



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

### **Newsletter on Recent Activities**

**No. 14 / October - December 2022**

#### **1. Chair meets with UNRWA Director in New York**



On 13 October, the Committee Chair, Ambassador Chiekh Niang, met with Ms. Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Director of the [UNRWA](#) Representative Office in New York, to discuss the upcoming mandate renewal and budgetary issues related to the Palestine refugee Agency. Ambassador Niang and Ms. Gunnarsdóttir agreed to renew efforts and continue drumming up support for the Agency, in the lead up to the upcoming votes at the General Assembly and in the bodies overseeing financial matters at the United Nations.

#### **2. Social media advocacy campaign in support of UNRWA**

From September to December 2022, ahead of the renewal of UNRWA's mandate, leveraging Committee's digital advocacy capacity and means ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)), the Division for Palestinian Rights implemented an advocacy campaign to raise awareness of the plight of Palestinian refugees and UNRWA's crucial work in supporting them. Through video and photo content, the campaign underlined UNRWA's stabilizing influence among the approximately 5 million refugees it serves, and through them on the communities, the host

countries, and the Middle East. It was also specified that UNRWA is the only UN agency that runs an entire school system and eight vocational training centres across the region.

### **3. Committee Bureau delegation visits Canada**



From 17 to 19 October, the Committee Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, and Ambassador Riyad Mansour, the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations travelled to Canada to advocate for a just and lasting resolution to the question of Palestine. The Committee delegation met in Ottawa with the Canada-Palestine Parliamentarian Friendship Group, led by MP Ms. Salma Zahid, as well as with Mr. Karim Morcos, Director, Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MP Heather McPherson and MP Alexandre Boulerice from the New Democratic Party (NPD) and Mr. Patrick Travers, Senior Advisor on Global Affairs to the Prime Minister, and with a group of Arab Ambassadors in Canada. More information can be found [here](#).

### **4. Committee Bureau meets with Canadian Member of Parliament in New York**



On 10 November, the Bureau of the Committee hosted Hon. Salma Zahid, Member of the House of Commons of Canada and Chair of the Canada-Palestine [Parliamentary Friendship Group](#). MP Zahid was in New York at the invitation of the Committee and met with a Committee delegation

headed by the Chair, Ambassador Chiekh Niang and including the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Namibia, Nicaragua, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa as well as the Permanent Observer and the Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine. The meeting discussed ways of promoting support for a just and lasting resolution to the question of Palestine in Canada.

**5. Committee Bureau meets with Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967**



On 26 October, the Committee Bureau met with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel (CoI), Messrs. Navanethem Pillay (Chair), Miloon Kothari and Chris Sidoti, as well the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese. The latter gave a briefing on the legal principles of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, stressing that the illegality of the Israeli occupation is underlined because it is not temporary. The CoI's briefing reiterated that Israeli settlements and de facto annexation policies seriously violate international law and noted that Israel must be held accountable for violations of Palestinians' individual and collective rights. Bureau members called on the CoI to brief the Security Council and the Secretary-General on its work and findings. The Special Rapporteur's latest report to the General Assembly is available [here](#), and the report of the CoI is available [here](#).

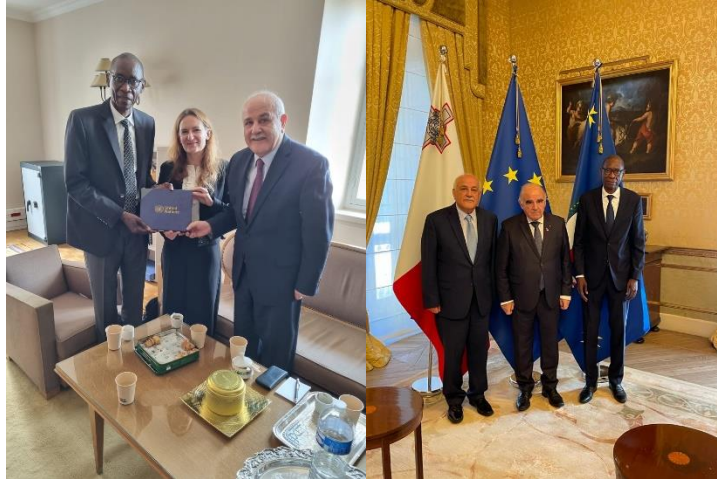
**6. Vice-Chair of the Committee delivers statement at the quarterly Security Council Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question**





On 28 October, Ambassador Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia and Vice Chair of the Committee delivered a statement at the Security Council's open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. In his statement, he noted that the escalation of tensions in the West Bank was bringing the parties further away from reaching a consensus to achieve peace. He further noted that the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements and settler-related violence required decisive action, calling on Israel to adhere to its obligations under international law and to halt the transfer of its population to the occupied Palestinian territory. You can read the full statement [here](#).

## **7. Committee Bureau delegation visits France, Malta and Switzerland**



From 31 October to 4 November, the Committee Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the UN, Ambassador Riyad Mansour, traveled to France, Malta and Switzerland to share ideas on how to reach a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine. In Paris, the delegation met with Ambassador Anne Gueguen, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Valletta, the delegation met with H.E. Mr. George Vella, President of Malta as well as with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Bern, the delegation met with officials from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by H.E. Mr. Thomas Gürber. Malta and Switzerland are incoming non-permanent members of the Security Council for the period 2023-2024. Additional information can be found [here](#).

