



General Assembly

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

Programme of work for 2023

I. Mandate of the Committee

1. The mandates of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat for 2023 are contained in General Assembly resolutions [77/22](#) and [77/23](#), respectively.¹

2. In its resolution [75/20](#), entitled “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People”, the General Assembly, noting with deep regret the passage of 53 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and over 73 years since the adoption of resolution [181 \(II\)](#) and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, requested the Committee to: (a) continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination; (b) 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 borders; (c) mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people; (d) keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and report and make suggestions to the Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General; and (e) continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, in particular during the current critical period of political instability and humanitarian hardship. The Committee seeks to ensure that its mandate is implemented to the fullest.

3. In its resolution [77/23](#), entitled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat”, the General Assembly requested that the Division continue to provide substantive support to the Committee and, under its guidance, undertake activities in support of the mandate of the Committee, including to: (a) monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine; (b) organize international meetings and activities in support of the Committee’s mandate with the participation of all sectors of the international community; (c) ensure the continued participation of eminent persons and internationally renowned experts in these meetings and activities; (d) develop and expand the “Question of Palestine” website and the documents collection of the

¹ Previously, the General Assembly reviewed the mandates on a biennial basis. However, as from 2023, the mandates will be reviewed on an as-needed basis.



United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine; (e) prepare and widely disseminate publications and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine in the relevant official languages of the United Nations; (f) develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts and promote South-South and triangular cooperation for institution-building; (g) organize the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including an annual exhibition or cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations; (h) liaise and cooperate with civil society organizations and parliamentarians, including through the Working Group of the Committee; and (i) dedicate its activities in 2023 to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakba, including by organizing a high-level event at the General Assembly Hall on 15 May 2023 and other activities specifically designed to mark the anniversary of the Nakba.

II. Activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights

4. During 2023, on the basis of the renewal of the mandates of the Committee and the Division by the General Assembly in its resolutions [75/22](#) and [77/23](#), respectively, and the conclusions and recommendations listed in paragraphs 87 to 111 of the annual report of the Committee to the Assembly ([A/77/35](#)), the Committee and the Division will focus on the activities detailed in subsections A to D below.

A. Mobilization of the diplomatic community

5. Throughout 2023, the Committee will focus its activities on diplomatic efforts and initiatives to 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 in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In 2023, the Committee will continue to engage Member States on the question of Palestine, including members of the Security Council. To support the engagement, the Bureau will continue to follow and consider developments and dynamics with regard to the Middle East peace process and to be flexible to accommodate and carry out additional tasks under its 2023 programme of work.

6. The Committee will continue to mobilize the international community to be active in its support for efforts to advance the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It will utilize intergovernmental processes and engagement, in in-person and hybrid formats, with permanent missions in New York and convene international events involving Member States and civil society and regional organizations.

Action at United Nations Headquarters

7. The Committee, through its regular and special meetings, including in in-person and hybrid formats (with virtual format only as last resort), will continue to raise awareness of the question of Palestine. In the context of critical developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, it will mobilize and take appropriate international action, including through briefings to the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Committee will also hold periodic briefings and events throughout 2023 at Headquarters in New York, in close consultation with United Nations entities, to inform Member States of the political, economic and social impact

on the Palestinian people, including on women and girls and young people, of the ongoing Israeli occupation and the absence of a just solution.

8. The Bureau of the Committee will continue, under its outreach programme, to hold meetings, in addition to consultations, with the permanent missions of Member and observer States, regional groups, Governments and intergovernmental organizations, including parliamentarians and parliamentary groups, at Headquarters and abroad when feasible, to encourage their active involvement in its programme of work, as well as to encourage a positive shift in their voting patterns in the United Nations intergovernmental bodies, such as the General Assembly, on resolutions relating to the Palestine question. The Bureau will continue its outreach with Member States, including members of the Security Council and the Quartet, in support of the resumption of negotiations. The exchanges are also intended to promote an enhanced understanding of the mandate and objectives of the Committee. It will consider making a visit to the State of Palestine, when feasible, to hold meetings with key interlocutors to inform them about the role and mandate of the Committee and discuss ways in which the Committee could help in bringing about a just and peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine. The Bureau will continue to review and support, as necessary, other crucial United Nations decisions and resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine, including the implementation of the resolution to seek an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the occupation and activities of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [32/40](#) B, the Committee will hold a special meeting and organize, in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, a cultural event and/or an exhibit in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Pursuant to Assembly resolution [77/23](#), in 2023, the special meeting of the Committee to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be held on or around 29 November.

