



United Nations

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

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



Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Letter of transmittal

[1 September 2022]

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for submission to the General Assembly and circulation to all the competent bodies of the United Nations for necessary action, as appropriate, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 10 of Assembly resolution [75/20](#) of 2 December 2020.

The report covers the period from 2 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

(Signed) Cheikh **Niang**
Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The present report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/20](#), adopted on 2 December 2020. It covers the implementation by the Committee of its programme of work ([A/AC.183/2022/1](#)), formulated to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. Its objectives include maintaining international awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people, mobilizing efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace, enhancing international solidarity with the Palestinian people and supporting the Government of the State of Palestine in its capacity-building efforts towards a future viable and sustainable independent State of Palestine.
2. Chapter II consists of an overview of the political context relating to the question of Palestine during the reporting period, from 2 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.
3. Chapters III and IV contain an outline of the mandate of the Committee as set out by the General Assembly and information on the membership of the Committee and the organization of its work.
4. Chapter V covers the action taken by the Committee, including its participation in meetings of the Security Council and its continuing dialogue with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. It also covers international conferences, including in virtual format, capacity-building activities organized by the Committee and other mandated activities carried out by the Division for Palestinian Rights on behalf of the Committee.
5. Chapter VI provides an overview of the special information programme on the question of Palestine implemented by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/23](#).
6. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly are set out in chapter VII of the report.

Chapter II

Overview of the political context relating to the question of Palestine

7. Throughout the reporting period, the realization of the two-State solution, pursuant to the prevailing international consensus, failed to advance. The Middle East peace process did not resume, and the Middle East Quartet did not create opportunities for negotiations between Israel and the State of Palestine. Israeli leaders continued to publicly cast doubt on their commitment to a two-State solution, expanding illegal Israeli settlements throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory instead and openly declaring their intention to alter the demographic balance, character and status of East Jerusalem in favour of a Jewish majority. Although the United States of America resumed humanitarian aid to Palestinians, most notably to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and restarted dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, it did not reverse all measures taken by the previous administration. The stalled peace process and the lack of new initiatives to benefit the Palestinian people's quest for self-determination have highlighted the need for enhanced global cooperation to reinvigorate negotiations and provide a political horizon leading to a just solution to the question of Palestine and lasting peace.

8. The peace process was also hampered by persistent negative trends, including ongoing and systematic violations by Israel of international law and United Nations resolutions. The unrelenting expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, further entrenched the Israeli occupation and threatened the viability of a future independent State of Palestine. Israel continued to transfer its population to settlements in the occupied territory, confiscate Palestinian land and property, evict Palestinians from their homes and land, forcibly displace Palestinians and destroy their homes and structures, as thoroughly documented by the United Nations and others. Settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was accompanied by a dramatic rise in Israeli settler violence, tolerated and in some cases assisted by Israeli occupation forces, and the Palestinian population continued to endure systematic human rights violations as a result. The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, now in its fifteenth year, in conjunction with the Palestinian Government's poor financial situation, has contributed to the continued suffering of civilians under dire humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions and the slow reconstruction there.

9. High levels of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in East Jerusalem, resulted in numerous Palestinian casualties. On 28 May, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, expressed concern at the high level of Palestinian and Israeli casualties, following months of violence. According to sources from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, from 2 September 2021 to 26 June 2022, 80 Palestinian fatalities were recorded. Following another Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip from 5 to 7 August 2022, a further 49 Palestinians were killed, among them 17 children. On 11 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, expressed alarm at the high number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.¹ This period was also marked by the most serious terrorist attacks inside Israel in years, in which 13 Israelis and 3 foreign nationals were killed. Indiscriminate rocket attacks fired from Gaza toward Israel continued

¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/bachelet-alarmed-number-palestinian-children-killed-latest-escalation-urges.

intermittently. Mounting violence was further exacerbated by provocative steps and inflammatory rhetoric.²

10. On 11 May, Shireen Abu Aqleh, a Palestinian-American journalist, was killed while covering clashes near the Jenin refugee camp. According to a United Nations investigation and other accounts, Israeli occupation forces were responsible for the killing, while the United States concluded that Israeli forces might have killed the journalist, albeit, according to their view, “unintentionally”. The incident drew strong criticism from human rights organizations and the international community. The Secretary-General and the Committee – among others – called for an independent and transparent investigation into the incident,³ which Israel has yet to undertake. Since 2000, over 40 Palestinian media workers have reportedly been killed, and hundreds have been maimed, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory according to United Nations experts on human rights.⁴

11. In his 2022 report on Children and armed conflict (A/76/871-S/2022/493), the Secretary-General expressed alarm at the rise in grave violations against Palestinian children, particularly the sharp increase in live ammunition killings, rocket attacks and maiming. The Secretary-General confirmed 2,934 grave violations committed against 1,208 Palestinian children and 9 Israeli children; the detention of 637 children by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem; and the killing of 86 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. In the report, the Secretary-General called for the listing of Israel among the systematic perpetrators of violations against children should it continue the same pattern of violations witnessed in May 2021.

12. Despite mounting criticism, Israel continued to expand its settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in grave breach of international law and in direct violation of United Nations resolutions, including in particular Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). On 11 March, Israel announced the construction of 730 new housing units in Pisgat Ze’ev, a settlement in East Jerusalem, ending a halt in construction that followed the December 2021 appeal by the United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, for Israel to refrain from implementing construction plans for some 9,000 housing units within Jerusalem’s municipal boundaries. On 12 May, the High Planning Council of the Israeli Ministry of Defence advanced plans to build over 4,000 housing units in Area C settlements of the occupied West Bank.⁵ These measures came after Israel issued tenders in October 2021 for more than 1,300 housing units, which later increased to more than 3,000 housing units, in the occupied West Bank. In December, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, highlighted that since 2016, when Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) was adopted, the number of Israeli settlers had increased by 12 per cent, from 400,000 in the West Bank and 218,000 in East Jerusalem to 475,000 and 230,000 respectively.⁶

13. Israel, the occupying Power, continued to confiscate land and demolish homes and structures belonging to Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, seriously threatening the viability of the State of Palestine. After a de facto

² See <https://unsco.unmissions.org/security-council-briefing-situation-middle-east-including-palestinian-question-delivered-special>.

³ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-05-11/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-%E2%80%93-the-killing-of-the-al-jazeera-journalist-shireen-abu-akleh.

⁴ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/un-experts-condemn-journalist-killing-amid-rising-west-bank-violence.

⁵ See www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14909.doc.htm.

⁶ See www.un.org/unispal/document/five-years-after-uns-resolution-2334-international-accountability-to-end-the-israeli-occupation-is-more-important-than-ever-un-special-rapporteur/.

moratorium during the Muslim month of Ramadan, Israel resumed the demolition of homes in early May in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan and displaced Palestinians from the southern Hebron hamlet of Masafer Yatta (see S/PV.9046), which is slated to be expropriated by the Israeli military. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, were the subject of a Human Rights Council resolution on 1 April (resolution 49/29), in which the Council urged Israel to end without delay its occupation of the territories occupied since 1967 and to stop the establishment of new settlements and the expansion of existing settlements immediately. During the reporting period, Israel destroyed over 540 buildings (93 of which were supported by international donors) and uprooted and rendered homeless over 680 Palestinians, negatively impacting over 20,800 people, including many children.⁷ Despite the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court, on 1 March, to put off the potential eviction of four Palestinian families, the situation in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah remained uncertain, and Palestinian residents there continued to live under the constant threat of forcible eviction. When clashes intensified in February, after right-wing groups attempted to set up a temporary office there and vowed not to dismantle it until Israeli police provided protection to Jewish settlers, many members of the Security Council called on Israel to refrain from provocative acts that increased tensions.⁸

14. Provocation of Palestinians by extremist Jewish groups persisted unabated. On 29 March, during the annual flag march for Jerusalem Day, in which 70,000 Israelis took part, marchers violently attacked Palestinians and chanted threats and racial slurs against them. During five consecutive events in May, Israeli settlers and Israeli occupation forces entered Palestinian communities, injuring 100 Palestinians.⁹ In December, Israeli settlers reportedly attacked several Palestinian villages – notably Burqa village and its surroundings – damaging Palestinian homes and injuring approximately 150 locals.¹⁰

15. During the Muslim month of Ramadan in April, nightly clashes took place between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jerusalem, including near the Aqsa Mosque. During the Islamic festival of al-Israa wa al-Miraj on 28 February, Israeli occupation forces and Palestinians also clashed in Jerusalem. Israeli forces used stun grenades, rubber bullets and skunk water, resulting in the injury of 37 Palestinians, including an 11-year-old girl with special needs. In October, Israeli forces clashed with Palestinians over religious ceremonies at the holy sites, namely at the Haram al-Sharif (the Holy Esplanade) and the Yusufiya cemetery in Jerusalem's Old City and the Damascus Gate.

16. After 15 years of a land, air and sea blockade by Israel, resulting in harsh socioeconomic conditions and de-development, the situation in Gaza continued to deteriorate. In May 2021, the military escalation of Israel against Gaza resulted in the deaths of 261 Palestinians, including 41 women, 67 children and 3 people with disabilities, compounding the suffering of its residents, as highlighted in a statement by the Bureau of the Committee issued on 10 May.¹¹ In March, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, noted the harmful impact on the civilian population of Gaza of the collective punishment by Israel for 15

⁷ See <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMmJkZGRhYWQ0ODk0MS00MWJkLWI2NTktMDg1NGJMGNIY2Y3IiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTVIYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCI6ImMiOjh9>.

⁸ See www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14769.doc.htm.

⁹ See www.un.org/unispal/document/security-council-middle-east-press-release-sc-14909/.

¹⁰ See www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14769.doc.htm.

¹¹ See www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-by-palestinian-rights-committee-on-escalation-of-violence-in-occupied-east-jerusalem/.

consecutive years, despite express prohibitions in international humanitarian law.¹² On 1 January, and against the backdrop of the death of the Palestinian prisoner, Hisham Abu Hawwash, mounting tensions between Palestinian militant groups in Gaza and Israel resulted in rocket fire from Gaza towards Israel and reprisal attacks by Israel. In a joint statement on 7 December, Palestinian militant factions accused Israel of deliberately delaying reconstruction efforts in Gaza and warned of renewed escalations should delays continue.

17. From 5 to 7 August, Israel carried out air and artillery strikes against Gaza,¹³ reportedly killing 49 Palestinians, including 17 children and 4 women,¹⁴ injuring hundreds, destroying hundreds of homes, displacing more than 1,000 people and aggravating an already fragile humanitarian situation. Militant groups responded by firing hundreds of rockets towards Israel, reportedly injuring 70 persons and causing limited material damage.¹⁵ On 7 August, the Secretary-General welcomed the ceasefire brokered by Egypt and expressed his deep sadness at the loss of life and injuries.¹⁶ On 8 August, the Security Council met to discuss the upsurge in violence, and the Bureau of the Committee welcomed the ceasefire, condemned the Israeli attack against Gaza and called for a lifting of the Gaza blockade and the immediate start of negotiations leading to the two-State solution.¹⁷

18. In its report (A/HRC/50/21), the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-30/1, found that discrimination against Palestinians and the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory since 1967 were the main causes of the region's ongoing tensions, instability and conflict. The Commission added that recurrent cycles of violence were exacerbated by the culture of impunity that had resulted from the lack of accountability for violations, forced transfers, threats of forced displacement, demolitions, settlement construction and growth, settler violence and the siege of Gaza.

19. Six Palestinian civil society organizations were labelled as “terrorist organizations” by Israel in October, a decision strongly criticized by the international community. United Nations experts and activists condemned the designation¹⁸ and claimed that the actions by Israel were intended to prevent Palestinian civil society monitoring of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and cooperation with the International Criminal Court. During a closed-door Committee event on 7 December, NGOs warned that such actions were “a blueprint, replicable elsewhere, to silence civil society”. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also criticized the designation at a Committee briefing and warned against Israel's overly broad definition of terrorism. Many Member States issued separate and joint statements announcing the resumption of funding and cooperation with the six civil society organizations, citing a lack of evidence to substantiate the Israeli claims. On 17 August, the Israeli occupation forces raided and closed the offices of seven Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), seizing documents and equipment. The Chair of the Committee joined the United Nations,

¹² See www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/occupied-palestinian-territory.

