



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

Newsletter on Recent Activities

No. 15 / January – March 2023

1. The Committee Chair addresses the quarterly Security Council Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

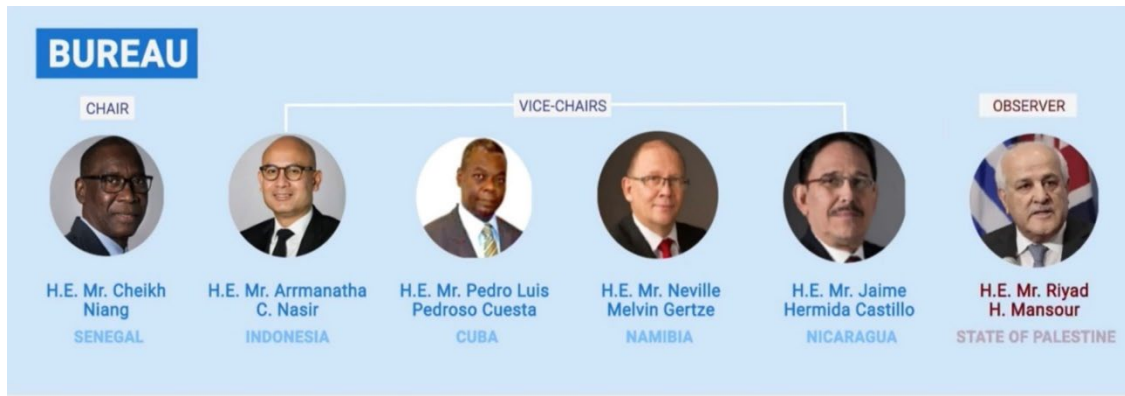


On 18 January, the CEIRPP Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal, delivered the Committee's statement during the Security Council Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Among other issues, the statement expressed the Committee's concern and dismay at provocations at the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, which undermined efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The importance of peaceful religious coexistence was underlined, and Israel, the occupying Power, was urged to respect international law and refrain from provocations that escalate the conflict.

To read the Chair's statement, please click [here](#). The verbatim records of the meeting are available here: [1st part](#) and [2nd part](#).

You can view the recording of the UN Security Council meeting by clicking on these hyperlinks: [1st part](#) and [2nd part](#).

2. Bureau holds first meeting in 2023



On 1 February, the Bureau of the CEIRPP considered the draft 2023 Programme of Work ahead of its adoption by the Committee, reaffirming the need for a flexible approach in its implementation. The Observer Mission of Palestine briefed on political developments, including Palestine's rejection of punitive measures adopted by Israel against the Palestinian Authority in response to a General Assembly request for an International Court of Justice advisory opinion. The Bureau also discussed the planning for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, including the high-level event on 15 May 2023.

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

3. Bureau rejects Israeli retaliation in response to UN's decision seeking ICJ Advisory Opinion



On 3 February, the CEIRPP Bureau issued a press [statement](#) rejecting the punitive measures adopted by Israel against the Palestinian Authority for seeking the resolution of international disputes through legitimate and peaceful means via the International Court of Justice, following the General Assembly request for an advisory opinion on 30 December. The Bureau called for the immediate reversal of the unilateral punitive measures imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, which could have severe consequences for the Palestinian Authority's financial stability and the welfare of the Palestinian people. The full text of the statement in Arabic, English, and French is available [here](#).

4. Committee holds legal workshop on the question of Palestine

From 7 to 9 February, the Committee organized a three-day closed-door legal workshop on “The legality of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.” The workshop, held under the Chatham House rule in the Palais de Nations (Geneva), was attended by former UN Special Rapporteurs, international legal experts and Palestinian officials.

5. CEIRPP Chair participates in League of Arab States’ 2023 Jerusalem Conference



At the invitation of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, on 12 February, a Bureau delegation headed by the CEIRPP Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, attended the high-level League of Arab States’ “2023 Jerusalem Conference on Resilience, Development.” In his statement, the Chair emphasized that the CEIRPP stands firm in preserving the historic status quo at the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, as entrusted to the Hashemite custodianship. He further called on Israel to respect international law.

You can read the full text of the statement [here](#).

6. Chair expresses deep concern and opposition to illegal Israeli settlements

On 15 February, the following [tweet](#) was issued by the Chair of the Committee:

“

*I am deeply concerned by Israel’s decision to advance more settlement units and retroactively **legalize nine illegal outposts** in the occupied West Bank. I strongly oppose such unilateral measures, which **undermine** the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution. Under international law, **all Israeli settlements** in the occupied Palestinian territory **are considered illegal**. Israel **must stop** such illegal actions that can further escalate tensions in the region.*

AMBASSADOR CHEIKH NIANG

Chair of the UN General Assembly Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People



@UNISPAL

7. Bureau meets with the new members of the UN Security Council



On 20 February, a Bureau delegation led by the Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, met with new members of the Security Council (Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland) at a working breakfast hosted by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia. The Bureau reiterated a call for urgent action in response to the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; the meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on how best to support efforts toward a resumption of peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

8. Bureau holds its 2nd meeting to strengthen working methods



The Bureau held its second 2023 meeting on 20 February at the Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations. The discussion served to finalize the draft Committee's Programme of Work 2023 before its consideration by the Committee on 22 February. The Bureau decided to update its working methods to enhance decision-making and effectiveness.

