



General Assembly

Tenth Emergency Special session

54th plenary meeting

Tuesday, 17 September 2024, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Philémon Yang (Cameroon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 5 (continued)

Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1)

The President: I give the floor to the observer of the Observer State of Palestine on a point of order.

Mr. Mansour (State of Palestine): My delegation moves that the debate on agenda item 5 be suspended at 11 a.m. tomorrow, 18 September, in order for the Assembly to proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, on the understanding that the debate would resume immediately after action on the draft resolution and that the tenth emergency session would be only temporarily adjourned after the conclusion of the debate.

The President: The observer of the Observer State of Palestine has moved that the debate on agenda item 5 be suspended at 11 a.m. tomorrow, 18 September, for the Assembly to proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, and that the debate would continue after action on the draft resolution. That is on the understanding that if the Assembly were to decide to suspend the debate at 11 a.m. tomorrow to proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 and to continue the debate after action on the draft resolution, and that if the Assembly were to subsequently adopt the draft resolution, the tenth special session would be adjourned temporarily following the conclusion of the debate on item 5.

Is there any objection to the motion?

It was so decided.

Mr. Maes (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): On 30 December 2022, Luxembourg voted in favour of resolution 77/247, requesting the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and

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practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). Luxembourg reaffirms its full support for the International Court of Justice in its role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as conferred upon it by the Charter. Today more than ever, it is important to uphold the principles and values enshrined in the Charter and international law.

The advisory opinion rendered on 19 July by the International Court of Justice in response to the request of the Assembly is very clear. The Court concluded, first and foremost, that the continued presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful; that the State of Israel is under an obligation to put an end to that unlawful presence as soon as possible; and that the State of Israel is under an obligation to immediately cease all further settlement activity and to evacuate all settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory.

We call on Israel and all United Nations Member States to take steps to follow up on the Court's advisory opinion. As the Court recalls in its opinion, the United Nations — and in particular the General Assembly, which requested the opinion, and the Security Council — must consider what specific modalities and additional measures are required to end the illegal presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory as soon as possible.

A lasting peace can be established only by respecting the fundamental rights of all. Luxembourg reiterates its support for the two-State solution. That solution, in which two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace and within secure and recognized borders, is the only one that can meet both the legitimate security needs of Israel and the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians for a State. We welcome the fact that Palestine has included references to the two-State solution in its draft resolution.

It is to underline its support for the essential role of the International Court of Justice, for the principles and values enshrined in the Charter and international law and for the two-State solution, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, that Luxembourg will vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, presented by Palestine.

Mr. Žbogar (Slovenia): In a world of clashing interests, international law is our safety net. It is for that reason that every country should set respect international law as its foreign policy priority and as its national interest.

First, international law can work as a safety net only if we all stand by it. We therefore welcome the reconvening of this emergency special session to follow up on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice addressing the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). Slovenia was among the countries that voted in favour of the General Assembly request for the opinion (resolution 77/247) and participated in the Court proceedings.

Slovenia advocates for consistent compliance with international law and a strengthened international legal system as the best guarantees of international peace and security. That includes respect for the work, independence and impartiality of all international courts and accountability for most serious violations of international law. There can be no peace without justice.

Secondly, international law can work only if we act on its guidance. Full respect for international law must therefore include respect for the decisions and judicial advice of international courts and tribunals. The International Court of Justice has stated that the occupation is unlawful and that it must end. While the International Court of Justice provided clear guidance, which we welcome, it is up to other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, to lay out the foundations

for its implementation. We therefore welcome draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, submitted by the State of Palestine. As the first draft resolution ever submitted by the State of Palestine, it shows its commitment to respect for international law. We appreciate the conduct of negotiations and the flexibility of the main sponsor.

The main aim of the draft resolution is clear and focuses on the end of the occupation. In our view, the draft resolution also outlines first steps towards mechanisms that would feed into a political process leading to the realization of the two-State solution. Slovenia advocates for a meaningful and timebound political process, with the United Nations at its centre. In the face of the immense suffering in Gaza and a boiling situation in the West Bank, the General Assembly must provide hope to the people of Palestine. It must also provide reassurance to the people of Israel that their security is our priority. The draft resolution is therefore a signal of commitment to international law, the two-State solution and a just and lasting peace, and every member of the Assembly should, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, act as a patron of that commitment.

Thirdly, international law cannot be seen as a menu to choose from and should know no double standards. In one of her lectures about the rule of law at the international level, former President of the International Court of Justice Rosalyn Higgins underlined:

“In my view, the International Court need not do anything different from that which we always do, namely, meticulously apply international law in an impartial manner to the disputes before us. This is the best way for the International Court to protect and promote the rule of law.”

It is crucial that the Assembly do the same — meticulously apply international law in an impartial manner, in all situations.

Mr. Mythen (Ireland): Ireland welcomes the opportunity to discuss follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July (see A/78/968).

It is appropriate, absolutely appropriate, that the General Assembly should give due weight and consideration to the authoritative views of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. As the Court has made clear, it is for the General Assembly, which requested the opinion, and the Security Council to consider what further action is required to end the illegal presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, taking into account the advisory opinion.

We welcome in that regard draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, submitted by the State of Palestine. It is our assessment that it is consistent with the conclusions of the Court as set out in its advisory opinion. It is also a testament to the State of Palestine’s continued faith, under the most challenging of circumstances, in the multilateral system; faith in international law; faith in the Geneva Conventions; and faith in the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, Ireland will be voting in favour of the draft resolution and has also co-sponsored it.

Although the advisory opinion was requested by the General Assembly long before the current conflict in Gaza, we are acutely aware that developments over the past year cast a deep shadow over our discussions here today. We are approaching the anniversary of the appalling terror attacks carried out by Hamas and other terrorist groups on 7 October 2023. Ireland reiterates its unreserved condemnation of those attacks and the unconscionable taking of hostages. Since then, we have witnessed 12 months of unremitting horror in Gaza, leading to over 41,000 deaths, approaching 100,000 injured and a humanitarian catastrophe on a simply unimaginable scale. We reiterate our call for an immediate ceasefire and hostage release deal, as well as an immediate and dramatic scaling up of humanitarian assistance to people in Gaza.

It is difficult to see a way forward through this haze of anger, terror and despair. However, that is our responsibility, and indeed our duty, as responsible members of the international community. It is our duty. Our discussion today is not about our political views or positions. It is about international law. The conclusions of the Court in its advisory opinion of 19 July are significant and extremely serious, including that the continued presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful. It is therefore incumbent upon the General Assembly to act upon those findings.

Ireland has been absolutely clear that we are obliged, at a national level, as well as at the European and international levels, to reflect very carefully on the implications of the advisory opinion for our future actions and policies. In that regard, we welcome the operative provisions of the draft resolution before us here today as an important contribution to shaping those reflections and follow-up actions.

Let me also be clear that Ireland sees no contradiction between supporting the draft resolution and our efforts to promote the implementation of the two-State solution. Indeed, Ireland has intensified such efforts in recent weeks and months, in cooperation with partners from both Europe and the region. It is for that reason that Ireland, along with its European Union and other international partners, is encouraging all partners to join us at a ministerial meeting next week, on the margins of United Nations high-level week, on the situation in Gaza and the implementation of the two-State solution as the path to a just and comprehensive peace.

To those Member States that are arguing that the search for a political solution precludes them from supporting the draft resolution before us today, Ireland repeats the question it posed to the Assembly 12 months ago. How can the clarification of international law do anything other than strengthen international peace and security? The Court, by clarifying the law in its advisory proceedings, has made a hugely important contribution to laying the foundations for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

Furthermore, we recall again that we have known for decades the parameters of the only just solution — a two-State solution based on the 1967 borders, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition, with Jerusalem serving as the future capital of both States.

We have long known that maintaining the current situation in Israel and in Palestine is neither politically nor morally sustainable. We now know, with resounding clarity, that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is not simply unsustainable. It is illegal. For those who have spoken today in favour of a negotiated settlement, the message is clear. We need action, not words, and we need them urgently in the interests of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and in the interests of the region as a whole.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the shared responsibility of all United Nations Members to uphold the rules-based international order, of which the International Court of Justice is an integral part. Equally, I recall the obligation of all United Nations Member States to comply with international law. That is the course that we, the General Assembly, should actively take, must actively take, by expressing our support for the draft resolution before us.

