



# General Assembly

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

### Programme of work for 2019

#### I. Mandate of the Committee

1. The mandates of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat for 2019 are contained in General Assembly resolutions [73/18](#) and [73/21](#), respectively.

2. In its resolution [73/18](#), entitled “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People”, the General Assembly, 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) and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, requested the Committee to: (a) continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination; (b) 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 lines; (c) mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people; (d) keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General; and (e) 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 the critical period of political instability and humanitarian hardship.

3. In its resolution [73/21](#), entitled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat”, the General Assembly requested that the Division continue to provide substantive support to the Committee and, under its guidance, undertake activities in support of the mandate of the Committee, including to: (a) monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine; (b) organize international meetings and activities in support of the Committee’s mandate with the participation of all sectors of the international community; (c) ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and internationally renowned experts in these meetings and activities; (d) develop and expand the “Question of Palestine” website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine; (e) prepare and widely disseminate the publications pertaining to the question of Palestine listed in paragraph 81 of the annual report of the

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Committee ([A/73/35](#)); (f) develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts; (g) organize the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including an annual exhibit or cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations; and (h) liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, including through the Working Group of the Committee.

## II. Priority issues in the programme of work of the Committee for 2019

4. The mandated activities of the Committee and the Division for 2019 will be focused on generating heightened international awareness of the question of Palestine, as well as support for the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and independence, and the urgency of international efforts to contribute to the achievement of a just and lasting peace. The aims of these activities include:

(a) Supporting steps taken by the international community, including key regional partners, towards mobilizing an expanded multilateral framework for reviving a credible political peace process aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation and achieving the fulfilment of the rights of the Palestinian people, the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, and its admission to full membership in the United Nations;

(b) Reaching out to Member States working in support of the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine to identify areas of cooperation in support of their efforts, including with regard to the implementation of obligations in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and the obligation, *inter alia*, of States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

(c) Mobilizing international, regional and national actors to advocate for the two-State solution and for the just resolution of all final status issues, solely through negotiations, on the basis of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(d) Engaging members of the Security Council, including the elected members, and candidates for membership to adhere to and advocate for the implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions and for action in accordance with those parameters and commitments in this regard;

(e) Advocating for the right to return, and just compensation, of Palestine refugees, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and for support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and its mandate to assist the Palestine refugees and alleviate their plight, pending a just solution;

(f) Mobilizing international, regional and national actors to advocate for the end to the blockade of Gaza, in conformity with international humanitarian law and the relevant resolutions, and for efforts to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a matter of urgency;

(g) Calling upon the international community to focus efforts on a political and human rights framework, while stressing the legal obligations of all stakeholders

and ensuring needed assistance to the Palestinian people in accordance with humanitarian principles and obligations, pending a just solution;

(h) Reaching out to all regional groups at the United Nations with a view to expanding the membership of the Committee, as well as generating awareness of, and support for, the work of the Committee;

(i) Expanding cooperation with and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations working towards the achievement by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights and a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(j) Enhancing the cooperation and coordination between all specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination and an independent State of Palestine, in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(k) Enhancing coordination with the Department of Global Communications on messaging in support of the Committee's priorities and in support of the implementation of the Department's special information programme on the question of Palestine, as set out in General Assembly resolution [73/20](#).

### **III. Activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights**

#### **A. Action by the Committee**

5. During 2019, the Committee will implement and report on the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution [73/18](#), that the Committee focus its activities throughout 2019 on efforts and initiatives 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 lines.

6. The Committee, through its regular open meetings and side events, will continue to raise awareness of the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to mobilize appropriate international action in respect of critical developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in relevant meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Committee will also hold periodic briefings and events throughout 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in close consultation with United Nations entities, to inform Member States about the political, economic and social impact, including on women and girls, of the ongoing occupation.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [32/40](#) B, the Committee will hold a special meeting and organize, in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, a cultural event and/or an exhibit in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November. In 2019, the special meeting of the Committee will be held on 26 November 2019.

8. The Committee will continue to participate in relevant intergovernmental and other conferences and meetings, as necessary, including with regional and subregional organizations. The Committee considers such participation to be an important aspect of its work to promote international support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

9. In cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, the Committee will continue to maintain contacts with the Government of the State

of Palestine and Palestinian civil society. The Committee will continue to invite prominent personalities and representatives of United Nations system entities and civil society organizations to its meetings at United Nations Headquarters, including through the Working Group of the Committee, to further enrich the substantive content and format of its deliberations.

