



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

### Newsletter on Recent and Upcoming Activities – No. 7 / January-March 2021 –

#### 1. Committee participates in quarterly Security Council debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question



On **26 January**, the Security Council held its quarterly debate (virtually) on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. The Chair of the Committee, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal, submitted a written statement on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee vowed to work with the newly appointed Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland, in bringing the peace process to its rightful and long-overdue conclusion,

reiterated its supports for an international peace conference under the auspices of an expanded Middle East Quartet and urged Member States to support UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) in a way that is sustainable, predictable, and long-term.

The Chair's statement can be accessed [here](#).

#### 2. 1st Committee meeting of 2021 – Bureau elections and adoption of annual Programme of Work



On **4 February 2021**, the Committee held its first meeting of 2021 as an in-person meeting. As customary, UN Secretary-General António Guterres presided over the elections of its Bureau, which was unanimously re-elected by acclamation: as Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal; as Vice Chairs: H.E. Ms. Adela Raz, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan (who also serves as Acting Rapporteur); H.E. Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosó Cuesta, Permanent Representative of Cuba; H.E. Mr. Mohammad Koba, Chargé d'affaires of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia; and H.E. Mr.

Jaime Hermida Castillo, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua.

The Meeting also adopted the Committee's annual Programme of Work for 2021. Other main points of discussion were the Secretary-General's reiterated support to the Committee and its mandate and his commitment to the Palestinian question, calling for an end to the occupation and the realization of the two-State solution along agreed parameters. Several Member States also called for an international peace conference and to ensure reliable and predictable funding for UNRWA.

For more details, documents, and video of the event, click [here](#).

### 3. Bureau Meeting with the President of the General Assembly

On **10 February**, the Bureau of the Committee met with H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly to exchange ideas for greater cooperation in support of efforts to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict and the need for continued financial support for UNRWA. Mr. Bozkır reaffirmed the role of the General Assembly as an entity entrusted with keeping the Palestinian question alive at the United Nations, and the Committee as its main vector for that support.



### 4. First Meeting of the Committee Bureau in 2021



On **18 February**, the newly re-elected Bureau held its first meeting of the year to plan the implementation of the Committee's 2021 Programme of Work. The Bureau also considered political developments, consultations with partners in anticipation of the holding of an international peace conference with an

expanded Quartet and the upcoming general elections to be held in Palestine. The Bureau further committed to continue supporting UNRWA, including through its outreach activities and its programme of events, to ensure reliable and predictable funding for the UN Agency.

## 5. 2021 Briefing Session for Delegates on the Committee Mandate and Programme of Work



On **26 February**, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the UN Secretariat held its annual briefing to new Member States delegates to inform about the Committee's mandate and programme of work. Attended by 19 Member States and the Holy See, the briefing also featured a presentation by the "Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine" of the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC).



The Committee Chair H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal, opened the session and H.E. Ms. Feda Abdelhady-Nasser, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, delivered concluding remarks. The main discussion points focused on the continued relevance of the Committee, and the meeting concluded with a call for Member States to participate in Committee activities in pursuit of its General Assembly mandate.

For the link to the Committee website entry, click [here](#).

## 6. Bureau Outreach to Member States and Regional Organisations in 2021

As a follow-up to its decision of 18 February, the Bureau of the Committee initiated a series of meetings with New York-based Member States representatives of partners in the Middle East Peace Process – including the Middle East Quartet, the P5 and the E10 Members of the Security Council – to exchange ideas on ways to reinvigorate and support international efforts on the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process. Bureau delegations headed by the Chair H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang held meetings with the European Union (5 March), the Russian Federation (18 March) and China (24 March). Additional outreach meetings are planned for April and May.

7. CEIRPP virtual event on the situation of Palestinian women on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)



On **10 March**, the Committee organized a Virtual Event on “*Women, Peace and Security, and Beijing+25: Progress and Challenges for Women and Girls in Palestine*” on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).

The panel conversation was moderated by H.E. Ms. Adela Raz, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan. Speakers H.E. Ms. Amal Jadou, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine; Ms. Hind Khoury, former Minister for Jerusalem Affairs of Palestine; and Ms. Nour Swirki, activist and journalist in Gaza, focused on the unique situation of Palestinian women under occupation and traditional norms; their roles and challenges since the First Intifada until today, including in the upcoming Palestinian elections, as well as the shrinking space of civil society in the occupied Palestinian territory.



The event was live streamed on UN Web TV and on the UN social media platforms.

For more details, documents, and video of the event, click [here](#).



## 8. Analysis Report of the 2020 DPR Client Survey

The UN Division for Palestinian Rights (DPR), in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Committee, shared with the Members and Observers of the Committee the findings of its first client survey undertaken in 2020.

The survey, which was open to all Committee Members and Observers, assessed the degree of satisfaction with the Secretariat's services to enable the Committee to implement its mandate effectively and efficiently. The survey findings complement the General Assembly's commitment to review the work of the Committee and renew its mandate as well as that of the Secretariat and contribute to enhancing the implementation of Committee activities going forward.



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- Read the latest [Monthly Bulletin](#) on UN and other International Organizations' action on the question of Palestine
  - Read the latest [NGO Action News](#)
  - Read the [Compilation of UN Resolutions and Decisions Adopted in 2019](#)
  - Read the [Compilation of United Nations Reports on the Question of Palestine in 2020](#)
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