¹³ See www.ochaopt.org/poc/2-15-august-2022.

¹⁴ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/bachelet-alarmed-number-palestinian-children-killed-latest-escalation-urges.

¹⁵ See www.ochaopt.org/content/escalation-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-2-august-2022.

¹⁶ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-08-07/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-the-ceasefire-gaza-and-israel.

¹⁷ See www.un.org/unispal/document/ceirpp-bureau-welcomes-ceasefire-agreement-in-gaza-and-calls-for-the-immediate-implementation-of-the-two-state-solution-statement/.

¹⁸ See www.un.org/press/en/2021/gapal1443.doc.htm.

the European Union, Member States and dozens of other NGOs from Israel, Palestine and elsewhere in expressing alarm and calling on the Government of Israel to revoke the designations.

20. At its meetings in November 2021 and May 2022, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians acknowledged the dire financial situation of the Palestinian Authority, the ongoing humanitarian and development crisis facing Palestinians in Gaza and the historically low level of budget contributions from donors. In the World Bank economic monitoring report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee of May 2022, Gaza's economy is described as sluggish, marked by high unemployment and poor socioeconomic conditions.¹⁹ To put the Palestinian Authority on a sustainable fiscal path, enhance living standards and strengthen institutions, the members of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, at the meeting of the Committee in May 2022, committed to deepening their cooperation to address the socioeconomic challenges of the State of Palestine.

21. Despite its crucial role, UNRWA continued to experience a precarious financial situation. At the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA in June 2022, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, outlined the Agency's urgent need for \$817 million for critical services, including education, health and social protection for Palestine refugees during 2022. The Secretary-General appealed to Member States to bring the Agency's current shortfall down to zero.²⁰ Member States pledged a total of \$160 million at the event. The United States gave further economic assistance to Palestine during President Biden's visit in July, totalling \$316 million, including a new multi-year contribution of \$100 million for the East Jerusalem Hospital Network and an additional \$201 million for UNRWA.

¹⁹ See www.worldbank.org/en/country/westbankandgaza/publication/economic-monitoring-report-ahlc.

²⁰ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-06-23/secretary-generals-remarks-the-ad-hoc-committee-of-the-general-assembly-for-the-announcement-of-voluntary-contributions-unrwa.

Chapter III

Mandate of the Committee

22. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975 with the task of recommending a programme designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty and return to the homes and property from which they had been displaced, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974. The mandate of the Committee has evolved considerably over the years into greater advocacy for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the mobilization of assistance. Additional information about the Committee is available on the website maintained by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat.²¹

23. On 2 December 2020, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Committee (resolution 75/20) and requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights with the resources necessary for its programme of work (resolution 75/21) and to continue to implement the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat (resolution 75/23). As of 2020, the mandates of the Committee and the Division are biennial, and the Committee's report is produced annually. The Assembly also adopted resolution 75/22, entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", in which it reaffirmed the near-consensus international position regarding the components of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution.

24. The work of the Committee is fully aligned with the decisions of the main intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice, as well as with the work of the Secretary-General and the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with which it collaborates extensively.

²¹ www.un.org/unispal.

Chapter IV

Organization of work

A. Membership and officers

25. The Committee is composed of 25 Member States, representing different regional groups and supporting the international consensus for a two-State solution: Afghanistan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Türkiye and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

26. The 24 observers of the Committee are Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine, the African Union, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

27. The Bureau of the Committee is elected each year from among the permanent representatives of Committee members. At its 406th meeting, on 8 February 2022, chaired by the Secretary-General, the Committee elected, in their personal capacity, Cheikh Niang (Senegal) as Chair; Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba), Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Neville Melvin Gertze (Namibia) and Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) as Vice-Chairs for the year. In accordance with established practice, the State of Palestine participates in the work of both the Committee and the Bureau as an observer.

28. The day-to-day tasks of the Committee are undertaken by its Bureau. Members of the Bureau represented the Committee at all international conferences organized by the Committee, including by chairing and moderating conference sessions, and on all delegation visits. On the margins of the conferences and during delegation visits, they held meetings with senior officials of the respective host countries.

29. The Committee members and observers have actively advocated the rights of the Palestinian people, including in the Security Council. Currently, one Committee member, India, and one observer, United Arab Emirates, serve on the Security Council as elected members.

B. Participation in the work of the Committee

30. As in previous years, the Committee reconfirmed that all States Members of the United Nations and observers wishing to participate in its work were welcome to do so. Committee activities regularly involve civil society organizations, including those from Israel.

Chapter V

Action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 75/20 and 75/21

A. Introduction

31. In the implementation of its programme of work, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Committee is guided by its mandate to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and 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. Its work and activities are also fully aligned with Security Council and Assembly resolutions on the Question of Palestine; the women and peace and security agenda; the programme of the United Nations country team; international law, including humanitarian law; human rights frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and, more recently, the Sustainable Development Goals and their achievement by the State of Palestine. As authorized by the Assembly, the Committee has adjusted its approved programme of work in view of developments to include mobilization of the diplomatic community, raising awareness of the question of Palestine, cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations system entities, and capacity-building.

32. Taking a rights-focused approach that emphasizes meeting obligations and encourages feedback and continuous improvement, the Committee has made every effort to support the universally recognized rights of an occupied people and the rights of all States and peoples to live in peace and security. To that end, the Committee engaged the diplomatic community on the question of Palestine through formal and informal intergovernmental processes; conducted Bureau delegation visits (see para. 45 below); organized a Bureau retreat; organized public awareness-raising activities that involved conferences, meetings, speakers' panels and the media, including social media with the support of the Department of Global Communications; promoted partnerships with Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies and civil society organizations; and built capacities for the future State of Palestine.