Mr. Vinhas (Portugal): Let me start by acknowledging with satisfaction the additional rights granted to the mission of Palestine to the United Nations, now seated among the United Nations Member States in the Organization.

We strongly commend the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 19 July (see A/78/968), including the provisions on the legal consequences for Member States, its findings, recommendations and conclusions. Allow me to

recall Portugal's long-standing and iron-clad commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law, international humanitarian law and the fight against impunity. Portugal voted in favour of resolution 77/247 of 30 December 2022, in which the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Palestinian occupied territory. Tomorrow, Portugal will vote accordingly and consistently.

This debate comes amid an ongoing, unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Moreover, we have seen attacks against humanitarian convoys, journalists and civilians, including women and children. Portugal calls for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructures, as well as humanitarian workers and journalists, regardless of their nationality.

Portugal, as always, unreservedly condemned Hamas for the terrorist attack on 7 October. There is no justification for acts of terror and we condemn all forms of terrorism. As we stand here today, almost one year has passed since the beginning of this tragic war and the human toll continues to rise. We are deeply concerned over the dramatic humanitarian crisis that the war has created, with its terrible impact on the entire population. Portugal calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. That is the most pressing issue. We desperately need a ceasefire that saves lives. We also call on both parties to reach a swift agreement to release the remaining hostages and cease military operations, and that allows a continuous flow of and scaled-up humanitarian assistance.

On the other hand, we are also very concerned by the increased tensions in the West Bank. Settler violence remains on the rise, unchecked and with impunity. The disproportionate use of force has resulted in more deaths and has heightened the tension between Israelis and Palestinians. Violence only generates more violence, and what the past year has shown us is that we need a new political horizon to uphold the international consensus on the two-State solution, which was never been so urgent to implement as now. Therefore, Portugal will support any political initiative intended to accelerate the political process aimed at establishing an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, living in peace and security with Israel, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Mr. Muhamad (Malaysia): Malaysia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/ES-10/PV.53) and adds the following remarks in our national capacity.

Very soon, we will mark one year since the outbreak of the war in Gaza, which is one of the worst atrocities committed against the Palestinian people since the Nakba of 1948. Over 41,000 innocent civilians have been killed since 7 October 2023, the large majority of them women and children. Almost 95,000 more have been injured. Palestinian children have been subjected to traumas that no child should ever endure. According to UNICEF, Gaza now has the highest number of child amputees in the world. Civilian objects have been wantonly destroyed, while humanitarian personnel who are trying to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people are attacked or, worse, killed. Those are part of the many despicable acts that are clear violations of international law being committed by Israel in Gaza.

As if those were not heinous enough, Israel is now replicating the same policies in the West Bank. It has intensified its operations in the West Bank, causing extensive destruction and loss of life. An unprecedented number of people are being subjected to administrative detention. At the same time, its brazen appropriation of Palestinian land and forced displacement of Palestinians from their own homes continue. Also, the extremist settlers keep on harassing, injuring and murdering Palestinians, under the full protection of the Israeli security forces.

We, the international community, are partly responsible for the devastating crisis we are witnessing in the Middle East today. For far too long, we have failed to hold Israel to account for all the breaches of international law that it has committed. The impunity that Israel has long enjoyed has clearly emboldened it to persist in its belligerence and blatant disregard of international law. Israel has also become increasingly hostile and disrespectful towards the United Nations. It has conveniently forgotten its pledge to uphold the criteria for membership in the Organization, that is, to be a peace-loving State and to conform to the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

This must not continue. The carnage in Gaza must stop and Israel must be held accountable for all its transgressions. Most importantly, we must defend and uphold the rule of law. That is the only way to ensure a lasting and sustainable peace in the region.

The advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice in July (see A/78/968) reaffirms the conviction of the overwhelming majority of the international community that Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territory are unlawful. The Court has also made a resounding determination that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is illegal and must be immediately brought to an end.

We thank the State of Palestine for submitting draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, now before the Assembly, which outlines actionable measures that are consistent with the ruling of the International Court of Justice. The draft resolution has outlined a clear timeline for Israel to end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and for it to reverse the expansion of its settlements. It also imposes a clear obligation on Member States and international organizations to not recognize or assist the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or contribute towards its perpetuation.

Malaysia strongly believes that the draft resolution represents the right and legally sound approach to operationalizing the advisory opinion. It is for that reason that we have co-sponsored the text. We call on Member States to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a testament to our unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and the international legal architecture that has been in place for many decades.

The quest for Palestinian statehood has been left unaddressed for far too long. Since the early days of the United Nations, we have been yielding to Israel's wicked strategies to deny the Palestinian people their inalienable right to self-determination. It is time for that gross injustice to be brought to a swift and definite end. The Assembly must not only demand, but also see through the implementation of the draft resolution, which I have no doubt we will adopt, and the many other United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine. It is a litmus test of our resolve to uphold international law and protect the rules-based order that we have worked hard to forge. The continued shielding of Israel will further erode trust in the United Nations and undermine the rules-based system that the Organization strives hard to maintain.

We also call on the Security Council to break free from its long-standing paralysis and urgently take decisive actions in support of the advisory opinion, as well as the draft resolution to be adopted. The Security Council must also remove all obstacles towards the realization of a sovereign Palestinian State. There is no more time to lose, for the consequences of allowing the further erosion of the rule of law will be extremely detrimental, not only for the Middle East but also for the world.

Mr. Dangor (South Africa): I thank you, Sir, for reconvening the tenth emergency special session to consider an urgent follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies

and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/78/968).

As we gather here today, we should recall that it was the Assembly that requested the opinion that is the subject of today's meeting. We did so because we have a responsibility as States Members of the United Nations to hold each other to account and to ensure that the legal decisions and resolutions of our Courts — in this particular case the International Court of Justice — and our Organization are respected and implemented.

As the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, we are today hearing continued and urgent calls from United Nations Member States and the international community for a ceasefire in Gaza. As our colleague has just pointed out, for too long Israel has blatantly ignored orders from the International Court of Justice and the United Nations, including the Security Council, in its violations of international law. Israel continues with its violence against Palestinians, with forced evacuations and targeted attacks on schools and medical facilities being the order of the day. An unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, exacerbated by further denials of safe access to and delivery of desperately needed aid, has been unfolding before our eyes.

We urge the international community to continue to put pressure on Israel to abide by the orders of the International Court of Justice. We further call on those who have influence over Israel to go beyond mere condemnation and to exert pressure on the country's leaders to stop the bloodshed.

We wish to highlight that the international community cannot proclaim the importance of international law, including that of the Charter of the United Nations, and apply it differentially. We should not pick and choose which binding orders to abide by and which to set aside or simply ignore. A colleague pointed out earlier that this is not an à la carte menu. Enabling Israel to simply ignore decisions of the Court and the United Nations with no consequence is negatively impacting the integrity of international law, including international humanitarian law and the organizations that are tasked with its administration.

Israel's continued disregard for the rulings of the International Court of Justice undermines the integrity of the Court and harms the capacity of the institutions of global governance to end impunity. That is unacceptable and we should not be complicity in Israel's endeavours to irreparably harm the institutions that were established to hold all of us to account for a more peaceful and just world. Israel's unlawful actions are enabled when we seek to rationalize those actions, as we have heard some do today.

The crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of apartheid are not complex. They are simply unlawful. The advisory opinion that provides the basis for draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is before us today, reminds us that we are legally obligated not to condone the international wrongful acts of the Government of Israel. It is time to end the institutional impunity that Israel has enjoyed for over five decades. The carnage we see in Palestine today is testament to the folly of Israel's grand exceptionalism from accountability before international law and norms.

The draft resolution seeks to put in place some countermeasures for Israel's many breaches of international law, including *jus cogens* norms. We therefore call on the international community to halt the transfer of weapons, parts and ammunition to parties to the conflict, as those are at risk of being used to commit violations of international humanitarian law. The unconditional transfer and sale of weapons, parts and ammunition by Governments where there are clear indications that they will be used to harm civilians have enabled the violence and indiscriminate killing of civilians to continue unabated.

The International Court of Justice's opinion concludes that all States have an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the unlawful situation. The International Court of Justice also concludes that there is a serious risk of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. As responsible States Members of the United Nations, it is our duty to ensure that the bloodshed and genocide in Gaza are stopped — and they must be stopped now as we do not have the luxury of time.