Advocacy at regional and intergovernmental meetings

10. The Committee will continue to participate in relevant intergovernmental and other conferences and meetings, as necessary, including with regional and subregional organizations. The Committee considers such participation to be an important aspect of its work to promote international support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/22](#), the Committee invites all of its members, observer States and accredited organizations to plan national and regional activities on the issue of Palestinian rights and the question of Palestine, with a focus on efforts to convey solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people as well as support for international efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation without delay and achieve a just and lasting solution, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

B. Raising awareness of the question of Palestine

12. Through its activities, the Committee intends to continue to raise international awareness of the political, human rights and humanitarian developments on the ground, including those that undermine the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and other inalienable rights, constitute obstacles to meaningful

negotiations and undermine the prospects for realizing a just solution. In recognition of the growing importance of civic voices and perspectives with regard to the situation on the ground, the Committee will make greater use of its platform to consult with parliamentarians and civil society and other organizations. The focus of attention will include highlighting the illegality of the occupation and Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the legal obligation of third parties not to support or contribute to such breaches of international law and violations of human rights by Israel, the occupying Power. In this regard, the Committee will continue to prioritize the question of Jerusalem. The Committee will also seek to mobilize the broadest possible international support for the efforts of the State of Palestine to pursue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including through a focus on the critical situation in the Gaza Strip and the need for urgent efforts to reverse the negative socioeconomic and humanitarian trends there, including in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other United Nations entities.

13. The Committee will continue to facilitate up-to-date virtual or in-person briefings by United Nations officials and experts, including women, and exchanges of ideas on specific issues, including the situation of Palestinian women, young people and refugees, at its meetings held at Headquarters as well as during side events, international conferences and Committee delegation visits. It will also strive to organize an event on the margins of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women for that purpose. The Bureau will implement the recommendations of the 2022 survey to further encourage the active participation of Committee members through regular exchanges at the working level between Bureau members and the secretariat.

14. The Committee will endeavour to organize its events in cooperation with interested intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, subregional organizations and national Governments, with due regard to cost-sharing arrangements. It will strive to achieve gender and geographical balance among invited experts and will encourage the active participation of Governments from all regional groups. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of its international meetings and conferences and will disseminate the practical recommendations emanating from them to the United Nations membership, evaluating them with a view to taking follow-up action, as appropriate. The Bureau will reach out to other members and observers of the Committee and encourage them to join Committee delegations attending various events.

15. The Committee will call for international support efforts that urge the international community to focus its attention on the dire socioeconomic situation and deteriorating living conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territory, and the predicament of the Government of Palestine to effectively manage the economy and social needs of its people owing to the combination of the continued adverse impact of the pandemic and the ongoing occupation by Israel. The Committee will continue to advocate continued support and assistance to the Palestine refugees, including through UNRWA.

Events in 2023

16. In 2023, the Committee will continue to consider the ongoing impact of the pandemic on the feasibility of its planned activities and adjust its programme of work accordingly and will mainstream the commemoration of the Nakba into all its advocacy and awareness-raising events and activities. Those activities are expected to include:

- (a) Outreach meetings with Member States, including engagement of both permanent and elected members of the Security Council and the Quartet, in support of the resumption of negotiations;
- (b) A legal seminar to validate the independent study commissioned by the Committee on the legality of the occupation and thereafter to brainstorm on its recommendations among legal experts in February 2023. The Committee will convene events for the final study report during the year;
- (c) A side event on the margins of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2023;
- (d) A high-level event to commemorate the Nakba on 15 May 2023;
- (e) One event on topics related to international law, land dispossession, demolitions, displacement, refugees and young people;
- (f) An international conference on the question of Jerusalem, with support from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in the first half of 2023;
- (g) Participation in regional summits, conferences and events to mobilize and sustain international attention to the question of Palestine, including with the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;
- (h) Two Committee consultations with civil society, in the first half and second half of 2023;
- (i) Field delegation visits to Member States, including a possible visit to the Middle East region and the State of Palestine, to harness support for and increase awareness of the question of Palestine and to mobilize collective efforts;
- (j) Provision by the Division for Palestinian Rights of documentation as part of the Secretariat's response to requests in General Assembly resolutions;
- (k) A follow-up strategic communications workshop for officials of the State of Palestine in Ramallah, in 2023;
- (l) A training session on protocol for officials of the State of Palestine in Ramallah (dates to be confirmed);
- (m) Capacity-building training on speechwriting and negotiation skills throughout 2023.

Publication programme

17. The Committee considers the publication programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights to be an important information and outreach activity, which contributes to raising awareness of various aspects of the question of Palestine, the role and efforts of the United Nations and the work of the Committee among the Member States and broadly at the international level. The Division is requested to continue to monitor and disseminate information on developments relevant to the question of Palestine and to discharge its mandate by issuing, electronically and/or in print, the following publications:

- (a) Periodic or weekly reports on civil society initiatives related to the question of Palestine in its weekly bulletin, *NGO Action News*;
- (b) A monthly bulletin on action by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine;
- (c) An annual compilation of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the question of Palestine;

- (d) An annual compilation of United Nations reports relevant to the question of Palestine;
- (e) Reports on meetings and events held under the auspices of the Committee;
- (f) Quarterly newsletters on Committee activities;
- (g) A study on the legality of the Israeli occupation;
- (h) Information materials on the activities of the Committee, including through social media and on the “Question of Palestine” website;
- (i) Booklets and e-books of past United Nations exhibitions on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including the reproduction of the booklets in French and Spanish, and other relevant advocacy themes proposed by the Bureau.

18. The Committee will ask the Division to review the existing publications and make proposals on an ongoing basis for updating them.

United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine

19. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue its work on the further development, expansion and updating of the Committee’s “Question of Palestine” website, including the web-based United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL). The Division will continue to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date collection of United Nations and related documents in the system and to improve the visual appearance of the website as well as its accessibility on mobile devices, the usability of the search engine and multilingualism. The next stage of the redesign of UNISPAL, focused on enhancing the search experience for users and adapting the site for mobile devices, is expected to be completed in 2023. The Committee calls upon the Secretariat offices involved to extend their full support to the Division in that regard.

20. With the objective of providing greater visibility of the UNISPAL portal and the documents database, the Committee requests the Division to engage with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library on exploring the possibility of including an overview of the use of the UNISPAL portal in its regular training modules on the information resources available to the members of the United Nations community for their research needs.

21. To raise awareness of the situation on the ground and ensure an effective flow of information between the United Nations and civil society organizations, the Division will continue, on behalf of the Committee, to develop its presence on social media platforms while promoting multilingualism and to increase the dissemination of its information by email. In addition, it will explore ways to leverage other innovative tools, including virtual reality, microvideos and animation for advocating the question of Palestine.

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

22. During 2023, the Committee will continue to invite prominent personalities and representatives of United Nations system entities and civil society organizations, including women and young people, to its meetings at Headquarters or in virtual format, so as to further enrich the substantive content of its deliberations.

Intergovernmental organizations

23. The Committee will continue to cooperate on issues that are relevant to its mandate with the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Caribbean Community, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The Committee will also reach out to other organizations and regional groups represented at the United Nations. Representatives of such groups and organizations will be invited to support and participate in the Committee's programme of international meetings and conferences.