## **8. Committee Chair participates in annual DGC Media Seminar in Geneva**



The Committee Chair, Ambassador Chiekh Niang, delivered a statement at the International Media Seminar on Peace in The Middle East, held this year from 3 to 4 November at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The event, hosted by the UN Department of Global Communications, brought together journalists, media experts, think tanks, diplomats and members of the academia from Israel, the State of Palestine, the wider Middle East and other parts of the world to discuss media related issues and trends connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Please find the Chair statement [here](#).

## 9. Committee holds second closed consultations with civil society organizations in 2022



On 8 November, the Committee held virtual closed consultations meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Participants included CSO representatives from Palestine, Israel and the United States, as well as from members and observers of the Committee. Committee members exchanged views with CSOs on the issue of accountability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which has become central to addressing ways to end Israeli occupation and for it to uphold and respect international law. The meeting also exposed the role of the private sector regarding complicity with Israel's appropriation of Palestinian resources. Participating CSOs proposed



recommendations to the Committee, including the continuation of advocacy to expose abuses committed in the OPT. Please read the Chair Summary of the meeting [here](#).

#### **10. Four Palestinian diplomats attend the “Art of Speechwriting” training**

The Division for Palestinian Rights supported the participation of four staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ramallah – Ms. Dina Rishmawi, Ms. Nermeen Ghanayem, Ms. Riham Barghouthi, and Ms. Safa Muttan, in the online 2022 training on the “[Art of Speechwriting](#)” organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The 4-week long capacity-building programme ran from 17 October to 13 November 2022 and taught the participants the essential principles of the art and craft of speechwriting.

#### **11. Palestinian Government officials participate in the annual capacity building programme at UNHQ, New York**



From 24 October to 2 December, two officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ramallah – Ms. Abeer Abed Alhaq and Ms. Rana Hammoudeh—participated in the six-week annual capacity-building programme for civil servants of the State of Palestine. Organized by the Division for Palestinian Rights, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) since 1996, the programme helped the trainees enhance their understanding of multilateral diplomacy, peace, security, and development issues, as well as recent regional and global developments at the center of discussion at the General Assembly. The trainees had a first-hand experience of formal and informal meetings and events at the United Nations Headquarters, including the 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **12. Chair meets with group of Palestinian Journalists in New York**



On 11 November, the Committee Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, met with a group of journalists participating in the “Shireen Abu Akleh Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists” organized by the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC). The annual programme, which resumed this year after being suspended due to Covid-19, included journalists from several media outlets in Gaza, West Bank and Lebanon. During the meeting, the Chair described the work of the Committee and journalists shared their perspectives of the situation on the ground. Further information about the programme can be found [here](#).

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



On 29 November, the Committee commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a Special Meeting chaired by Ambassador Cheikh Niang in the ECOSOC Chamber at the UN Headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chef de Cabinet, on behalf of the Secretary-General, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the need for a just and lasting solution to the Question of Palestine. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine read a message from President Mahmoud Abbas while the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, the AU, LAS, OIC, and NAM also made statements. Mr. Shawan Jabarin, General Director of Al-Haq, also made a statement live from Ramallah. Sixty-three



Member States, and ten NGOs attended the event, while 44 Member States sent official messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Governments. UN WebTV and Palestinian TV live broadcasted the event. More information on the special meeting and similar events around the world can be found on the event's [website](#).

#### **14. Virtual Exhibit “*Palestine through its People: Portraits of Palestinians*”**



This virtual exhibit titled “*Palestine Through its People: Portraits of Palestinians*,” and dedicated to the memory of the late Shireen Abu Akleh, Palestinian journalist killed by Israeli security forces, was launched on 29 November as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The exhibit includes a dozen videos that shed light on the life and struggle of individual Palestinians, both in a personal dimension and as an integral part of the long and ongoing journey of the Palestinian people for freedom and justice. You can view the exhibit online [here](#).

#### **15. General Assembly adopts resolutions on the Question of Palestine**



On 30 November, the General Assembly adopted, with overwhelming Members States support, four resolutions on the questions of Palestine. These resolutions included: Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People ([A/RES/77/22](#)), Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat ([A/RES/77/23](#)), Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat ([A/RES/77/24](#)), and the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine ([A/RES/77/25](#)). Of note, the General Assembly called on the Division for Palestinian Rights to dedicate its 2023 activities to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakba, including by organizing a high-level event on 15 May 2023.

## **16. Committee Bureau holds Annual Retreat in Dakar**



From 5 to 7 December, a Bureau delegation led by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, visited Dakar to hold its annual Retreat. Following the retreat, the delegation also met Government officials including with H.E Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Chief de Cabinet, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Madame Aïssata Tall Sall, the presidents of the National Assembly and Foreign Affairs Committee as well as with education centres such as the National School of Administration (ENA) and the Centre of Diplomatic and Strategic Studies and. The discussions explored ideas on the strategic thinking needed to address the evolving situation of the question of Palestine and the delegation thanked Senegal for their commitment to the two-State solution and the plight of the Palestinian people. Further information can be found [here](#).