The Government of Israel must immediately halt the forced displacement of civilians in Gaza. The Government of Israel, as the occupying Power, must uphold its obligations under international law to protect and uphold the rights of Palestinians. It must refrain from the excessive and lethal use of force and guarantee unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance, including health care and other essential services in the West Bank and Gaza. The violence and restrictions under Israeli occupation have rendered the mandates of humanitarian and development organizations virtually impossible to fulfil. Humanitarian support provided by Member States is regularly obstructed and destroyed by Israeli authorities, or allowed to be destroyed by right-wing and extreme elements. As Member States that have pledged our commitment to upholding the United Nations Charter, we have the ultimate responsibility to ensure and protect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

We congratulate the delegation of Palestine on its first draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1) following the adoption of resolution ES-10/23 in May. South Africa is co-sponsoring the draft resolution before us and we call on all Member States to vote in its favour and to actively pursue steps to ensure the full implementation of the advisory opinion and all relevant United Nations resolutions. South Africa knows all too well the persuasive value of resolutions of that nature. We were in that position 30 years ago. The draft resolution is therefore central to aims of a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside over the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and wish you every success. We look forward to working with you in implementing your mandate, which is a priority to my country.

I also thank the outgoing President, Mr. Dennis Francis, for his laudable efforts during his presidency.

My country's delegation aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/CN.10/PV.53).

We welcome the resumption of this tenth emergency special session to discuss draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, introduced by the sisterly State of Palestine, on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding the consequences arising from Israeli policies and practices and the illegality of the occupation (see A/78/968). The draft resolution is an imperative response to the advisory opinion, which stipulates that it is incumbent on the United Nations, including the General Assembly, to take the measures necessary to put an end to the Israeli occupation as soon as possible, especially given that the situation being endured by the brotherly Palestinian people continues to deteriorate. It is its historic responsibility for the Palestinian question that the United Nations must shoulder until all its aspects are settled in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions.

I take the opportunity to express congratulations of the State of Qatar to our Palestinian brothers, who have earned their right to sit with Member States and introduce United Nations draft resolutions. We hope that will be a further step towards the acquisition of a full membership, which the State of Palestine is fully eligible for in line with Article 4 of the Charter.

Our meeting today is being held at a time when the Israeli aggression against our brothers in Palestine continues. Crimes and massacres are still being perpetrated against civilians, especially women and children. More than 41,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands injured, not to mention those who remain missing under the rubble. Nearly 2 million people have been forcibly displaced. Israel has expanded its military operations to include the occupied West Bank.

The State of Qatar is continuing its mediation efforts, alongside the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States. We hope that our efforts will be successful in achieving an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza and the release of the hostages, while ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of more humanitarian aid and providing protection for civilians, leading to a comprehensive and just political solution for the conflict in line with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

The State of Qatar once again welcomes the advisory opinion and stresses that Israel is compelled to end its illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and East Jerusalem. The advisory opinion covers the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip because the International Court of Justice believes that all those territories are indivisible. Their unity and safety must be respected. Israel is therefore obliged to cease all its settlement activities and to evacuate all settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory, while all those affected must be compensated as a result of illegal Israeli practices.

The State of Qatar reiterates its support for the International Court of Justice and calls on all States and international organizations not to recognize or support the illegal Israeli practices. We emphasize once again that the advisory opinion reflects provisions of international law that must be respected. We call on all States to operationalize the advisory opinion voluntarily and without preconditions as soon as possible. Supporting the draft resolution on Palestine is a human, moral and ethical obligation.

To conclude, we reiterate the firm position of the State of Qatar regarding the just Palestinian question. We support the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people and recognize the State of Palestine within the borders of 4 July 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along with the right to return.

Ms. Segobin Maulloo (Mauritius): Mauritius commends the convening of this plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session, which underscores the critical importance of upholding international law and the Charter of the United Nations in addressing global conflicts. We acknowledge the presence of Palestine seated among United Nation Member States, a development that underscores the dynamic nature of our Organization and its commitment to inclusivity.

As we speak, the death toll in Gaza and the West Bank has surpassed 40,000, and after nearly a year the situation is worsening on the ground, with no sign of abatement. Mauritius joins the Secretary-General in condemning the death on 11 September of children, women and staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in an air strike conducted by Israel, which hit a school serving as a shelter. The strike brought the unacceptable United Nations death toll to 220. Mauritius expresses its profound sympathies to all the families of the victims as a result of the ongoing conflict.

The advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on 19 July (see A/78/968), pursuant to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/247 of 30 December 2022, on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, has given a clear and unambiguous pronouncement against the prolonged injustice to the Palestinian people. For decades, the Palestinian people have endured occupation, discrimination and the denial of their fundamental right to self-determination. Today we take a significant step towards addressing those injustices and upholding international law.

The Court's advisory opinion is unequivocal. Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful. The construction of settlements, the annexation of land and the imposition of discriminatory policies violate core principles of international law. Mauritius welcomes the advisory opinion and draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 before us, aimed at endorsing its findings. The draft resolution rightfully demands that Israel bring an end to its unlawful occupation no later than 12 months from the adoption of the draft resolution. It calls for the cessation of all settlement activities, the evacuation of settlers and the dismantling of the separation wall. Those steps are essential to restoring the territorial integrity of Palestine and paving the way for a just peace. Crucially, the draft resolution also outlines the responsibilities of all States. We must not recognize or assist in maintaining the illegal situation created by Israel's occupation.

Mauritius strongly supports the call for accountability and reparations. The establishment of an international register of damage will help document the immense harm inflicted on the Palestinian people and their property over decades of occupation. We also welcome the decision to convene a conference of high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention and an international conference under United Nations auspices. Those forums will be vital for coordinating international efforts to implement United Nations resolutions and achieve a just, lasting peace based on the two-State solution.

The adoption of the draft resolution will send a powerful message. The international community will no longer tolerate the perpetration of an unlawful occupation. We stand united in our commitment to upholding international law and realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Mauritius calls on all Member States to fully implement the provisions of the draft resolution. We must use all diplomatic and legal tools at our disposal to ensure Israel's compliance with international law and United Nations resolutions.

The path to peace and justice in the Middle East is clear. It requires ending the occupation, respecting the right of Palestinians to self-determination and establishing an independent, sovereign Palestinian State. The draft resolution provides a road map for achieving those goals.

Mauritius reiterates its unwavering stance in favour of the two-State solution to the conflict, based on all relevant United Nations resolutions and international law, which envisages the establishment of an independent, viable and prosperous Palestinian State with secure and recognized borders, living in peace alongside the State of Israel. Mauritius reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Those foundational tenets must guide our collective efforts to address conflicts and foster lasting peace.

It is high time that a comprehensive solution be found to the conflict based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. The adoption of the draft resolution will lay the ground for such a solution.

Mr. Pary Rodríguez (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your presidency and to offer you the full support of the representation of Bolivia.

We welcome the fact that one of your first initiatives has been to convene this resumed emergency special session to consider and adopt draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which refers to the request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, as well as the illegality of Israel's prolonged occupation of those territories. Bolivia has

co-sponsored the draft resolution and will vote in favour of it, because it reflects the international community's commitment to peace and security in the face of the brutal and continuing suffering of the Palestinian people.

The advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968) is a milestone in the search for international justice and an urgent call on the international community to act more firmly in the face of the genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people. The Court, in its role as a judicial organ of the United Nations, has issued a clear and reasoned opinion establishing that Israel's actions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, constitute a flagrant violation of international law. Bolivia welcomes the opinion and reaffirms its full support for its conclusions, which underline the illegality of the Israeli occupation and the settlements, all contrary to international standards. That declaration not only supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination, but also underlines the responsibility of the international community to ensure compliance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council have been clear in continuously condemning the occupation and demanding the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories occupied since 1967. However, to date those decisions have been ignored by Israel. The occupying Power has openly defied the fundamental principles of international law, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. It is time for the General Assembly and all States to take decisive measures to ensure that Israel complies with its obligations. In that context, Bolivia believes that the General Assembly must take concrete measures to ensure that the conclusions of the Court are respected and applied. Pursuant to international law, all States are obliged to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the Court. Therefore, if Israel considers itself to be a member of the community of nations, it must be forced to respect them.

Regarding the current situation, the immediate cessation of hostilities must remain a priority. According to the latest reports, the genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians has caused the deaths of more than 41,000 people, most of them children and women. The international community must continue to use all means necessary to achieve peace in Gaza and Palestine.