33. With the lingering impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and with some restrictions remaining in place throughout the Secretariat, the Committee continued to hold some meetings and activities virtually, using a variety of platforms to ensure continuity in the delivery of its mandate, including the special meeting on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (see para. 51 below) and eight Bureau meetings. However, the Committee swiftly re-adapted to holding in-person meetings and Bureau delegation visits with 17 in-person meetings taking place during the reporting period.

B. Mobilization of the diplomatic community

34. The Committee continued to mobilize the international community, formally inviting all Member States to actively participate in its events in support of the realization of the two-State solution and a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

35. On 4 November, after a long hiatus due to COVID-19, the Bureau held its annual retreat in person to take stock and adapt the implementation of the programme of work in line with developments on the ground and to include follow-up actions from its exchange with the Secretary-General.

36. On 1 December, the General Assembly debated the annual report of the Committee ([A/76/35](#)), resulting in a broad call for the realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. With three resolutions endorsed by the Committee now considered on a biennial basis, the Assembly adopted only the resolution on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine (resolution [76/10](#)), with a voting pattern similar to 2020. Sponsored by the Committee and 30 co-sponsors, the resolution obtained 148 votes in favour, 9 against and 13 abstentions.

37. In a meeting officiated by the Secretary-General on 8 February 2022, the Committee elected its Bureau members for 2022 (see para. 27 above) and officially adopted its programme of work for the year ([A/AC.183/2022/L.2](#)).

38. On 28 February, the Committee, through the Division for Palestinian Rights and with the support of the Department of Global Communications, held its annual briefing session for new United Nations delegates, in person, to familiarize them with the Committee's mandate and programme of work.

39. On 22 and 23 March, the Chair delivered a statement to the forty-eighth session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad highlighting the strategic partnership between the Committee and OIC and calling for the latter's membership to step up their solidarity with the Palestinian people and mobilize the international support needed to make the two-State solution a reality.

40. On 30 March, during its annual consultation with the President of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid, the Committee appealed for efforts to sustain the focus and attention of Member States on the question of Palestine and to ensure that new global crises do not divert the international community's attention from the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and emphasized the need for a horizon towards the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful solution.

41. On 24 March, a Vice-Chair participated in a breakfast discussion held at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations with the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore, in which he voiced concern about the stalled Middle East peace process and highlighted the urgency of addressing human rights violations and reviving global cooperation to resolve the question of Palestine.

42. On 20 April, a Bureau delegation participated in a special briefing on the situation in Palestine convened by Kenya as the coordinator of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries caucus of the Security Council. The Bureau urged the caucus to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people, and most importantly the right to self-determination, within the Council and beyond Council debates.

43. The Bureau continued to meet with Member States to advocate for the long-overdue realization of the Palestinian people's rights and to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process. Bureau delegations met with representatives of the United States (3 September), Brazil (23 February), Gabon (22 April), Ghana (15 March) and Albania (4 August). Member States that met with the Bureau agreed on the need to resolve the question of Palestine on the basis of the two-State solution and in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.

44. On 11 May, the Bureau, on behalf of the Committee, issued a press statement condemning the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was fatally

shot while reporting for Al-Jazeera News on an Israeli occupation force operation in Jenin, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Recalling the crucial role played by journalists in conflict zones, the Bureau called for an immediate, independent and thorough international investigation into the killing and for bringing to justice those responsible.²²

45. On 5 May, a Bureau delegation visited Dublin to discuss ways to relaunch the Middle East peace process. The delegation called on Ireland to recognize the State of Palestine as a means of promoting the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The delegation met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Simon Coveney, and parliamentary parties, stressing the significant role that parliamentarians can play in promoting a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

46. On 22 June, a Bureau delegation met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, to share ideas on concrete actions to prevent rampant violations of the rights of Palestinian children by Israel, the occupying Power, and on ways to revive global attention with respect to the Convention on the Rights of Child, the implementation of which is key to protecting children in conflict.

47. On 25 July, the Chair met in Amman with the Director of the Negotiations Coordination Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, Mohammed Hindawi. Both parties agreed on the importance of the continued support of the international community for the Palestinian people and UNRWA and discussed possible joint capacity-building activities for Palestinian officials.

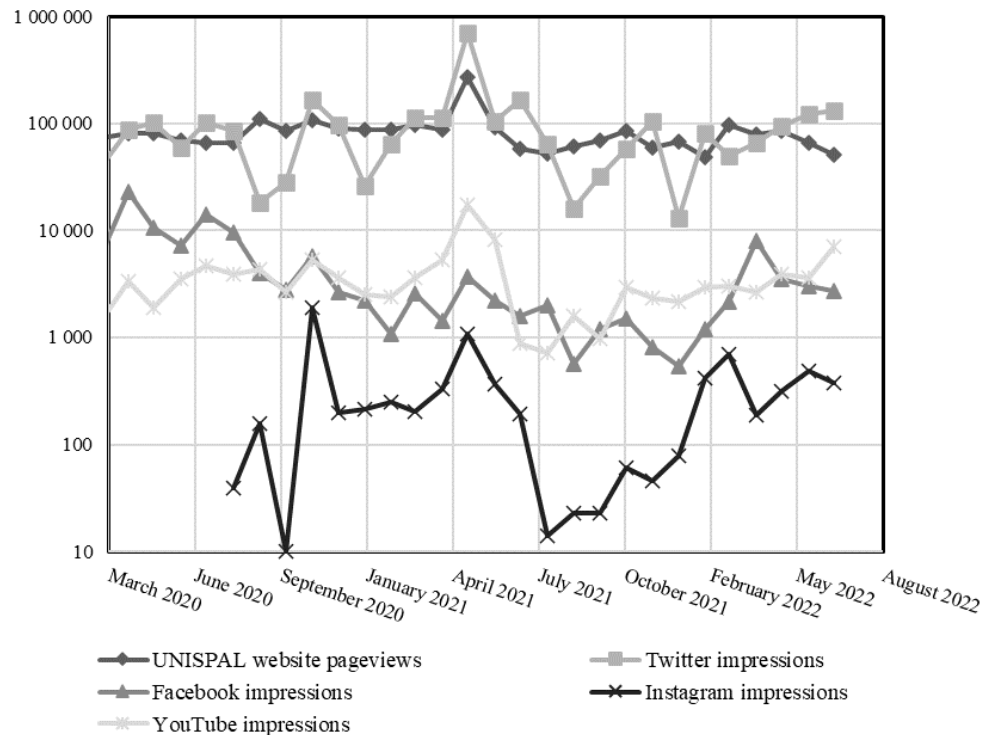
C. Raising awareness of the question of Palestine