9. 410th Committee meeting: Committee elects its Bureau and adopts the 2023 Programme of Work



On 22 February, the Committee held its first meeting of 2023. With the UN Secretary-General António Guterres presiding over the elections, the Committee unanimously re-elected by acclamation: as Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal; as Vice Chairs: H.E. Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa Cuesta, Permanent Representative of Cuba; H.E. Mr. Arramanatha Nasir, Permanent Representative of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia; and H.E. Mr. Jaime Hermida Castillo, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua. The meeting also adopted the Committee's annual [Programme of Work](#) for 2023. During the meeting, the Secretary-General reiterated his support for the Committee and its mandate as well as the UN's commitment to the Palestinian question. He called for an end to the occupation and the realization of the two-State solution according to international law, UN resolutions and previous agreements.

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

10. Bureau condemns extreme violence by Israeli forces in Nablus



On 24 February, the CEIRPP Bureau issued a press statement condemning the Israeli forces' raid in Nablus in the occupied West Bank that killed 11 Palestinians, including an elderly man and a minor, and injured 100 Palestinians. The Bureau expressed deep concern about the deadly cycles of violence and the increasing loss of civilian life, mainly among Palestinians. The Bureau stressed the need for accountability for all illegal Israeli policies and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem.

The full text of the statement in English, French, and Arabic is available [here](#).

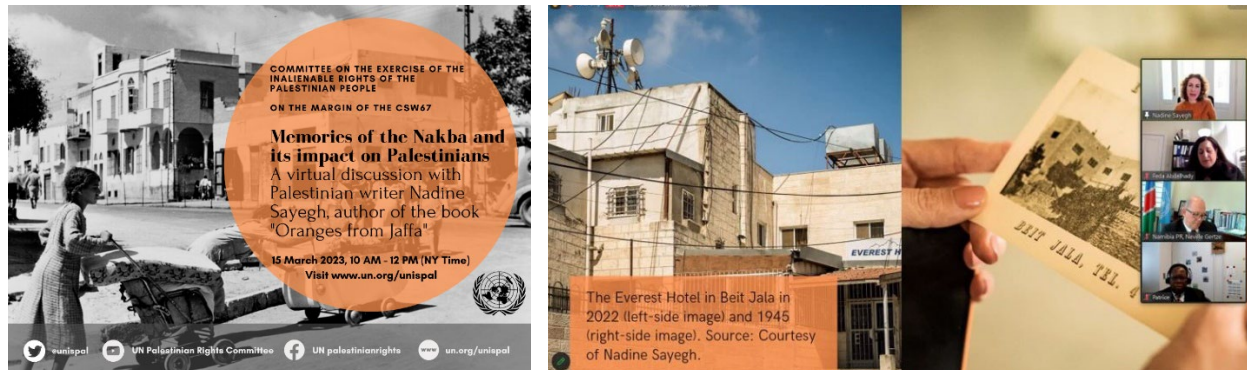
11. New delegates learn about the Committee mandate and Programme of Work at a briefing session



On 28 February, the Division for Palestinian Rights held its annual [briefing](#) to familiarize new Member States' delegates with the Committee's mandate and its Programme of Work implemented by the Division. The briefing also featured a presentation by the "Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine" of the UN Department of Global Communications. The Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, opened the interactive session, and Ambassador Feda Abdelhady-Nasser, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, delivered concluding remarks.

For more information about the work of the Committee, please visit [UNISPAL](#).

12. Committee event on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women evokes Nakba memories



On 15 March, the Committee organized a virtual event on “Memories of the Nakba and its impact on Palestinians” on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). Moderated by Ambassador Neville Gertze, Vice-Chair of the Committee, the event was organized as a conversation with Ms. Nadine Sayegh, author of the book *“Oranges from Jaffa – A True Story about the End of the Golden Age of Palestine”* to discuss the enduring impact of the Nakba on the lives of millions of Palestinians as a result of their displacement and dispossession that continues to this day. Through a powerful testimony and slideshow of images of old Jaffa, the event highlighted the daily lifestyle in Palestine before 1948, interrupted abruptly by the exile of thousands of Palestinians triggered by the start of violence the same year.

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

13. Chair participates in the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation



At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, attended the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 16-17 March 2023. The Bureau delegation included H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine. The Chair attended the [meeting](#) of the “Committee of Six on Palestine” held on 17 March 2023 and met with the leadership of the OIC Department of Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, stressing the Committee’s strategic partnership with the OIC in the implementation of its mandate, particularly through jointly convening an annual conference on the question of Jerusalem. The Chair statement on behalf of the Committee was shared with the conference participants (English and Arabic) and is available [here](#).

14. UPCOMING: On 15 May the Committee will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba



The Committee will organize a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Nakba at UN Headquarters in New York, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/23 of 30 November 2022. The Committee will organize a High-Level Special Meeting in the morning. Commemorations will continue in the evening with a cultural event in the General Assembly Hall. The cultural event will bring to life the Palestinian journey and will create an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies.

15. Publications

- Our January and February Monthly Bulletins offer a collection of important actions and documents by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine. You can read the bulletins in our database, the world's largest online repository of documents on the question of Palestine.

[December Bulletin](#)

[January Bulletin](#)

[February Bulletin](#)

- The Annual Compilation of resolutions, decisions, and voting records is available [here](#). The document covers actions in 2022 by the General Assembly's seventy-seventh session, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Council.
- The various reports prepared by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies on the question of Palestine are available in our 2022 annual compilation of reports and accessible [here](#).
- Our newsletters – NGO action news - about recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations affiliated with the Committee are available [here](#). The Committee provides the information “as is” without warranty of any kind and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or reliability of the information contained in the websites linked in the newsletter.