It is unacceptable that Israel should come to the Assembly to discredit our work, calling it a "circus". Such statements are not only an affront to this body, but also show a lack of respect for the international community. The Assembly cannot accept such aggression against the most important forum of humankind.

In conclusion, Bolivia reaffirms that the only path to lasting peace in the region is the creation of a sovereign State of Palestine within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Iravani (Islamic Republic of Iran): As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor in the General Assembly under your presidency, Sir, I am pleased to congratulate you on your election as President of the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and assure you of our full support throughout your tenure.

Based on the debates held at previous meetings and the adoption of three resolutions regarding the question of Palestine at the tenth emergency special session during the past year, the international community has expressed its commitment to addressing the dire humanitarian needs of Palestine and requested an immediate ceasefire in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinians to self-determination and full-fledged membership of the United Nations. As we have witnessed since then, there has been no positive change in

Israel's apartheid policies and actions, resulting in the Palestinians being left with no choice but to resist the massive destructive attacks by Israeli forces and armed settlers against their homeland and people, including their women and children.

We are witnessing impressive resistance of our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the face of the horrific and unfair invasion and bombardment by Israeli forces, backed by a few specific countries, emanating from the apartheid and genocidal policies of Israel's authorities. Now, many freedom-seeking nations have found Palestinian resistance to be an outstanding and admirable effort.

We recall that the International Court of Justice, through its most recent advisory opinion, rendered on 19 July (see A/78/968), underlined that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal and constitutes internationally wrongful acts that entail the full responsibility of the said regime. In that regard, the Court has been unequivocal that the Israeli regime is under an obligation to cease its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and to stop all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory immediately, in addition to evacuating all settlers. Moreover, the regime is required to compensate all natural or legal persons involved in the occupied Palestinian territory for the damage that the occupation has caused.

It is critical to note that the Israeli occupation has been taking place for a long time, which is also the most pertinent issue that the Israeli regime deliberately omits. It is not surprising that the representative of the regime, in a statement delivered at this session (see A/ES-10/PV.53), did not address the illegal occupation, which is the primary focus of this meeting. Their world seems to have begun last year, and the primary and only cause of Palestinian resistance, which is Israel's illegal occupation begun several decades ago, should not be addressed.

In light of our first obligation under the Charter of the United Nations, we must take effective collective measures to remove that long-lasting threat to peace. It is high time for us, as United Nations Members, to fulfil that obligation. The suppression of acts of Israel's aggression and its breach of the peace, as well as an adjustment or settlement to this situation, which is clearly causing a breach of the peace, are essential.

Over the past year, Israeli forces have engaged in a violent act of aggression against the Gaza Strip and other territories under occupation, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 40,000 Palestinian civilians. Amid ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza, the Israeli regime continues its relentless aggression and acts of terrorism against civilians in Lebanon. Just a few hours ago, in a cyberterrorist act, the regime detonated communication devices in Beirut, resulting in the deaths and injury of thousands of peoples, including our ambassador in Beirut. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Lebanon and strongly condemn that act of sabotage and terrorism by the rogue regime of Israel. The Israeli regime must be held accountable for such aggression and heinous crime.

Is there a certain number of women and children who must be killed before the international community decides to intervene and put an end to a war machine that is warmongering and brutal? On the ground, all of the risk factors and definitions set forth in article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide are present, thereby placing a responsibility on every Member State to prevent the crime from ever occurring.

In spite of the fact that the Israeli authorities have committed a wide variety of crimes by occupying Palestinian lands, killing Palestinians and dislocating Palestinian populations, they are enjoying total impunity. It is regrettable that the regime has violated its obligations under the United Nations Charter on numerous occasions. In addition to refusing to accept and carry out the decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice, it also rejects

compliance with international law. It is the policy and practice of the regime to consistently violate the principles outlined in the Charter and relevant conventions and resolutions. In our view, not only should Palestine be admitted as a full Member of the United Nations, but Israel's illegal acts must also trigger the commitment of all United Nations Members to reconsider the membership of that regime in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 6 of the Charter.

I would like to conclude by stating that my delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is before us today, given the urgency of the situation and the importance of terminating the occupation in Palestine and putting an end to Israel's apartheid policies and practices against the Palestinians. It is also necessary to confirm Israel's obligation to let all displaced Palestinians return to their homeland and give them back their land and other immovable property, as well as to make reparations for the damage caused to all persons concerned in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In addition, I want to state that our support for the draft resolution is without prejudice to our long-standing and consistent national position on the question of Palestine, which includes non-recognition of the Israeli regime, as well as the date when the occupation is believed to have begun.

Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): We meet today, within the framework of the resumed tenth emergency special session on the question of Palestine, to adopt draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, the first ever submitted by the State of Palestine in the history of the United Nations, on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, issued on 19 July, on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). Of course, Lebanon is at the forefront of the countries supporting the draft resolution, based on its belief in international law and international institutions, on the one hand, and in support of our Palestinian brothers and their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent and sovereign State, on the other.

The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion of July is historic in more than one respect. It stresses that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip is illegal, and underscores the need to end Israel's occupation and illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territories as soon as possible. Moreover, it emphasizes that settlement activities must end, settlers occupying Palestinian territories must evacuate and compensation to all natural or legal persons in the occupied Palestinian territories for the resultant damages must be provided to them. The Court also referred to the obligation of the States Members of the United Nations in that regard not to recognize the status of Israel's illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Today implementation is of the essence. We can welcome the advisory opinion as we can welcome the draft resolution that we will adopt at this resumed session, but what will we benefit, and what will the Palestinian people benefit, if the advisory opinion and the draft resolution remain unimplemented? Over more than 57 years of this conflict, the General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted hundreds of resolutions on it, but unfortunately Israel has persisted in its intransigence in the face of international law and resolutions and refused to respect, comply with or implement them.

With regard to Lebanon, Israel has also persisted and continues to persist in its continuous aggression against its sovereignty. Since 8 October 2023, the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon has continued, disregarding international resolutions, international law, including international humanitarian law, and the

most basic rules of humanity. The Israeli escalation on the ground is accompanied by verbal escalation and continuous threats against Lebanon and its people, which could put the entire region in the eye of the storm.

The latest chapter of Israeli crimes was the cyberattack that Lebanon was subjected to today, leading in a preliminary toll to the injury of thousands of victims throughout Lebanon and the martyrdom of 11 people, including a child. That dangerous aggression is tantamount to a war crime that may escalate the conflict, hinder the settlement efforts that international mediators are working on and throw the region into a state of panic once again.

A few days ago, leaflets were dropped on southern villages to terrorize the residents and push them to leave their homes and head north, which caused a new wave of displacement, adding to the more than 110,000 persons who have been displaced since the beginning of the aggression. Such practices come on top of a series of other attacks committed by Israel by targeting civilians, journalists and relief workers, destroying civilian infrastructure and using white phosphorus, including in civilian areas.

We reiterate and emphasize that the key to the solution is to stop the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in all its provisions, stop the Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty, territories and people, withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territories, and resolve the points of reservation along the recognized international borders.

We are now a few days away from the launch of the Summit on the Future, which we hope will be a genuine turning point towards a more just world order. While we support the draft pact for the future, and what it states about the need to adhere to the International Court of Justice's decisions and support its jurisdiction, we stress the need for all, including Israel, to respect those obligations. It is not permissible for Israel to continue to consider itself alone above international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. We call on the international community to pressure Israel to comply with international resolutions, including resolution 1701 (2006) in all its provisions, without selectivity.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been dragging on for over seven decades. Generations of Palestinians have lost their homes and been displaced, creating a gaping wound in today's world. Decades of occupation and oppression have inflicted untold suffering on the Palestinian people and made the long-cherished dream of independent statehood ever more elusive.

Ending the occupation is not an option but a legal obligation for Israel. The International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 19 July (see A/78/968), unequivocally concluded that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is a violation of international law that impedes the realization of the Palestinian people's self-determination, and that Israel is under an obligation to immediately put an end to its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Court's advisory opinion affirms the long-standing consensus of the international community and pinpoints the crux of the Palestinian question. We urge Israel to heed the powerful call of the international community by immediately ending its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. Ending the occupation would redress an historical injustice and, more importantly, lay the foundation for peace.