48. The Committee continued to raise awareness about the political, human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the situation of Palestinian women, by facilitating up-to-date briefings by experts and exchanges of ideas on specific issues during virtual and in-person Committee meetings, side events and conferences, as well as through the dissemination of publications and information via several electronic platforms and the Committee's website. Details regarding each activity can be found on the website.

49. The Committee maintained an expanded and enhanced digital advocacy to disseminate information on the question of Palestine. During the reporting period, the Committee's Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts recorded steady growth in the number of visitors and followers, as shown in the figure below. The Twitter account alone had gained 1,723 new followers by the end of August (total 21,785), while the Committee mailing list grew by 2,293 new subscribers (total 11,050). The website was visited 875,149 times during the reporting period. All Committee public events, including those held online, are regularly broadcast via United Nations Web TV and across its social media pages, garnering thousands of viewers per event. These efforts resulted in increased engagement with the public, including via expanded content in Arabic, extended outreach to new audiences and higher numbers of followers across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. In addition to English, the Committee is also increasingly disseminating its documents in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish on its website.

²² See www.un.org/unispal/document/ceirpp-bureau-condemns-the-senseless-killing-of-al-jazeera-journalist-shireen-abu-akleh/.

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, social media statistics



Abbreviation: UNISPAL, United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine.

50. On 16 November 2021, the Chair participated in the International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East organized by the Department of Global Communications, stressing the importance of media for the Committee in delivering its General Assembly mandate, and urged accurate and reliable reporting on developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (see para. 75 below).

51. As mandated by the General Assembly (resolution [75/21](#)), the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed on 29 November. The special meeting of the Committee to commemorate the Day was attended by 73 Member States and 3 regional organizations. The event remains of importance, as it serves as a reminder of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and their lack of national independence and sovereignty. As is customary, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chair delivered statements. The Chef de Cabinet conveyed the Secretary-General's message. The African Union, LAS, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and OIC also delivered remarks. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine read out a message from the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas. Five prominent women civil society representatives – the former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen; the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, Agnès Callamard; activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai; and Palestinian teacher and Global Teacher Prize winner, Hanan Hroub – along with prominent Palestinian rights activist, Mohammed El-Kurd, who shared his personal experience about forced evictions of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah (East Jerusalem), stressed the need for accountability for Israeli actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and appealed for international efforts to realize justice for the Palestinian people and a life of freedom and dignity. The Chair acknowledged

solidarity messages from 40 Member States, the European Union and LAS. The observance of the Day was also marked in the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the United Nations Office at Vienna. The Division outreach efforts ensured live views on United Nations Web TV, Palestinian TV and social media platforms.

52. On 7 December, the Committee held a virtual event entitled “Supporting human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: reality, challenges and obligations” to discuss the shrinking space for human rights activism in the Occupied Palestinian Territory owing to repressive measures by the Israeli authorities. Highlighting designation by Israel of six Palestinian civil society organizations as terrorist entities, the event included a representative from one of those organizations (Al-Haq), as well as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and a prominent Israeli human rights lawyer. Speakers called on Member States to confront the unlawful actions by Israel and urged the Committee to continue to offer its platform to the voices that Israel is trying to suppress.

53. Also on 7 December, the Committee received a briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who recounted the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, decried the use of excessive force by Israel against Palestinian civilians, condemned impunity and settler-related violence and raised alarm at the designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations as terrorist organizations.

54. On 23 March, on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee organized a virtual event on the impact of forced displacement on Palestinian women, focusing on the threat of eviction by Israeli authorities and related settlers violence, especially in the East Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan. The all-female panel included a representative from the Israeli NGO Ir Amim, two Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, who shared their personal experiences, as well as representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The event provided a platform for exchange and served to reaffirm the Committee’s support for the rights of Palestinian women through international mechanisms, such as Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

55. On 27 April, the Committee convened a virtual event entitled “Al-Khalil/Hebron: a case study for the impact of Israeli settlements on Palestinian rights under occupation” to highlight the critical situation caused by the ongoing illegal Israeli settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and its impact on the rights of the Palestinian people. Panellists from the Hebron Defence Committee, the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy and Combatants for Peace focused on the situation in Hebron as a case study illustrating discriminatory Israeli policies, while reiterating that all settlements are illegal under international law and constitute a substantial obstacle to peace.

56. On 16 June, the Committee, in line with increased concerns and ongoing awareness of the situation, facilitated a public virtual conversation on apartheid, international law and the Occupied Palestinian Territory with Zeid Ra’ad Al-Hussein, President of the International Peace Institute and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Agnès Callamard, Secretary-General of Amnesty International. They discussed the findings of Amnesty International’s 2022 report entitled “Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians: cruel system of domination and crime against humanity” and the way forward. In her video message, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, pointed to analogies between apartheid South Africa and the current situation

in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Speakers discussed the reestablishment of the Special Committee against Apartheid to consider the case of Palestine.

57. On 20 July, the Committee, with support from OIC, organized its annual International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem, in virtual format, on the theme of “Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem under occupation”. The President of the General Assembly (by video message) and an OIC representative from Jeddah addressed the Conference. Four speakers, including three women, one of which was from Israel, highlighted the challenges facing young Palestinians in East Jerusalem and discussed ways to support them as catalysts for change via empowerment and political engagement.

