



UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
Newsletter on Recent Activities
No. 19 / January – March 2024

1. South Africa briefs the Bureau on the ICJ application



On 10 January, H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa briefed the Bureau on her [country's application](#) to institute proceedings against Israel at the ICJ ahead of the 11-12 January hearings. In its briefing, South Africa also mentioned cases filed before International Criminal Court (ICC) and a recent meeting with the ICC Prosecutor. The Chair of the Committee formally presented Ambassador Joyini with a copy of the Committee's [study](#) on legality of Israeli occupation, which was the Committee's submission to the Court.

2. Quarterly Security Council Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question



On 24 January, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Namibia, Ms. Helena Ndapewa Kuzee, standing in for the Vice-Chair of the Committee, delivered the [Committee statement](#) to the Quarterly Security Council Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question. The Committee statement echoed the call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and for the unconditional release of all hostages and detainees, unhindered access of humanitarian assistance and full adherence by all parties to their obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and to all relevant UN resolutions.

3. Committee re-elected Chair and adopted 2024 Programme of Work



On 31 January, the Secretary-General presided over the re-election of H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang (Senegal) as the Chair of CEIRPP at the [415th Committee](#) meeting. H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN briefed on its ICJ application and Ms. Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Director of UNRWA Representative Office in New York updated on the deteriorating conditions for the Agency's operations in Gaza, stressing that aid suspension to the Agency further penalized the suffering of Palestinians and would collapse the humanitarian situation. The Committee unanimously adopted the 2024 Programme of Work.

4. Bureau consultation with experts on the Question of Palestine



On 6 February, the Bureau held a closed briefing session with experts who shared their perspectives on the implications of the Gaza conflict on the search for a resolution to the question of Palestine. The discussion offered valuable insights to strengthen the Committee's advocacy in the current context.

5. Induction Training for New Committee Delegates



On 27 February, the Chair of the Committee, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, inaugurated the *Briefing for New Delegates 2024*, attended by 15 delegates. The interactive session enabled delegates to grasp the Committee's mandate, Programme of Work, and the Department of Global Communications (DGC) Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine. The session concluded with remarks from H.E. Ms. Feda Abdelhady, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, urging Member States to support for the Committee's significant work and encouraging others to join.


6. Committee meeting elects Vice-Chairs for 2024




On 11 March, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang chaired the [416th meeting of the Committee](#), which re-elected, by acclamation, the Bureau Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur amid the Gaza conflict and escalating settler violence in the West Bank. At the meeting, the State of Palestine lamented the stalled Security Council efforts for a crucial ceasefire resolution and expressed gratitude for member states' written and oral submissions to the ICJ.

Below is the composition of the Committee [Bureau](#) for 2024:


Composition of CEIRPP Bureau in 2024




H.E. Cheikh Niang, PR of Senegal
(Chair)




H.E. Gerardo Peñalver
Portal, PR of Cuba
Vice-Chair




H.E. Arrmanatha Nasir,
PR of Indonesia
Vice-Chair




H.E. Neville Gertze,
PR of Namibia
Vice-Chair



H.E. Jaime Hermida Castillo,
PR of Nicaragua
Vice-Chair



H.E. Ahmad Faisal
Muhamad, PR of Malaysia
Vice-Chair & Rapporteur



H.E. Riyad Mansour, PO of
State of Palestine

7. Committee side-event on the War on Gaza during CSW68: Impact on Palestinian Women and Children



On 13 March, the Committee Chair moderated the [virtual side-event](#), with over 30 participants including 12 Member States. Panelists included a senior UNRWA representative from Gaza, UNFPA, Save the Children International, and a US-Palestinian physician who shared stories of her family's significant losses in Gaza, while the State of Palestine made opening remarks. Panelists underscored women's role in "humanitarian diplomacy" and provided personal and family testimonies on harrowing living conditions in Gaza. Panelists reiterated the call for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire as well as a halt of weapons' transfers to Israel, the occupying power. Participants criticized the UN's perceived inaction and called on Arab countries to "do more" on the call for ceasefire.

Over **1,400 people** watched the event live on UN Web TV, while as of end-March some 450 have watched the recording since. The video recording and summary of the event are available on [UNISPAL website](#) and on [YouTube](#).

8. Bureau press statements in response to worsening Gaza situation and escalating Israeli threats on Rafah



The Bureau issued three press statements in response to the deteriorating situation in Gaza. On [26 January](#), the Bureau welcomed the Order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to South Africa's application, issuing provisional measures in accordance with Israel's obligations under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

On [14 February](#), the Bureau strongly condemned the threats of an Israeli invasion into Rafah, the last refuge of about 1.5 million forcibly displaced Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who are without access to food, medical care, and safe shelter.

On [28 February](#), the Bureau called for solidarity and support to sustain UNRWA amidst a smear campaign, funding suspensions and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The Bureau reaffirmed its unwavering support for UNRWA and its indispensable mission following the letter from UNRWA's Commissioner-General to the President of the UN General Assembly of 23 February 2024.

9. New animation highlights UNISPAL



The Division for Palestinian Rights released a [brief animated video](#) explaining UNISPAL - the UN Information System on the Question of Palestine, the largest digital collection of documents on Palestine, maintained under the auspices of the Committee.

The Committee's brief animated video on the history of the question of Palestine is now available in [Arabic, Chinese, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Russian and Urdu](#), in addition to **English, French and Spanish**.

10. Publications

- The [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 UNISPAL, the world's largest online repository of documents on the question of Palestine.
- The weekly NGO Action News on recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations working on the question of Palestine are available on the UNISPAL website in [English, Arabic, French and Spanish](#). The Committee provides the information "as is" without warranty and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or reliability of the information contained in the websites linked in the newsletter.

- The Annual Compilation of resolutions, decisions, and voting records of the General Assembly and the Security Council relating to the question of Palestine in 2023 is available [here](#). The document covers actions in 2023 by the General Assembly’s seventy-seventh session, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Council.
- The Committee’s 2022 Annual Compilation of Reports prepared by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies on the question of Palestine is accessible [here](#).
- The study “The Legality of the Israeli Occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” is now also available in [Arabic](#). As of end-March, study has already garnered almost 40,000 views in English and over 4,000 views in Arabic.

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