Independent statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people as a nation. It is unquestionable and undeniable. The prolonged illegal occupation has hindered the realization of self-determination of the Palestinian people and given Israel an exclusive veto over Palestine. That is unacceptable. History offers ample proof that occupation will not make Israel more secure, but it will only breed more hatred and antagonism and sow the seeds of instability throughout the Middle East.

Only a complete end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine would make it truly possible for Palestine and Israel to live side by side in peace. If the two peoples are to live together in peace and tranquillity and achieve lasting peace in the Middle East, the implementation of the two-State solution is the only viable way to resolve the question of Palestine, which is the broad consensus of the international community.

Mr. Marschik (Austria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

It is worrisome to hear Israel's repeated rhetoric rejecting the two-State solution. The 11-month conflict in Gaza has made the prospect of the two-State solution even more remote. The international community should make greater efforts and demand that Israel implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, cease its military operations in Gaza and stop its illegal settlement activities in the West Bank. China advocates the convening of a more broad-based and effective international peace conference to revitalize the political prospects of the two-State solution and to work out a timetable and road map for its implementation.

Today is a historic moment. The State of Palestine has taken a seat among Member States and introduced draft resolution A/ES-10/L.3/Rev.1, which focuses on the implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. China will vote in favour of the draft resolution. We hope that it will give new impetus to ending the occupation, implementing the two-State solution and advancing the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr. Philemon Yang on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly and to thank him for responding to the request of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to resume the tenth emergency special session.

The Kingdom of Morocco supports draft resolution A/ES-10/L.30/Rev.1, submitted today, concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 19 July on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). It is the first draft resolution submitted by the State of Palestine in the history of the United Nations, in implementation of resolution ES-10/23, adopted in May, which granted the State of Palestine more rights in the United Nations. The Kingdom of Morocco was one of the first countries to sponsor and support that resolution.

That issue is of ongoing importance to Morocco, Arabs, Muslims and the entire world. It is an important step in the right direction so that the State of Palestine can be granted full membership of the United Nations. It will also contribute to the implementation of the two-State solution, on which there is international consensus.

The Kingdom of Morocco, which presides over the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation under the chairmanship of King Mohammed VI, stresses its historic, firm and established position regarding the just Palestinian question and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, most notably their right to establish an independent State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Over the past year, the Middle East in general and the occupied Palestinian territories in particular have been enduring an unprecedented situation that is dangerously deteriorating day by day. It has led to the deaths and injury of tens of thousands of civilians, most of them women and children, and to the killing of

220 staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. It has also destroyed and damaged civilian facilities, in flagrant violation of international law and humanitarian values.

The Kingdom of Morocco calls once again for a concrete and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. The catastrophic humanitarian situation must be addressed. The Kingdom of Morocco has contributed to efforts to that end since the outbreak of the current crisis by opening a route to deliver medical and food humanitarian aid, in implementation of the instructions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee. The Kingdom of Morocco also stresses the need to protect civilians and humanitarian staff in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law. It is important to release prisoners and captives and create a political horizon for the Palestinian question.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of King Mohammed VI ascension to the throne, His Majesty stated that

“The deterioration of the situation in the region makes it incumbent upon us to move from managing the crisis to finding a definitive solution to the conflict, pursuant to the following criteria. First, achieving an end to the war is an urgent priority, and must be coupled with the opening of a political horizon to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region. Secondly, launching negotiations to revive the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis must entail obstructing extremists on both sides. Thirdly, security and stability in the region will be established only as part of the two-State solution, in which Gaza is an integral part of the territories of the independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its categorical rejection of forced displacement, collective punishment and punitive actions. We call for an end to all unilateral Israeli measures in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The city of Jerusalem must remain a gathering place, a symbol of peaceful coexistence for all followers of the three monotheistic religions and a centre for mutual respect, dialogue and coexistence.

Mr. Al-Fatlawi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate Mr. Yang on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. I wish him success in performing his tasks. The Republic of Iraq stands ready to support every effort to promote cooperation and joint action to address the challenges facing our world today, and we express our gratitude for his response in convening this emergency session.

Iraq aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

Iraq has joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 and will vote in favour of it. We call on all countries to follow suit. The draft resolution before us today is based on an important and historic advisory opinion (see A/78/968) issued by the highest international judicial institution, the International Court of Justice, whose decisions we view with the greatest respect as a fundamental pillar for achieving the principle of the rule of law in the world. The advisory opinion compels the Israeli occupation authority, pursuant to international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories and restore the usurped rights of the Palestinian people. It calls on the international community and the United Nations, with all its institutions and organs, to play its true role under the Charter and all related conventions and resolutions to protect human life, preserve human dignity and maintain international peace and security.

Iraq welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which was issued at the request of the General Assembly, and calls for following up on its implementation in accordance with the advisory opinion, which was issued following a pragmatic study and discussion to chart the way forward to end more than seven decades of Israel's illegal and inhumane occupation of the Palestinian territories and to halt the flagrant and serious violations against the Palestinian people resulting from brutal measures and actions that have changed the demographic and geographic makeup of a people who have been robbed of all the most basic conditions for a decent life. The advisory opinion unequivocally clarifies that the Israeli occupation has violated and continues to violate international law in several areas, including but not limited to the use of threats and force, the seizure of land and property, forcible displacement, the establishment of settlements and, lastly, the deprivation of the Palestinian people of the right to self-determination.

Impunity and wilful disregard for the crimes of the Israeli occupation authority has enabled it to violate the rules of international law and ignore international legitimacy by expanding its colonies in the Palestinian territories, continuing to kill Palestinian civilians regardless of their gender, age and location, and carrying out arbitrary arrests, torture and summary executions. International human rights organizations continue to document gross violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The international community must assume its legal and moral responsibility and exert effective pressure on Israel to stop the massacres and genocide against the Palestinian people and implement the United Nations resolutions related to ending the occupation and aggression. Accordingly, real and sustainable solutions must be found to restore the rights of the Palestinian people to their land, to return to their homes and to recover the lands and properties that the occupation has criminally confiscated. All Palestinians displaced during the occupation must be able to return to their original places of residence and to exercise their long-awaited right to self-determination.

Iraq condemns the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people and demands their immediate and unconditional cessation. Iraq supports efforts to end the suffering of the Palestinian people. The ongoing Israeli violations, committed with impunity, undermine respect for international law and its institutions, which encourages other violations around the world and weakens confidence in the world order.

In conclusion, I note that Iraq, like the rest of the countries of the world, has previously warned that the continuation of the Israeli aggression and the international community's disregard for the violations against the Palestinians reflect the fact that the conflict, if not addressed in a just and comprehensive manner, will have serious repercussions on regional and international peace and security. Ignoring the rights of the Palestinians and violating international resolutions generates feelings of frustration and anger that could lead to increased tension and violence, not only in the Palestinian territories but throughout the entire region.

Iraq once again reiterates its firm and principled position in support of the just Palestinian question in all international forums, based on its belief in the legitimacy of the Palestinian question and in accordance with Iraqi national tenets. We support the Palestinian people's decisions towards achieving their aspirations and enjoying their inalienable rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State on their own land, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Iraq supports the State of Palestine obtaining full membership of the United Nations and its recognition.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Almost a year has passed since the beginning of the current escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. As a result of the Israeli military operation, almost 42,000 Palestinians have been

killed and nearly 100,000 wounded. The conflict, unprecedented in recent decades, continues to take the lives of thousands of children, women, humanitarian workers and United Nations staff. Nothing can serve as a justification for such collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

The destruction of Palestinians and the transformation of their residential areas into uninhabitable zones have become the main goal of the current Israeli leadership after the Hamas action that took place almost a year ago, which we all condemned. At the same time, as the Secretary-General rightly noted at the time, that absolutely unacceptable outbreak of violence, accompanied by the taking of a large number of hostages, did not occur in a vacuum. It must be considered in the context of Israel's long-standing actions violating the Security Council's decisions on the creation of two States, Palestinian and Israeli, living in peace and security. Israel has illegally occupied Palestinian territory for many years, building illegal settlements and violating the basic rights of Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In that regard, we support draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is under consideration today, and are ready to implement its provisions in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the mandates of the main organs of the world Organization and our country's international legal obligations. The draft is based on the findings of the International Court of Justice, set out in its advisory opinion of 19 July (see A/78/968). The opinion itself, although not legally binding in nature, contains a number of important findings regarding international legal obligations. The Court has clearly indicated that Israel's actions in the occupied Palestinian territory violate the fundamental principles of international law, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination.