58. The United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, now in its twenty-eighth year of operation, remains a valuable resource for diplomats, researchers and the general public around the world, averaging 100,000 page views per month. Accessed through the Committee’s website, it consists of more than 41,200 documents and is the largest and most comprehensive online repository on the subject. The collection ranges from the latest United Nations documents to rare records dating back decades. The collection saw a significant surge in access and in the volume of documents uploaded during the Gaza conflict in May 2021. Efforts are now under way to improve the accessibility of the Committee’s website for the visually impaired.

59. The Bureau, supported by the Division for Palestinian Rights, continued to prioritize multilingualism. While content in Arabic is expanding, an agreement was reached with the Department of Global Communications to maintain the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine in Chinese. The Division continued to update the website with current documents and has identified historic documents from the early years of the United Nations involvement in the question of Palestine.

60. In collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Division for Palestinian Rights built an artificial-intelligence-based chatbot for the website of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, which became the first such tool available on any United Nations website. A project implemented by the Bureau, with support from the Division for Palestinian Rights, to map the positions of Member States on the question of Palestine was nominated for the United Nations Secretary-General Awards and was featured as a best practice use case at the Secretariat for the key role it plays in advancing the resolution of the question of Palestine.

61. Further to its monitoring mandate, the Committee also produced several publications disseminated by the Division for Palestinian Rights. They include monthly bulletins, compiling all official documents of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations relating to the question of Palestine, quarterly newsletters on the activities of the Committee, an annual compilation of United Nations reports on the question of Palestine, as well as an annual compilation of all resolutions issued by United Nations bodies on the question of Palestine.

62. Through its weekly publication “NGO Action News”, the Committee continued to raise awareness of the work of civil society and United Nations actors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and elsewhere towards the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

63. The Committee’s publications were disseminated through a growing mailing list that includes 10,757 subscribers, including research libraries, universities and key stakeholders such as community leaders, political figures, members of the diplomatic community, students, university professors, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations

and journalists, as well as prominent personalities and opinion leaders. All the publications of the Committee are posted on the Committee's website.

64. In collaboration with and with funding from OIC, the Committee, with support from the Division of Palestinian Rights, reproduced four advocacy booklets from past United Nations exhibits of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People that convey critical messages on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the question of Palestine. The booklets complement the Committee's global advocacy activities; a total of 2,724 booklets have been distributed to Member States and United Nations offices throughout the world since the beginning of the project. The electronic format of the booklets has reached 9,362 subscribers and can viewed on the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine.²³

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

65. The Committee continued to cooperate with intergovernmental organizations. OIC continued to support the annual International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem, organized in cooperation with the Committee. The African Union, LAS and OIC regularly attended the meetings of the Committee as observers and participated in its work.

66. During its activities, the Committee, through the Division for Palestinian Rights, continued its long-standing cooperation with the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations country teams, UNRWA, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Global Communications (including the United Nations information centres), the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UN-Women, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations System Staff College.

67. The Committee also continued to collaborate with NGOs in promoting the rights of the Palestinian people. Representatives of civil society organizations, including from Israel, are invited to attend all public events of the Committee. Those meetings and interactions allowed the Committee to be actively informed about civil society concerns and actions and provided a space in which Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations could interact, especially at a time of increasing restrictions on the ground.

68. As part of the Committee's periodic interactions with civil society organizations, on 22 November and 1 March, the Committee organized virtual closed consultations with representatives of civil society organization from Palestine, Israel and elsewhere to receive first-hand briefings on the situation in Jerusalem and Gaza and on advocacy throughout the world. As is customary, a civil society representative was invited to speak at the special meeting of the Committee held on 29 November to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The Committee continued to prepare and disseminate the weekly NGO Action News.

69. At its 407th meeting, the Committee approved the accreditation of three civil society organizations recommended by the Bureau who will partner with the Committee in implementing its mandate.

²³ www.un.org/unispal/exhibits-on-the-occasion-of-international-day-of-solidarity/.

E. Capacity-building

70. As requested in General Assembly resolution [75/21](#), the Committee continued to identify training opportunities to expand the capacity of officials of the State of Palestine. The Committee also continued to assess the impact of its programmes. Following the lifting of most COVID-19-related restrictions, the Committee continued to prioritize hybrid (online and in-person) training.

71. In collaboration with the Irish Centre for Human Rights of the National University of Ireland, the Committee organized a closed-door seminar on the legality of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The seminar was held in Dublin on 6 and 7 May and was attended by international legal experts, Palestinian diplomats and government officials, as well as members of the Bureau.

72. A two-day communication strategy workshop for 21 officials of the Government of Palestine was organized in Amman on 25 and 26 July. The workshop equipped participants with skills to develop a full suite of strategic communications tools to help the Government of Palestine communicate and engage with its audiences more effectively.

73. The Division for Palestinian Rights created a database containing capacity-building opportunities offered to Palestinian Government officials by the members and observers of the Committee. The purpose of the database, which will be updated on a regular basis, is to improve coordination among participating sponsors.

Chapter VI

Action taken by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/23

74. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/23 of 2 December 2020, the Department of Global Communications continued to implement its special information programme on the question of Palestine.

75. The Department continued to engage with the media on the question of Palestine. It held its annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East virtually on 16 and 17 November 2021. At the seminar, the Chair of the Committee (see para. 50 above) joined a panel of six experts from Egypt, Israel, the United States and the State of Palestine to discuss two relevant themes: “The thirtieth anniversary of the Madrid Peace Conference: can hope prevail?” and “Solutions journalism in the coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict”.

76. The Department held its annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists virtually from 19 November to 22 December 2021. Nine Palestinian journalists from Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and the diaspora took part in the training. The online courses, which were provided by Al-Jazeera Media Institute, focused on five themes: writing humanitarian stories, storytelling for digital platforms, occupational safety for journalists, data journalism and television reporting skills.

77. On 31 May 2022, the Department announced that it had renamed the training programme to “Shireen Abu Akleh Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists”, in honour of the Palestinian-American Al-Jazeera reporter who was killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 11 May 2022.

78. The Department updated the website for the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in the six official languages and distributed information about relevant events and seminars. The Department’s Digital Support Unit continued to support the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, including by facilitating the implementation of “Ask UNPal” (see para. 86 below).

