolution: Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

Draft resolution: Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

Draft resolution: Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

4. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the four draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 39, said that the first three resolutions were similar to the versions adopted the previous year, with only technical updates. The draft resolution entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” had been updated to include references to Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), in particular the Council’s affirmation 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; 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. He welcomed delegations’ support and sponsorship of the draft resolutions.

5. *The draft resolutions were adopted.*

Briefing by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 ([A/73/447](#))

6. **Mr. Lynk** (Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967), speaking via audio link, introduced his report ([A/73/447](#)). The report covered two topics: the situation in Gaza and the inexorable trend towards annexation.

7. The tragedy of the situation in Gaza was that it was almost entirely a product of human actions. The World Bank had reported that the Gaza economy was in “free fall”, with a minus 6 per cent growth in the first quarter of 2018 and the highest unemployment rate in the world. Gazans had access to no more than six hours of electricity per day, although a recent emergency donation from Qatar had temporarily increased that to 10 hours a day. The water supply was contaminated, and the main border crossing was closed. Basic health services were collapsing, and the situation had been exacerbated by cuts in funding to the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

8. A new agreement between Israel and the ruling entity in Gaza might alleviate the situation somewhat, although it would be nowhere near enough. Significant improvement could only come with an end to the decade-old blockade. Maintaining existing control structures such as the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism and unilateral Israeli control of ports would only perpetuate the suffering. Completely new ideas, including some sort of interim international protection, should be seriously considered. Enforcing political and legal accountability would also be essential; criticism without consequences would achieve nothing.

9. In 2012, the United Nations had issued a report warning that Gaza would be unliveable by 2020. By 2017, a new United Nations report had stated that the “unliveability” threshold had already been crossed. Such a situation made any political reconciliation all but impossible.

10. Israel had already illegally annexed East Jerusalem in 1967 and the Syrian Golan in 1981, and all indications were that the West Bank was now within its sights. The transportation, communications, water and electricity infrastructures were already firmly integrated into the domestic network of Israel. It was in complete military control of Area C, which contained 60 per cent of the West Bank and was home to more than 400,000 Israeli settlers. The Israeli leadership had stated frequently that it intended to keep that land permanently. The Knesset, in the past year alone, had adopted several laws that were green lights for more formal annexation steps, including a law retroactively legalizing settlements, a law declaring Israel a Jewish nation State and a law extending Israeli law to West Bank settlements.

11. Unfortunately, despite a record of non-compliance with international law and disregard for the consensus of the international community, Israel had rarely paid any price for its actions, which only increased its boldness in entrenching its annexationist ambitions. Only by meeting that boldness with an equally bold insistence on genuine accountability could the international community start moving towards a compassionate peace in the Middle East.

12. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the briefing given by the Special Rapporteur had been enlightening and that previous interactions with him had been most helpful in exploring all options to advance the cause of the Palestinian people, including the possibility of legal recourse through the

International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

Update on activities organized in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

13. **The Chair** said that the special meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People would be held on 28 November 2018 and requested delegations to be represented at the ambassadorial level.

Updates from Member States on their activities related to the question of Palestine

14. **Mr. Awawdeh** (Observer for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) said that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was planning several events in Jedda and Ramallah, including cultural exhibits, movies and interactive discussions. Earlier in November 2018, his Organization, together with the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, had held a conference with the theme “Together in faith: Jerusalem, our collective home” in Washington, D.C. An event on settlements was being organized in Brussels by the Organization of the Islamic Conference mission in that city.

15. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that in October 2018, her country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs had held a Solidarity Week for Palestine, coinciding with a visit to Indonesia from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine. Events had included a walk for peace and other public appearances by Palestinian Minister and his Indonesian counterpart. The people of Indonesia stood firm with the Palestinian people as they endured unspeakable oppression.

Other matters

16. **The Chair** drew the Committee’s attention to a note on the procedure for the election of the Bureau, which had been distributed to the members. Elections traditionally were held in January or February of each year.

The meeting rose at 11:05 a.m.