The importance of the right of peoples to self-determination is difficult to overestimate. Its denial can lead to grave consequences and protracted crises. The international community has consistently supported the Palestinian people in realizing that right through the creation of an independent Palestinian State, as reflected in the documents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice. The exercise of that right under the Israeli occupation is impossible, which means that the occupation, recognized by the Court as illegal, must end. We support the corresponding call in the draft resolution under consideration today.

The Court has spoken exhaustively on the topic of Israel's activities to expand settlements. It is recognized as contrary to international law and as creating significant obstacles to the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. Russia joins the call of the International Court of Justice, reproduced in the draft resolution under consideration, on the need to immediately stop Israel's illegal actions, including the ongoing annexation and demographic changes in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Russian Federation has always defended its principled positions in support of the rights of the Palestinian people. We are convinced that a fair and lasting solution can be achieved only by ending the occupation and realizing the right of the Palestinians to establish their own independent State within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The international community is obliged not only not to recognize Israel's illegal actions, but also to take specific measures to ensure compliance with international law. All States Members of the United Nations must pursue their efforts to create conditions for the resumption of negotiations, which must be aimed at a definitive solution based on the principles of justice, security and peaceful coexistence of the two States.

In that regard, one cannot fail to note the destructive role of the United States, which, in the role of self-styled sole peacekeeping authority, has undermined all previous achievements of the international community on the track of the Palestinian-Israeli settlement. Now, Washington is actually directly supporting West Jerusalem

in pursuing a so-called facts-on-the-ground policy, the central element of which is settlement activity in the occupied territory that violates international law. American support allows Israel to avoid any consequences for the crimes committed in Gaza and the West Bank and not to worry about the reaction of the Security Council, because a document that is unfavourable to Israel will always be vetoed by Washington. Let me recall that, in the context of the current round of Palestinian-Israeli escalation, Washington has already used its veto power five times.

Security Council resolution 2735 (2024), adopted at the initiative of the Americans, was initially based on the false assertion that Israel allegedly had agreed to the so-called Biden plan. Taking into account the ever-new demands of the Israeli side for control over the Philadelphi Corridor and Netzarim line, which was not initially discussed, the Council was not just sold another pig in a poke, but also put another pig in that poke, replacing the modalities of the agreed parameters of the deal. At the same time, Washington is trying to convince the entire international community of the need to put pressure exclusively on Hamas, stubbornly ignoring the unambiguous position of the Israeli Cabinet in favour of continuing an uncompromising war without regard for the international community or the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

At the same time, the Americans, together with their NATO allies, continue to supply Israel with weapons, including aerial bombs, knowing full well that they will be used to attack civilians and facilities in Gaza. They did not stop sending those supplies even when the International Court of Justice found plausible signs of genocide in the situation in Gaza, which raises the question of compliance with the obligations under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide not only by Israel, but also by the countries of the collective West. Such connivance at lawlessness is unacceptable. We all need to put an end to the crimes against the Palestinians, in which the United States is complicit.

Russia reaffirms its commitment to peace in the Middle East and is ready to facilitate the advancement of all good-faith diplomatic efforts genuinely aimed at resolving the protracted conflict. However, in order to open the way to a long-term peaceful settlement, it will first be necessary to put an end to Israel's long-standing and serious violations of international legal obligations, as noted in the Court's advisory opinion.

We expect that the Secretary-General will keep the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory in the focus of his attention and provide the General Assembly with objective and substantive reports on the implementation of the draft resolution to be adopted today. We also hope that the Security Council, which has effectively become a hostage to the United States and its Israeli allies, will be able to fulfil its role in maintaining international peace and security. The Council has all the necessary tools to that end. Let us together send Washington a powerful signal that it, together with its accomplices, is on the wrong side of history. The upcoming vote on the draft resolution submitted by Palestine is an important step in the right direction.

Ms. Rodrigues-Birkett (Guyana): I thank the President for his swift response in reconvening the tenth emergency special session to deliberate on this matter of critical importance.

Indeed, Israel's systematic, decades-long violation of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and of all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the subject deserves an urgent level of consideration given the nature and scope of the occupier's crimes. Guyana therefore welcomes the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice at the request of the General Assembly (see A/78/968). We have a solemn legal and moral responsibility to ensure its full implementation, both in letter and spirit. Having examined draft resolution

A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, submitted for adoption at this resumed session, Guyana believes that it responds adequately to that obligation, and we urge all delegations that subscribe to peace, justice and the rule of law to give it their unqualified support.

The Palestinian question has been before the General Assembly from the organ's very inception, but the records will show that it is not for lack of sound proposals that the question remains unresolved. On the contrary, it is due solely to the lack of political will in the right places. In fact, it was the General Assembly that crafted the two-State solution in 1947. One State, Israel, hastened to establish itself as a State and a Member of the United Nations, while simultaneously commencing a decades-long campaign of violence meant to subjugate and annihilate the Palestinian people, denying them their right to statehood.

An especially dangerous characteristic of that campaign of violence, which continues to this very day, is the Israeli settler policy by which the occupying Power continues to incrementally grab swathes of Palestinian territory, empowering its citizens to establish themselves on Palestinian land. The injustice represented by Israeli settlement policy and the indignities that accompany its execution have engendered many resolutions in the Assembly, as well as the landmark Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). Notwithstanding, our decisions and mandates have been scorned by Israel and the impact has been the same as throwing water on a duck's back. While there have been many tests of the legitimacy of the United Nations, the Palestinian question is rightfully a thorn in our side, as we have managed to resolve many other global situations but not this one — yet. That is notwithstanding the support of the great majority of States to do so.

Why does peace for Palestine appear to be so elusive? The answer is that we are up against a deep-rooted ideology older than the United Nations itself, but one which has no place in the present day. There is no place for the concept of superiority of race, religion or people. There is no place for the *carte blanche* destruction of a people simply because the aggressor claims their land as its own. And in pious hypocrisy of the kind that facilitates the killing of innocent people, some proclaim the virtues of the United Nations while cradling one who tramples with unbridled disdain on everything that the Organization stands for.

The only effective response to those actions is appropriate consequences. That will necessitate the active cooperation of the Security Council as the organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security that acts on behalf of the entire United Nations membership. Guyana appeals to all fellow Council members to live up to their responsibility to bring the Palestinian question to a just close.

We are at a critical moment in the history of Israeli/Palestinian relations with the nearly year-long war ongoing in Gaza. The decisions we take now, or do not take now, will reverberate for years to come. Guyana is concerned that if we do not take the right decisions now, it may mean many more cycles of violence and oppression visited on the Palestinian people, and the entire Middle East region bogged down in the throes of war for generations to come. The draft resolution before us offers a clear pathway to avoid that, and it stands solidly on the rule of law. Israel must end its occupation of all Palestinian territory that it has illegally inhabited since 1967. It must end all illegal policies and practices that it is instituting to the detriment of Palestinians. It must return all Palestinian land, assets and property seized from Palestinians and Palestinian institutions since 1967. It must stop standing in the way of the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination by the Palestinian people.

As we did for South Africa, we must do for Palestine and bring to a swift end the brutal occupation and suffering of the Palestinian people. We have a responsibility to rescue the two-State solution. We can no longer just extol its virtues but not take

active steps to make it a reality. Guyana is fully prepared to do its part, and that is why we will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

Mr. França Danese (Brazil): As we convene today to discuss an issue of utmost importance, my delegation has two questions. How will the Assembly respond to the International Court of Justice's groundbreaking acknowledgment that Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and must end as rapidly as possible? What are we going to make of the Court's deference to the Assembly's authority to establish the modalities and further action necessary to end the occupation?

We can no longer pretend that Israel's breaches of international law and international humanitarian law are acceptable. Overlooking them would only serve injustice — against Palestinians, for sure, but also against many Israelis who want to live in peace. We cannot use the claim of ignorance as a subterfuge to evade our responsibilities. That would amount to indifference in the face of serious breaches of international law.

The Court has made our responsibilities clear. Those include changing the way we deal with actors benefitting from the illegal practices of the occupying Power in Palestine. It made clear, for example, the duties of non-recognition of and not providing assistance to the maintenance of illegal situations. The International Court of Justice has acknowledged the important role of the General Assembly in this matter. The Assembly owes to Palestinians the setting of a realistic framework, mechanisms and processes that will enable Member States to follow through with international law, including Israel's duty to withdraw from occupied Palestine. And the General Assembly owes to the international community guidance and support on the implementation of our respective duties so as to ensure successful results through collective action.