79. The Department provided live and on-demand streaming coverage of relevant press conferences, open meetings and events, in all available languages, through its global UN Web TV (see paras. 50–57 above). The Department has also facilitated the first live broadcasts of Committee events on Palestinian TV.

80. The Department issued 80 press releases, in English and French, related to the question of Palestine and the Middle East peace process. The press releases covered events and meetings of the Committee, the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as statements and messages by the Secretary-General.

81. UN News produced more than 200 stories and features on the topic during the reporting period, in the six official languages, plus Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, including a special highlight on the contributions to humanity of the Palestinian diaspora, as shown in the UN News feature “First person: from Gaza to the red planet”²⁴ about Loay Elbasyouni, a Palestinian electrical engineer on the 2021 United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mars exploration mission team.

82. During the reporting period, UNifeed published 15 video packages on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which were aired by broadcasters a combined total of 1,231 times. These video packages covered a range of issues,

²⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114222>.

including the Secretary-General's remarks at the opening of the 2022 session of the Committee, the International Ministerial Conference on UNRWA, meetings of the Security Council and the general debate of the General Assembly.

83. The Department's flagship United Nations social media accounts, in all six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, continued to cover news and provide information related to the question of Palestine and to promote virtual events and activities organized by the Committee. The promotion of events and activities was accomplished by driving traffic to the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine and the Committee's social media accounts. The information was also made available on key collaborative and project management platforms, such as Trello.²⁵

84. During the reporting period, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library digitized 165 historic documents (some 1,330 pages) of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question and the Special Committee on Palestine. Among those, 143 documents from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question have also been uploaded to the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine website.

85. The Visitors' Service Section continued to conduct briefings on the subject matter, especially through the permanent exhibit "The United Nations and the question of Palestine", which is part of the United Nations guided tour route. Since the resumption of in-person guided tours at Headquarters on 7 April 2022, over 43,000 visitors have taken the tour and seen the exhibit.

86. The United Nations information centres in Lusaka, Moscow, Nairobi, Pretoria and Rabat, among others, disseminated information and organized commemorative events on and around the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November). During the reporting period, the information centres also promoted events of the Committee as well as of United Nations offices. For example, the information centre in Cairo hosted a virtual press conference on the launch of the 2021 report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people. The regional information centre in Brussels provided communications support, including the dissemination of press releases and a media advisory related to the high-level conference to support UNRWA and the signing of a joint European Union-UNRWA declaration marking 50 years of strategic partnership. The Department also facilitated the dissemination of e-books of the United Nations exhibit to United Nations information centres across the globe (see para. 64 above).

²⁵ See <https://trello.com/b/772QZEh1/question-of-palestine>.

Chapter VII

Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

87. In developing its recommendations set out below, the Committee has taken into account the deliberations at Committee and Bureau meetings, briefings received, outreach, international conferences and events involving Member States, civil society organizations and regional organizations.

A. Immediate action by the Committee in response to the conflict and human rights violations

88. The Committee is deeply concerned by consistent reports of the use by the Israeli occupation forces of excessive lethal force against Palestinian civilians, including children, which has resulted in an increasing number of killings and injuries and an entrenched climate of impunity, including during the annual flag march for Jerusalem Day. The Committee laments the lack of accountability for illegal Israeli actions, including during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza in May 2021. The Committee reiterates that the indiscriminate launching of rockets towards Israeli population centres is prohibited by international humanitarian law and must stop immediately.

89. The Committee expresses its deep concern about the deteriorating security situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, especially the daily violence that continues to claim the lives of both Palestinians and Israelis. The Committee is also disturbed by the significant increase in the use of force against Palestinians by Israeli settlers. The Committee calls on political, religious and community leaders to reject violence, speak up against those who try to inflame the situation and refrain from actions and provocations that fuel tensions, while exercising maximum restraint.

90. The Committee calls on the Government of Israel to conduct prompt, independent, and impartial investigations into all incidents involving excessive use of force and the loss of Palestinian life, including of children and including the killing of Palestinian Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and at her funeral, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and that victims are provided with appropriate remedies. The Committee welcomes calls for the protection of Palestinians in line with international humanitarian law, as well as the United Nations findings on the killing of Ms. Abu Akleh, and reiterates that it is urgent that a credible and transparent international investigation be conducted.

91. The Committee calls on Israel to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, respect the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem, including the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque compound, and ensure that Muslims are able to peacefully worship and practice their religion without fear of violence or retaliation. Special measures must be put in place by the occupying Power to prevent future provocations by Israeli occupation forces in Jerusalem during Ramadan.

92. The Committee welcomes the findings in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and calls for the parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to commit to protecting children. The Committee urges the Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian and international human rights law and ensure that any military operations are conducted in line with the principles of distinction, proportionality and

precaution, and to immediately correct and reinforce existing measures to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

93. The Committee concurs with the stance of the Secretary-General on the question of Palestine, which is supported by international law, numerous United Nations resolutions and the pursuit of a just resolution, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to leverage his good offices to influence and mediate, with urgency, the diffusion of this volatile situation.

B. Immediate action by the Committee in response to annexation and settlement activities

94. The Committee is gravely concerned about the continued expropriation of and encroachment on Palestinian land and the continued construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, despite the demands made by the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly for the cessation of all such illegal activities. The Committee further reiterates that annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is illegal. The Committee calls on the Israeli authorities to cease the advancement of all settlement activity and refrain from such unilateral and provocative actions, which fuel instability and change the demographic composition, status and character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Such actions undermine the prospect of achieving a two-State solution by systematically eroding a contiguous, independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem serving as the capital of Palestine, in accordance with international law, pertinent United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.

95. The Committee urges the Government of Israel to refrain from seizing Palestinian land, stop implementing its demolition orders and terminate all forced evictions and forcible displacement of Palestinians, particularly in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The recent announcement by the occupying Power of measures to expropriate Palestinian land and forcibly displace approximately 1,200 Palestinians from Masafer Yatta is particularly concerning and must be halted.

