



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

Newsletter on Recent and Upcoming Activities

– No. 9 / July - September 2021 –

1. Chair delivers statement at the quarterly Security Council Debate on the Middle East



On 28 July, the Chair of the Committee delivered a statement on behalf of the Committee at the quarterly debate of the Security on the Middle East including the Palestinian Question. The Chair recalled the hostilities that had broken out between Palestinian militant groups in Gaza and Israel in May 2021 and noted that on 10 May, the Bureau of the Committee had issued a statement expressing its deep alarm at the escalation of violence and acts of provocation and incitement and called on the parties to respect the ceasefire and allow for unhindered humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. He stressed the Committee would remain a reliable partner to garner wider global support for the resolution of the question of Palestine and the realization of the two-State solution. The statement, in Arabic and English, may be accessed [here](#).

2. Bureau holds closed consultations with CSOs



On 3 August, the Committee held closed consultations with six representatives from prominent Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the State of Palestine, Israel, and the United States on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and potential for further cooperation between the Committee and Civil Society. Civil society representatives highlighted the forcible displacement of Palestinians by Israeli settlers and the occupying security forces in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They said that in Gaza, following the May crisis, hopes for international involvement have been replaced by a despair deeper than before the hostilities, even as the change in governments in Israel and the United States provided options for engagement. US-based CSOs said they are shifting from a focus on the two-State solution to a focus on “justice and equality”, and that the “apartheid framework” to look at Israeli policies and practices is gaining traction. The Chair’s summary of the event, in Arabic and English, may be accessed [here](#).

3. Bureau delegation meets Secretary-General Guterres



On 19 August, the Bureau of the Committee held its customary annual meeting with the UN Secretary-General. The Chair gave an overview of recent Committee’s activities, expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General’s unwavering support for two State solution and his rejection of Israeli annexation efforts. Noting that over the last year the situation in the OPT had continued to deteriorate, including with recent hostilities between militants in Gaza and Israel, the Permanent Observer mission of the State of Palestine conveyed Palestinian frustration with the lack of progress on the peace process and called for political resolve to resume negotiations. The Secretary-General noted the need for donors to increase their contribution to UNRWA’s budget and to be more active in the political process and mentioned plans for an informal meeting of the Middle East Quartet at the Ministerial level during the General Assembly session.

4. Secretary-General receives books featuring Solidarity Day exhibits



As part of its global advocacy activities, the Committee, with funding from the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the support of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine and the UN Division for Palestinian Rights is reproducing in the form of printed and e-books, the highly acclaimed public exhibits mounted at the UN headquarters from 2017 to 2020 as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On 19 August, the Committee presented the Secretary-General with the first two books produced in the series, featuring the exhibits for 2017 and 2018. The books were subsequently distributed to Permanent Missions of Member States to the UN in New York.

The 2017 book is titled *“The Palestinian People: Everlasting Roots, Infinite Horizons - 100 Names from Palestine to the World”*, while the 2018 book is titled *“Unrealized Rights Unfulfilled Promises - 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the Palestinian People’s Nakba”*. The digital versions of the books are accessible [here](#). The 2019 and 2020 editions will be made available soon.