24. The Committee will continue to invite civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, youth and women's groups and refugee representatives, to relevant international meetings and conferences in order to enhance dialogue, increase their engagement for a just solution to the conflict and strengthen solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Non-governmental organizations

25. In recognition of the important contribution of Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations, strengthening cooperation with civil society is an overarching objective for the Committee. Through its engagement with civil society, the Committee seeks to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and to encourage civil society partners to work with their national Governments, parliamentarians and other institutions to promote the realization of Palestinian rights and a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

26. In 2023, the Committee intends to organize activities, including the following, in cooperation with Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations worldwide:

- (a) Periodic Committee consultations with civil society organizations, in the first half and second half of 2023;
- (b) Participation of representatives of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as the secretariat of the Committee, in relevant events on the question of Palestine organized by Member States, regional groups and civil society organizations, including in a virtual format;
- (c) Periodic open briefings by representatives of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society on the situation on the ground and their work in support of a just and peaceful solution, held virtually, including on the margins of major United Nations events.

Parliaments and interparliamentary organizations

27. The Committee believes that national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations play a significant role in shaping public opinion, formulating policy guidelines and influencing government positions and actions that uphold international legitimacy in support of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine. To that end, the Committee will continue to involve parliamentarians and representatives of interparliamentary organizations in international conferences, meetings organized under its auspices and delegation visits, and will work to organize joint events with interested interparliamentary organizations.

United Nations system entities

28. The Committee will continue to support organizations and entities of the United Nations system in their work aimed at assisting and developing the institutional

capacity of the Palestinian people, in various fields, and the advancement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

D. Capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine

29. The Committee considers that, in the light of the importance of its capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine, as mandated by the General Assembly, it should continue to develop the programme, inter alia, with a view to supporting the Government in its efforts to establish more efficient, accountable and transparent institutions and to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, maximizing its impact in a cost-effective way and utilizing the online training format whenever feasible.

30. The Committee will continue to encourage the development of the capacity-building programme within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation and in line with the priorities of the State of Palestine as identified in the capacity-building needs assessment missions undertaken by the Division to the State of Palestine in 2018 and 2019. Opportunities will be pursued in 2023 to follow up on activities undertaken in 2022 to build the capacity of Palestinian civil servants in the areas of strategic communications, negotiations, speechwriting and diplomatic protocol, with a greater emphasis on in-person meetings.

31. The Committee continues to believe that, in selecting candidates for its capacity-building and training programme, special consideration should be given to: (a) the relevance of the job functions of the candidates for any proposed training; (b) their performance in past training sessions; and (c) the promotion of broad participation across institutions of the State of Palestine, including those in Gaza. In line with past practice, the programme will be coordinated with United Nations entities and other actors to avoid overlap and duplication and will be committed to achieving gender balance and the inclusion of young people in its activities. Training sessions should be held not only at Headquarters but also at other locations, primarily in the State of Palestine, to facilitate participation and optimize the use of available funding.

32. The Committee requests the Division to continue the programme during 2023. In this regard, the Committee solicits the cooperation of all Governments with regard to the issuance of visas for participants and trainers in all capacity-building activities under its aegis.

III. Continuing review and assessment

33. The Committee will continue to review and assess its programme of work in the light of the situation on the ground and forthcoming political developments, adjusting as necessary. The Bureau of the Committee will hold a retreat before the end of the year to reflect on the implementation of the programme of work for 2023. The Division for Palestinian Rights will conduct a survey at the end of the year to assess Committee members' satisfaction regarding the support provided and to inform and guide the planning of future programme of work activities.

34. The Division will continue to assess the impact of the capacity-building programme and the performance of the trainees in past training sessions and to make proposals to strengthen the programme, applying lessons learned and following best practices.

35. Taking into account the considerable improvement in the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in particular the current situation in New

York, the Committee will hold its meetings and events in person or in a hybrid format in 2023. That practice, successfully implemented throughout 2022, has also provided an opportunity to reach wider audiences. The Committee will invite the Division to streamline documentation, including through the practice of using eStatement approaches, at Headquarters and other locations, where applicable. The Committee will utilize social media and mobilize bloggers to promote global coverage of and interaction with its activities and events in a cost-effective way. It continues to pay particular attention to achieving gender and geographical balance in all its activities. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of its activities and events, boost media exposure, attendance and interaction and, where required, decide on steps to be taken to enhance the contributions of those activities to the mandated goals of the Committee.
