



General Assembly

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

Programme of work for 2021

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 2021 are contained in General Assembly resolutions 75/20 and 75/21, respectively.

2. In its resolution 75/20 entitled “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People”, the General Assembly, noting with deep regret the passage of 53 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and over 73 years since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, requests 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 borders; (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 current critical period of political instability and humanitarian hardship. The Committee, in the context of the spread and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, seeks to ensure its mandate is implemented to the fullest.

3. In its resolution 75/21 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 paragraphs 65-68 of the 2019 annual report of the Committee (A/74/35); (f) develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts and promote South-South and triangular cooperation for institution building; (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. Activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights

4. During 2021, on the basis of the renewal of the mandates of the Committee and the Division by the General Assembly in its resolutions 75/20 and 75/21, respectively, and the conclusions and recommendations listed in paragraphs 96-118 of the annual report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/75/35), the Committee and the Division will focus on the activities detailed in subsections A–J below.

A. Mobilization of the diplomatic community

5. Throughout 2021, the Committee will focus its activities on diplomatic 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 in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In 2021 the Committee will continue to engage influential Member States on the question of Palestine, including Members of the Security Council. To support the engagement, the Bureau will continue to follow and consider developments and dynamics in regard to the Middle East Peace Process and be flexible to accommodate and carry out additional tasks under its Programme of Work 2021.

6. The Committee will continue to mobilize the international community to be active in its support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It will utilize intergovernmental processes and virtual engagement with permanent missions in New York as well as convene international events involving Member States, civil society organizations and regional organizations.

Action at United Nations Headquarters

7. The Committee, through its regular and special meetings, including in virtual format, will continue to raise awareness on the question of Palestine. In the context of critical developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, it will mobilize and take appropriate international action, including via briefings in the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Committee will also hold periodic briefings and events throughout 2021 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, or in virtual format, in close consultation with United Nations entities, to inform Member States about the political, economic, and social impact on the Palestinian people, including on women and girls, of the ongoing Israeli occupation.

8. The Bureau of the Committee will continue, under its outreach programme, 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 when feasible, 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. It will consider a visit to the State of Palestine, when feasible, to hold meetings with key interlocutors to inform them about the role and mandate of the Committee and discuss ways in which the Committee can help in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the question of Palestine.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

9. 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. Pursuant to Assembly resolution [75/21](#), in 2021, the special meeting of the Committee to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be held on or around 29 November 2021.

Advocacy at regional and intergovernmental meetings

10. 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.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/20](#), 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 as well as support for international efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation without delay and achieve a just and lasting solution, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

B. Raising awareness of the question of Palestine

12. Through its activities, the Committee intends to continue raising international awareness on the political, human rights and humanitarian 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, the occupying Power. 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 for the efforts of the State of Palestine to pursue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including through focus on the critical situation in the Gaza Strip and the need for urgent efforts to reverse the negative socio-economic and humanitarian trends there, including in cooperation with the UNRWA and other UN agencies.

13. The Committee will continue to facilitate up-to-date briefings by experts, including women, and exchanges of ideas on specific issues, including the situation of Palestinian women, youth, and the Palestine refugees, at Committee meetings at Headquarters or in virtual format, as well as during side events, international conferences, and Committee delegation visits, in person, when feasible, or virtually, through publications and on its website. It will also strive to organize events on the margins of the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

14. The Committee 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 geographical 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 international meetings and conferences and will disseminate the practical recommendations emanating from them to the United Nations membership, evaluating 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.

15. The Committee will focus on ways to forge solidarity, increase awareness of multidimensional challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and express concern about the unprecedented spread of the disease and its impact throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Committee will support efforts that urge the international community to focus its attention on the dire socio-economic situation and the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territory, and the predicament of the Palestinian Government due to the twin combination of the adverse impact of COVID-19 and Israel's ongoing occupation. The Committee will continue to advocate for continued support and assistance, including to UNRWA.

Events in 2021

16. In 2021, the Committee will take into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the feasibility of its planned activities and adjust its Programme of Work accordingly. Those activities will include:

- (a) A virtual event in support of UNRWA, in February 2021.
- (b) A virtual event on the margins of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in March 2021.
- (c) A virtual United Nations Forum on the question of Palestine, with a focus on the role of parliamentarians, in the second quarter of 2021.
- (d) Strategic communications workshop or workshops for officials of the State of Palestine, as planned in 2020 and then postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic (dates and location to be confirmed).
- (e) A virtual event on Palestine refugees, focused on youth, in the second quarter of 2021.
- (f) An event on the question of Jerusalem in the second half of 2021.
- (g) Committee engagement with civil society, in the second half of 2021.
- (h) Field delegation visits to Member States and regional bodies, either virtually or in person subject to improved COVID-19 pandemic situation, to forge solidarity and increase awareness of question of Palestine and mobilize collective efforts.