We can no longer treat the Palestinian people as if their right to self-determination depended on Israel's permission. We can no longer delay the realization of that right or the pursuance of consequences for violations. Israel's security needs cannot require stripping Palestine of its sovereignty and independence. A sense that international law will never be enforced has created successive waves of disillusionment and suffering for generations of Palestinians. To change the situation and respond to the Court's advisory opinion (see A/78/968), we must act decisively with the political and legal tools at our disposal in order to enable a return to legality in the whole of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Implementation and follow-up actions, we hope, should not be confrontational. We can really create an unprecedented momentum for compliance with the law by all parties, as well as dialogue between Israel and Palestine, for example, in the context of the conference requested in the Palestinian draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1. And while negotiations, strictly speaking, may no longer be a condition for ending occupation — which must happen regardless — they remain necessary to comprehensively settle other aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and lay the foundations for mutual respect and peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis in two States, living side by side in security within the borders of 1967.

Brazil will therefore vote in favour of and is co-sponsoring the draft resolution submitted by the State of Palestine, as we understand that it provides for modalities and actions that will bring us closer to that goal and to the ultimate goal of peace in the whole of the Middle East.

Mr. Al-Dobhany (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I thank President Yang for convening this resumed emergency special session of the General Assembly and congratulate him on his election to preside over the seventy-ninth session.

My country's delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

The State of Palestine has submitted draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is aimed at following up on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Palestinian territories occupied since 5 June 1967 (see A/78/968). The Court's opinion represents a historic victory for justice, human values, international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy. It embodies the Palestinian people's deserved aspirations for the State of Palestine to gain full membership of the United Nations following decades of injustice and oppression by Israel, the occupying Power, including the deprivation of their most basic rights for more than 75 years of occupation and their right to self-determination and independence. This historic advisory opinion has legal implications that oblige Israel to end its occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories, cease all illegal settlement activities and unconditionally and immediately evacuate all settlers from the occupied territories.

History will record the honourable positions of the General Assembly and the resolutions it has adopted at the tenth emergency special session after the Security Council failed to assume its responsibilities towards the massacres that have been committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank since last October, which have so far claimed the lives of nearly 50,000 people, most of them children and women, and wounded 100,000 — an unprecedented event that the world has not witnessed since the Second World War. The Assembly is credited with adopting resolution ES-10/23, requesting the Security Council to reconsider granting full membership to the State of Palestine in the United Nations, while granting it some privileges in the General Assembly, including placing Palestine's seat in the alphabetical order of members of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly also adopted resolution 77/247, requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the practices and policies of the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Court's historic opinion was issued on 19 July, which necessitated the reconvening of this emergency special session to adopt draft resolution A/ES-10/L.3/Rev.1, submitted with the aim of taking the necessary measures to follow up on the implementation of the legal opinion.

We call on all Member States that love peace and justice and adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the equal rights of all peoples to live in freedom, dignity and independence to vote in favour of the draft resolution and in favour of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and the declaration of their independent sovereign State on the lands of 5 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, so that we can send a unified and clear message to the world that there is no longer any place among us for occupation and that it is no longer acceptable in the twenty-first century for massacres and genocide to be committed against innocent Palestinian women and children in full view of the civilized world and around the clock in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for more than 75 years, without the perpetrators being punished, held accountable and brought to justice.

It is morally, humanly and legally unacceptable for the Israeli occupation State to continue to commit brutal crimes and daily massacres against Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, most of them children and women, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, human rights law and all international norms and covenants, and to prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid and the forced displacement of Palestinians from their land and homeland, which has led to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, because Israel, the occupying Power,

believes that it is above the law and that the international community, especially the Security Council, is unable to stop its war crimes and brutal violations against the Palestinian people or to hold it accountable for those crimes. The pursuit of that aggressive war gives the forces of evil in the region a justification to escalate and move their pawns to destabilize the security and stability of the region and the world and take the region and its peoples towards the unknown.

We reiterate our rejection of the policy of bias, concealing the plans of the Israeli occupation authorities and providing protection for them at the expense of the lives of more than 150,000 martyrs and wounded, mainly women and children who have fallen in Gaza within nearly a year. We also reject the double standards that are prolonging the conflict in the light of the abject failure to implement the relevant resolutions for 75 years. We again demand the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023) and 2728 (2024).

To conclude, we reaffirm that we will continue to spare no effort to pressure the Israeli entity until a permanent and immediate ceasefire is achieved, all humanitarian aid is allowed into the Gaza Strip without hindrance, the policy of forced displacement against the Palestinian people is stopped, international protection is provided to the Palestinians in all the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel is held accountable for all its crimes against the Palestinians, a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab peace initiative, and the Security Council assumes its mandated responsibilities.

Ms. Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico is participating in this resumed emergency special session convinced that we are facing a situation of extreme crisis that continues to deteriorate constantly, with devastating effects on international peace and security.

We condemn and regret the escalation of violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israel on 7 October last year. Today we are deeply concerned about the indiscriminate and extreme attacks to which the Palestinian civilian population and humanitarian organizations have repeatedly been subjected by the Israeli Defense Forces. Those acts are contrary to the principles of the Organization, international law and international humanitarian law.

Mexico's position is clear. Mexico favours a comprehensive and definitive solution to the conflict, under the premise of two States, that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns within the parameters established by international law, mainly that of proportionality, and allows the consolidation of a politically and economically viable Palestinian State, coexisting within secure and internationally recognized borders in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In the current situation, the two-State formula is more relevant than ever.

Mr. Da Cruz (Angola), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Given the worrisome deterioration of the situation in Palestine, international law remains the prevailing instrument by which States can and are required to exercise restraint in order to limit the effects of hostilities and seek a way to resolve their disputes. Today we reaffirm the peremptory nature of international law in the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. To achieve that end, it is necessary to recognize the findings and make operational the operative points of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territory (see A/78/968).

We carefully note that the highest court of the United Nations has established the obligation of Israel, as an occupying Power, to put an end as soon as possible to its continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territories, while calling on Member

States and international organizations not to recognize Israel's presence as lawful. All States have a legal interest in the protection of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and in the obligation arising from the prohibition of the use of force in the acquisition of territory, as indicated by the Court.

The serious humanitarian situation that we are seeing every day in Gaza and the prevailing situation in the rest of the occupied territories morally compels us to join the efforts of the international community to give useful effect to the advisory opinion. However, we must also point out that in order to put an end to the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories, it is essential to resume the peace process through a good-faith, constructive and honest dialogue among all the parties concerned. We recognize Israel's legitimate interest in the security of its borders, but we condemn any acquisition of territory by force. We call on Hamas to release all hostages and demand a definitive ceasefire in Gaza.

Mexico recognizes the great value of the Court's advisory jurisdiction in contributing to the peaceful resolution of disputes and that it has an enormous preventive role in elucidating the content of the law, thereby providing eminent support to the international community as a whole. My country urges the international community to act with a sense of urgency, ambition and unity to guarantee firm steps towards the construction of a lasting peace in the region. We reaffirm our commitment to the imperative values of peace, justice, international law, cooperation and human dignity.

Mr. Luemba (Angola): Let me start by warmly congratulating Mr. Yang on his election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and assuring him of our full support during his tenure.

Angola aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

The convening of this emergency special session provides a unique opportunity to consider the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/78/968).

We welcome the historic advisory opinion, rendered on 19 July, which states that "the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, which requested this opinion, and the Security Council, should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

Angola urges Member States to respect the legal obligations under the advisory opinion. Our position is based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which mandates the Organization and its Member States to maintain international peace and security, uphold international law and collaborate in resolving international problems and improving respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The resumption of this emergency special session takes place in a challenging and complex global context due to the degradation of the security situation in the Middle East since the attack on 7 October 2023, which threatens to spill over and turn into a regional conflict, with unpredictable consequences and dangerous implications for international peace and security.

While we recognize Israel's right to defend itself and protect its citizens, its disproportionate military actions under way in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in Gaza and West Bank, resulting in the killing of civilians, forced

displacement and the destruction of vital infrastructure, are politically and morally unacceptable. They constitute a grave violation of human rights, international law and international humanitarian law, as well as a flagrant defiance of the United Nations Charter and Security Council resolutions. The United Nations, the Security Council in particular, must take concrete steps to implement its own resolutions by creating the independent sovereign State of Palestine.