C. Action taken with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council

96. The Committee urges the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure the implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace affirmed in relevant United Nations resolutions, including Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and Assembly resolution [74/11 \(2019\)](#). The Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit his reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) in written format and, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the resolution, to include references to the implementation of the provision by Member States. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Committee also calls upon the Council to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of relevant Council resolutions, including the use of sanctions on States and private entities violating Council resolutions.

97. The Committee concurs with the findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, that discrimination against Palestinians and the continued occupation of Palestinian territory are the leading causes of the region's ongoing tensions, instability and conflict. The Committee will continue to advocate for the

resolution of the Palestine question based on an international framework against occupation and in support of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence. The Committee notes that any initiative aimed at a just solution to the question of Palestine must, first and foremost, consider the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, engage the Palestinian leadership and be based on the two-State solution, according to international law, United Nations resolutions and agreements between both parties.

98. The Committee urges Member States and the Organization to call upon Israel, as the occupying Power, to uphold its responsibilities to safeguard civilians under international law. The Committee underscores the requirement for the implementation of an international protection mechanism that legitimately guarantees the safety and welfare of Palestinian civilians in accordance with General Assembly resolution [ES-10/20](#). The Committee insists that the Israeli air, land and sea blockade of Gaza, as well as all restrictions imposed by the occupying Power, be lifted in accordance with Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#), and urges the international community to confront the plight of the Palestinian people with a human-rights-based approach rather than a humanitarian one.

99. The Committee urges the United Nations and the international community to remain focused on the question of Palestine despite other emerging global crises. It encourages the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet to continue the relentless pursuit of any opportunity to revitalize the peace process and to seek multilateral mechanisms to revive the much-needed dialogue between Palestine and Israel, as it remains the only path to a just and peaceful solution to the conflict. Until the Palestine question is fully resolved in line with international law and the pertinent United Nations resolutions, the international community has an ongoing obligation to take action.

D. Advocacy and outreach with the international community and civil society

100. The Committee will continue to mobilize the international community to stop Israel's annexation plans and to work concertedly to bring an end to the occupation and promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It will exert efforts to contribute to the achievement of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and is encouraged by the numerous statements in support of international legality by members of the international community, including the Arab world and global civil society. Any comprehensive resolution of the conflict will require a regional approach, such as that offered by the Arab Peace Initiative. The Committee calls upon regional organizations, such as the European Union, LAS, OIC and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to take a more politically active role in stopping the annexation and mediating an end to the conflict.

101. The Committee unequivocally condemns Israel's designation of six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations, a move that contributes to the shrinking of space for civil society in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, has potentially wide-ranging legal implications and increases pressure on NGO operations and activities that are important for the monitoring of the human rights situation on the ground and the achievement of Palestinian rights and the two-State solution. It urges the Israeli authorities to rescind the decision immediately.

E. Action by the Member States and regional organizations

102. The Committee emphasizes the importance of the acknowledgement by Israel of the Nakba and its impact upon the Palestinian people as a requirement for a viable and lasting peace. Palestine refugees should be treated as dispossessed nationals of a country – the State of Palestine – rather than as stateless refugees. It strongly advocates the right to return and just compensation for Palestine refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

103. The Committee deems unilateral decisions by the Member States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the transfer of embassies in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as null and void, as they violate Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980). The Committee calls upon the Member States to rescind those decisions. It reiterates that the historic status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected and that the international community is responsible for preserving the legal, demographic and historical multicultural and multireligious character and status of the city.

104. The Committee underscores the responsibility of States, private entities and corporations not to contribute to grave Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, including with respect to their activities in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It welcomes efforts by Governments, parliamentarians and civil society actors to sanction support, including economic support, for illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

105. The Committee calls upon Member States to implement the relevant obligations under international law, including as set out in paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Council called upon Member States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.

106. The Committee reminds Member States that preserving UNRWA services to the Palestinian people is the international community's joint responsibility. It reiterates the call by the Secretary-General to provide UNRWA with predictable, sustained and sufficient funding to assist Palestine refugees in the five fields of operation and notes that any reduction or disruption of the Agency's services can have significant humanitarian, political and security consequences for the region and beyond. The Committee encourages Member States and donors to provide the necessary financial resources for UNRWA to meet growing demands and ensure that basic services meet critical humanitarian needs. The Committee also calls for the renewal of the mandate of UNRWA by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

107. The Committee calls on Member States to support the Palestinian Government's fiscal stability and strengthen Palestinian institutions to improve the economic and social conditions of the population in the State of Palestine. The Committee notes that efforts by the parties and the international community to stabilize and improve conditions on the ground should be linked to a credible political framework to justly and comprehensively resolve the conflict.

108. The Committee will continue to encourage all supporters of the two-State solution to assist the parties in resuming meaningful negotiations towards the achievement of a peaceful settlement on the basis of the long-standing international parameters for a just solution. The Committee commits to continuing its outreach to key stakeholders with influence on the question of Palestine and to offer support for initiatives, including by the Middle East Quartet, with a view to holding an international peace conference leading to a two-State solution.

F. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities

109. The Committee conveys its deepest gratitude to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs for its commitment to the Committee's mandate. It requests the Division to continue to provide substantive and secretariat support for all aspects of its mandate. The Committee encourages the Division to continue with efforts to disseminate information on the question of Palestine by continuing to broaden its outreach and promoting multilingualism, with a special emphasis on Arabic, on the Committee's website and social media platforms. It also requests the Division to continue to implement projects, including capacity-building for officials of the State of Palestine, that promote inclusivity and gender balance and encourage South-South and triangular cooperation between countries and regional and subregional organizations.

110. The Committee requests the continuation of the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications, which has made an important contribution to informing the media and the public.

111. The Committee intends to continue to collaborate and work closely with other United Nations actors and entities, including the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, UNRWA, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and others, to synergize efforts in fields of common concern and uphold the permanent responsibility of the Organization towards the question of Palestine until it is justly resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with international law. The Committee wishes to express deep appreciation to OIC and other partners for contributing extrabudgetary resources to support Committee activities and projects, including thematic conferences and events.