10. The Committee will continue to support organizations and entities of the United Nations system in their work aimed at assisting and developing the institutional capacity of the Palestinian people, particularly in line with Sustainable Development Goals 5, 16 and 17, with a special emphasis on the inclusion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth in various fields and the advancement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

11. The Bureau of the Committee will continue to hold monthly meetings, in addition to consultations, with the permanent missions of Member and observer States, regional groups, Governments and intergovernmental organizations at Headquarters and abroad to encourage their active involvement in its programme of work, as well as to encourage a positive shift in their voting patterns in the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, such as the General Assembly. The exchanges are also intended to promote an enhanced understanding of the mandate and objectives of the Committee. Furthermore, the Bureau has decided to organize a visit to Palestine, and Israel, to familiarize itself with the situation on the ground and hold meetings with key interlocutors, including to inform them on the role and mandate of the Committee, when feasible and as early as possible.

12. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/18](#), the Committee invites all of its members, observer States and accredited organizations to plan national and regional activities on the issue of Palestinian rights and the question of Palestine, with a focus on efforts to convey solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people and support for international efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation without delay.

## **B. International conferences and delegation visits**

13. Through its activities, the Committee intends to continue to raise international awareness of the developments on the ground, including those that constitute obstacles to meaningful negotiations and undermine the prospects for realizing a just solution. This will include highlighting the illegality of Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the legal obligation of third parties not to support or contribute to such breaches of international law by Israel. In this regard, the Committee will continue to prioritize the question of Jerusalem. The Committee will also seek to mobilize the broadest possible international support to the efforts of the State of Palestine to pursue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The Committee will continue to invite civil society organizations, including youth and women's groups and refugee representatives, to relevant international meetings and conferences to enhance dialogue, increase their engagement for a just solution to the conflict, and strengthen solidarity with the Palestinian people.

15. In so doing, the Committee will continue to explore additional formats other than international conferences, as appropriate, such as round tables, speaking tours and delegation visits. It will endeavour to organize its events in cooperation with interested intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, subregional organizations and national Governments, with due regard to cost-sharing arrangements. It will strive to achieve gender and geographic balance among invited experts and will encourage the active participation of Governments from all regional groups. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of the international meetings and

conferences and will disseminate the practical recommendations emanating from conferences and meetings to the United Nations membership at large and systematically evaluate them, with a view to taking follow-up action, as appropriate. The Bureau will reach out to other members and observers of the Committee and encourage them to join Committee delegations attending various events.

16. In 2019, the Committee intends to organize a number of events, including the following:

(a) A Committee delegation visit to the European Union, Belgium and Germany and engagement with representatives of regional civil society (dates to be confirmed);

(b) A United Nations forum on the question of Palestine at United Nations Headquarters on 4 April;

(c) An international conference on the question of Jerusalem, with support from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 27 and 28 June;

(d) A seminar on legal aspects of the question of Palestine in late August or September (location to be confirmed).

### **C. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations**

17. During 2019, the Committee will continue to cooperate on issues relevant to its mandate with the African Union, the European Union, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States. The Committee will also reach out to other organizations and regional groups at the United Nations. Representatives of such groups and organizations will be invited to support and participate in the Committee programme of international meetings and conferences.

### **D. Cooperation with civil society**

#### **Civil society organizations**

18. In recognition of the important contribution of Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations, strengthening cooperation with civil society is an overarching objective for the Committee. The accreditation of civil society organizations with the Committee will continue through its Working Group, which will extend its cooperation with and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations. Through its engagement with civil society, the Committee seeks to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and to encourage civil society partners to work with their national Governments, parliamentarians and other institutions to promote Palestinian rights and a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

19. To keep abreast of developments, the Working Group of the Committee intends to request accredited civil society organizations to submit periodic reports on their activities in support of Palestinian rights and self-determination.

20. In 2019, the Committee and its Working Group intend to organize activities, including the following, in cooperation with Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations worldwide:

- (a) Organization, as appropriate, of meetings and consultations with civil society organizations in conjunction with or on the margins of international meetings and conferences held under the auspices of the Committee;
- (b) Participation of representatives of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as the secretariat of the Committee, in relevant events on the question of Palestine organized by civil society organizations worldwide;
- (c) Periodic open briefings by representatives of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society on the situation on the ground and their work in support of a peaceful solution, held at United Nations Headquarters, including on the sidelines of major United Nations events;
- (d) Periodic reporting on civil society initiatives related to the question of Palestine in its weekly bulletin *NGO Action News*;
- (e) Outreach to civil society organizations that are not yet accredited to the Committee;
- (f) Production and dissemination of information materials on the activities of the Committee and its Working Group, including through social media, including regular updates to the civil society page of the “Question of Palestine” website.