5. Committee adopts Annual Report to the General Assembly

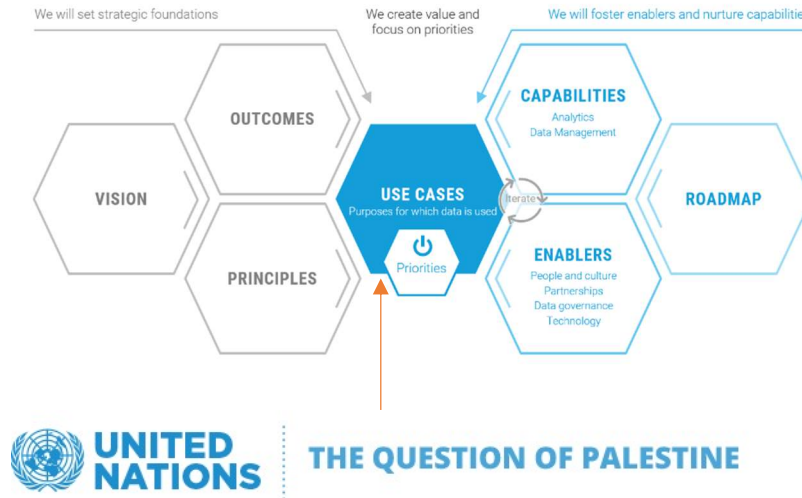


On 30 August, at the 403rd meeting of the Committee, chaired by Ambassador Cheikh Niang, the Committee unanimously adopted its [annual report 2020-2021](#). The Chair briefed on the activities of the Committee, its recent engagement with the Secretary-General and outreach with Security Council and Middle East Quartet members. The State of Palestine's update highlighted the concerning levels of violence throughout the OPT and the need for accountability and welcomed UN efforts to maintain calm and provide urgent assistance to Gaza residents. The Committee endorsed two additional NGOs/CSOs to partner with the Committee in its advocacy efforts. More details of the meeting can be found [here](#).

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

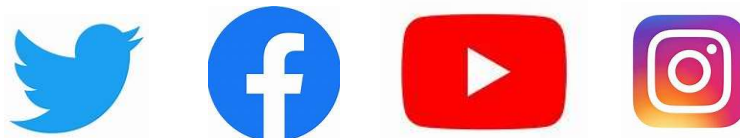
As a follow-up to its decision of 18 February 2021, the Bureau of the Committee continued its outreach to New York-based Permanent Representatives of Member States – including members of the Middle East Quartet, the Permanent and Elected Members of the Security Council – to exchange ideas on ways to reinvigorate and support international efforts on the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process. A Bureau delegation headed by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang held a meeting with the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations on 3 September. More outreach meetings are planned in the coming months.

7. CEIRPP-Initiated Data Project featured in Secretary-General's Data Strategy Update



A Data storytelling project by the Division for Palestinian Rights to map Member States' positions on the question of Palestine based on General Assembly and Security Council statements, undertaken by the Division in support of Committee advocacy, has been featured as a Use case in the Secretary-General's Data Strategy newsletter for the UN system for September 2021.

8. Committee's advocacy efforts through social media



The Committee's outreach and advocacy efforts on the question of Palestine through its social media accounts continued during the quarter. During the third quarter of 2021 (July-September), the Twitter account of the Committee (@unispal) earned 235,200 impressions. The Committee Twitter account also received 12,323 profile visits, 1,496 mentions, and 158 new followers while YouTube account had 2,151 views during this period. The Committee's Facebook page reached 3,720 users.

9. Committee sponsors online UN training for Palestinian diplomats



In collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Committee supported the participation of two diplomats from the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in a virtual immersion training on the workings of the United Nations in Geneva from 9-20 August 2021.

10. In other news...

At the request of the Bureau, the Division has compiled a database of capacity building activities undertaken by Committee Members and Observers for the benefit of the Palestinian government and people.

The Committee's publications programme continued with the issuance of the [annual compilation](#) of UN resolutions on the question of Palestine. These publications were supplemented by the [monthly bulletin](#) on action by the UN system and intergovernmental organizations on the Palestinian issue, and this quarterly newsletter outlining Committee activities. The Division also continued the publication of the weekly [NGO Action News](#).

- **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](#)
- **Visit** the Committee's Website: <http://www.un.org/unispal>
- **Like** the Committee's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/UN.palestinianrights>
- **Follow** the Committee on Twitter at @UNISPAL: <https://twitter.com/UNISPAL>
- **Follow** the Committee on Instagram at @UNISPAL: <https://www.instagram.com/unispal/>
- **Subscribe** to the Committee YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNpalestinianrights/>

** This Newsletter on recent and upcoming activities of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is produced and distributed on Behalf of the Committee by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat.*