Publications programme

17. 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) Periodic or weekly reports on civil society initiatives related to the question of Palestine in its weekly bulletin *NGO Action News*.
- (b) A monthly bulletin on action by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine.
- (c) 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.
- (d) An annual compilation of United Nations reports relevant to the question of Palestine.
- (e) Reports on meetings and events held under the auspices of the Committee.
- (f) Committee newsletter on recent and upcoming activities.
- (g) Ad hoc studies and updates of existing studies on various aspects of the question of Palestine.
- (h) Information materials on the activities of the Committee, including through social media and on the “Question of Palestine” website.
- (i) Booklets and e-books of UN Exhibits on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

18. The Committee will ask the Division for Palestinian Rights to review the existing publications and make proposals on an ongoing basis for updating them.

United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine

19. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue its work on the further development, expansion and updating of the Committee’s “Question of Palestine” website, including the web-based United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL). The Division will continue to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date collection of United Nations and related documents in the System and to improve the visual appearance of the website as well as its accessibility on mobile devices and multilingualism. The next stage of the UNISPAL’s redesign, focused on enhancing the user’s search experience, is expected to be completed in 2021. The Division will continue to develop its data visualization project on the question of Palestine. The Committee calls upon the Secretariat offices involved to extend their full support to the Division in this regard.

20. 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 develop its presence on social media platforms while promoting multilingualism as well as to increase the dissemination of its information via e-mail.

C. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations system entities

21. During 2021, the Committee will continue to invite prominent personalities and representatives of United Nations system entities and civil society organizations,

including women and youth, to its meetings at United Nations Headquarters or in virtual format to further enrich the substantive content of its deliberations.

Intergovernmental organizations

22. The Committee will continue to cooperate on issues relevant to its mandate with the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Caribbean Community, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. 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's programme of international meetings and conferences.

23. 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.

Non-governmental organizations

24. 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. 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.

25. In 2021, the Committee intends to organize activities, including the following, in cooperation with Palestinian, Israeli, and other civil society organizations worldwide:

(a) Meetings and consultations with civil society organizations, including a Committee engagement with civil society in the second half of 2021.

(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 including in virtual format.

(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 virtually, including on the margins of major United Nations events.

Parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations

26. The Committee believes that national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations play a significant 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.

United Nations system entities

27. 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, in various fields, and the advancement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

D. Capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine

28. The Committee considers that, in the light of the importance 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, maximizing its impact in a cost-effective way, utilizing the online training format whenever feasible.

29. The Committee will continue to encourage developing the capacity-building programme within 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 and 2019 and subject to conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures to build the capacity of Palestinian civil servants in strategic communications and diplomatic protocol will be pursued in 2021.

30. 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 any 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 United Nations entities and other actors to avoid overlap and duplication and will be committed to achieving gender balance. Training sessions should be held not only at United Nations Headquarters but also at other locations, including in the State of Palestine, to facilitate participation and optimize the use of available funding. Building the capacity of Palestinian officials to report under the human rights instruments to which the State of Palestine has acceded will be another priority.

31. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue the programme during 2021. It also notes the lengthy delays in obtaining United States of America visas for participants in the annual capacity-building programme for Palestinian officials at United Nations Headquarters. In this regard, the Committee solicits the cooperation of the Government of the United States for future programmes, bearing in mind the Host Country Agreement.

III. Continuing review and assessment

32. The Committee will continue to review and assess its programme of work in light of the situation on the ground and forthcoming political developments, adjusting, as necessary. The Division for Palestinian Rights will conduct a survey at the end of the year to assess Committee members' satisfaction on support provided and that will inform and guide the planning of future programme of work activities.

33. The Division will continue to assess the impact of the capacity-building programme and make proposals to strengthen the programme, applying lessons learned and following best practices.

34. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it presented in 2020 - including in regard to finding new ways of working and implementing its mandate - in 2021, the Committee will continue, if necessary, to hold its meetings and events in a virtual format. This practice, successfully implemented throughout 2020, has also provided an opportunity to reach wider audiences. Moreover, mindful of budgetary constraints, the Committee will continue 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, at Headquarters and other locations, 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 continues to pay particular attention to achieving gender and geographical balance in all its activities. 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.