#### **Parliaments and interparliamentary organizations**

21. The Committee firmly believes that national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations play an important role in shaping public opinion, formulating policy guidelines and influencing government positions and actions upholding international legitimacy in support of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine. To that end, the Committee will continue to involve parliamentarians and representatives of interparliamentary organizations in international conferences, meetings organized under its auspices and delegation visits and will work to organize joint events with interested interparliamentary organizations. The Committee will liaise with representatives of the European Parliament in the context of the Committee delegation visit to the European Union in 2019 and organize additional consultations, as appropriate.

### **E. Publications programme**

22. The Committee considers the publications programme of the Division to be an important information and outreach activity, which contributes to raising awareness of various aspects of the question of Palestine, the role and efforts of the United Nations and the work of the Committee among the Member States of the General Assembly and broadly at the international level. The Division is requested to continue to monitor and disseminate information on developments relevant to the question of Palestine and to discharge its mandate by issuing, electronically and/or in print, the following publications:

- (a) A monthly bulletin on action by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine;
- (b) An annual compilation of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the question of Palestine;
- (c) Reports of international meetings and events held under the auspices of the Committee;

(d) Ad hoc studies and updates of existing studies on various aspects of the question of Palestine.

23. The Committee will ask the Division for Palestinian Rights to review the existing publications and make proposals for updating them.

## **F. United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine**

24. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue its work on the further development, expansion and updating of the “Question of Palestine” website, including the web-based United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine. The Division should continue to ensure that the collection of United Nations and related documents in the System is comprehensive and up to date and that the visual appearance of the website, as well as accessibility of information and usability on mobile devices, is improved through the finalization of its redesign, which is expected to be completed in 2019. The Committee calls upon the Secretariat offices involved to extend their full support to the Division in this regard.

25. To raise awareness about the situation on the ground and ensure an effective flow of information between the United Nations and civil society, the Division will continue, on behalf of the Committee, to maintain a presence on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

## **G. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

26. In its resolution [73/21](#), the General Assembly requested the Division to continue to organize events to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2019. In accordance with that resolution, the Division will 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, with the aim of highlighting the resilience and ingenuity of the Palestinian people.

## **H. Capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine**

27. The Committee considers that, in the light of the importance and usefulness of its capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine, as mandated by the General Assembly, it should continue to develop the programme, inter alia, with a view to supporting the Government of the State of Palestine in its efforts to establish more efficient, accountable and transparent institutions and to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. The Committee intends to adjust and enhance the capacity-building programme in the context of the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation and in line with the priorities of the State of Palestine as identified in the capacity-building needs assessment mission undertaken by the Division to the State of Palestine in 2018. Building the capacity of Palestinian civil servants in the area of strategic communications will be a top priority in 2019.

29. The Committee continues to believe that, in selecting candidates for its capacity-building and training programme, special consideration should be given to the relevance of the job functions of the candidates to the proposed training, and to promoting broad participation across institutions of the State of Palestine, including those in Gaza. In line with past practice, the programme will be coordinated with

other United Nations entities to avoid overlap and oversaturation and will be committed to achieving gender balance. Training sessions should be held at United Nations Headquarters and at other locations, including in the State of Palestine, to enhance participation, subject to the availability of funding.

30. The Committee notes that, in 2017, and for the first time, the annual capacity-building programme for Palestinian officials at United Nations Headquarters had to be postponed to 2018 because candidates selected for the programme were unable to obtain visas to travel to New York in time for it. In this regard, the Committee solicits the cooperation of the Government of the United States of America for future programmes, bearing in mind the host country agreement, and requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue the programme during 2019.

#### **IV. Continuing review and assessment**

31. The Committee will continue to review and assess its programme of work in the light of the situation on the ground and forthcoming political developments and will make adjustments, as necessary. It will actively apply lessons learned and follow best practices.

32. The Committee supports plans by the Division to conduct an independent assessment of the capacity-building programme to assess its impact and optimize the use of resources in the future.

33. Mindful of budgetary constraints, the Committee will endeavour to organize its events in partnership with interested United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and national Governments, giving preference to cost-sharing arrangements. It will invite the Division for Palestinian Rights to streamline documentation, including through the practice of using paper-smart approaches, where applicable. The Committee will mobilize social media and bloggers to promote global coverage and interaction of its activities and events in a cost-effective way. It will strive to achieve gender and geographic balance among invited experts and will encourage the active participation of Governments from all regional groups. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of its activities and events, boost media exposure, attendance and interaction and, where required, decide on steps to be taken to enhance the contributions of those activities to the mandated goals of the Committee.