For His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola,

“the only way to put a definitive end to this long-standing and very violent conflict is by placing the two peoples, Jewish and Palestinian, and the State of Israel and the State of Palestine living side by side in peace and harmony and cooperating in a normal way, as is supposed to happen between neighbouring countries that share common borders”.

In that context, it is important that we support draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, before us today, which calls for the General Assembly during the seventy-ninth session to convene an international conference under the auspices of the Assembly for the implementation of the United Nations resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine and the two-State solution for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Ms. Kalkku (Finland): The General Assembly has come together to take action on draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is fundamentally about international law. It follows the advisory opinion (see A/78/968) of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and the most authoritative interpreter of international law. Independent and impartial international courts are central to upholding the rule of law worldwide.

More specifically, the advisory opinion centres around one of the most fundamental rules underpinning the Charter of the United Nations — the prohibition of the acquisition of territory through the use of force. That prohibition is essential to international peace and security. Given our national history, it holds a special importance for Finland.

Another powerful promise of the Charter of the United Nations is the right to self-determination. The Palestinian people have had to wait for the realization of that right for far too long. We as the international community must bear our responsibility in assisting the parties to end the conflict as soon as possible and set up a credible process towards a negotiated two-State solution. Finland views the deadline set in the draft resolution as an incentive towards such a process. If ever, now is the time.

Israel has the right to exist and live in peace and security within internationally recognized and secure borders. There is no justification for terrorism. Finland reiterates its strongest condemnation of the brutal attack committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups last October. We continue to call for a ceasefire and the immediate release of the hostages remaining in Gaza. Again, we call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law.

The draft resolution at hand today, however, is not about the tragedy that has unfolded over the past 11 months. Nor is the draft resolution before us perfect. There is always room for improvement. With additional time for consultations, some concerns could have been further alleviated. However, the draft resolution, and the advisory opinion it seeks to give effect to, are about fundamental rules at the very heart of the United Nations Charter. The draft resolution is about respecting international law. It is about respecting the advisory opinion of the principal judicial body of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice.

For those reasons, Finland will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. Dang (Viet Nam): I wish to thank President Yang for reconvening this emergency special session.

It is Viet Nam's consistent view that all solutions related to the Middle East peace process must be in compliance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Viet Nam steadfastly supports all international efforts and those of the Palestinian people towards achieving the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Viet Nam reiterates its respect and support for the work of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial body of the United Nations, and its role in providing advisory opinions on complex legal matters. From that standpoint, Viet Nam welcomes the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/78/968), as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 77/247, reaffirming the Court's consistent stance on the matter and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The situations in many parts of the Middle East, including Palestine, have worsened, with tensions and hostilities continuing to escalate. Viet Nam strongly condemns all acts of aggression and the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any State, as well as indiscriminate violence targeting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure. We call on all parties to exercise utmost restraint, avoid actions that could lead to an escalation of tensions, and create conditions conducive to dialogue and international efforts towards a peaceful and sustainable solution for the Palestine question.

We renew our call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and violence, the unconditional release of all hostages and necessary measures to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties concerned need to strictly abide by Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), halt the expansion of settlement infrastructure and stop the demolition of houses and the eviction of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

On this occasion, Viet Nam reiterates its steadfast support for the Palestinian people in their pursuit of justice and recognition of their inalienable rights. We stand with the Palestinians in their legitimate struggle for self-determination, freedom, the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine and full membership of the United Nations.

Mr. Ladeb (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate the President of the General Assembly and, through him, the Republic of Cameroon on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. I wish him success and thank him for convening this resumed emergency special session.

I also congratulate the brotherly delegation of Palestine on exercising, starting with this seventy-ninth session, a number of additional rights, including the rights to be seated in alphabetical order and to submit draft resolutions. We reiterate our hope that the State of Palestine will be granted full membership of the United Nations, as that is an inalienable part of the legitimate right of Palestinians to self-determination and as the State of Palestine fulfils all the membership criteria pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations.

Tunisia welcomes again the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July (see A/78/968). We call on the international community to assume its responsibility in determining the mechanisms required to implement the provisions of the advisory opinion. We also reiterate our call on the international community and the Security Council to act immediately, effectively and responsibly to put an end to the war crimes and genocide being committed against the Palestinian

people in full view of the world, to hold the occupation authorities responsible for the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories, and to hold the occupation authorities accountable for all their crimes and violations of the rights of the Palestinian people over more than seven decades of occupation,

The silence of the international community on the crimes of the occupation authorities and their disregard for international law, international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions has emboldened the authorities to pursue their hostile practices. Those have reached unprecedented levels and led to a genocidal war launched against Gaza, resulting in more than 145,000 martyrs and injured people, most of them women and children. The hostile practices have also led to the displacement of over 2 million Palestinians and completely destroyed basic infrastructure, prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid and used starvation as a tactic of war and abuse.

Those crimes persist despite all the resolutions adopted, and that is completely unacceptable. We need a resolute, firm and responsible international stance that restores trust in the United Nations and international institutions. In that context, we stress once again that the resolutions of international legitimacy, including those of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice are adopted to be implemented and complied with by all, without exception, free of double standards and political considerations, in order to uphold the principles of right, justice, human rights, international law and the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. That should put an end to crimes, violations, humanitarian tragedies and all forms of collective punishment and injustice perpetrated by the Israeli authorities against the brotherly Palestinian people.

In conclusion, Tunisia reiterates its principled and firm support for the right of the Palestinian people to regain its legitimate, inalienable and imprescriptible rights, chief among them the rights to self-determination and to establish an independent State with full sovereignty over the entirety of Palestinian land, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. Song Kim (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The ongoing crisis in the Middle East has once again awakened the international community to the fact that the Palestinian issue is the most pressing task to be addressed without further delay. More than 11 months have passed since Israel began waging genocide against the Palestinian people, in disregard of the aspiration of humankind to peace, stability and sovereign equality. Today the occupied Palestinian territory has literally turned into a living hell due to the indiscriminate genocidal onslaught of Israel on innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children.

We condemn in the strongest terms Israel's acts of mass slaughter and destruction in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and beyond, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. We strongly urge Israel to end once and for all its barbaric acts of genocide, settlement activities and displacement, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. It is high time that the international community took collective action towards ensuring accountability, bringing an end to all of Israel's violations and crimes against the Palestinian people and a complete and rapid end to its illegal occupation, and finally enabling the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and independence.

The current situation in the Middle East is being increasingly exacerbated owing to the double standards and one-sided policy in favour of Israel on the part of the United States and the West. In particular, the United States has consistently obstructed a flicker of hope for preventing the deteriorating situation and finally addressing the Palestinian issue by unilaterally using vetoes against the Security

Council resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire and the admission of the State of Palestine as a full-fledged Member State. Worse still, the United States has provided Israel with a huge arsenal of weapons and equipment under the pretext of Israel's self-defence and connived at Israel's genocidal attacks, thereby adding fuel to the aggravated situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and the rest of the region. The reality clearly shows that the double standard policy of the United States and the West is driving the already dangerous international political and military situation into a greater disaster, and that global peace and stability can never be achieved unless high-handedness, arbitrary practices and double standards are terminated.

In conclusion, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains committed to support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to terminate Israel's illegal occupation of territory and to regain their national rights by establishing an independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We also stand by the Arab people in their just cause for a fair solution of the Middle East issue. From this standpoint, we have co-sponsored the draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1) and reiterate our call for supporting it.

Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to express our congratulations and satisfaction that a sister African country has assumed the important and worthy leadership of the General Assembly. President Yang can count on the full support of my delegation.

Nicaragua associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

Nicaragua appreciates the resumption of the emergency special session on Palestine for the first time at the seventy-ninth session; considering current events, it will not be the last. Our gratitude also goes to the State of Palestine for submitting the important draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which Nicaragua has supported and co-sponsored from the first moment of its presentation. We are moved by the fact that, despite the darkness and gloom endured by the Palestinian people over all these decades, history is being made in our General Assembly with a draft resolution submitted by the State of Palestine and sponsored by more than 47 Member States.

The catastrophe imposed on the brotherly Palestinian people seems to have no end. In addition to the more than 70 years of colonial occupation, the Palestinian people have for months suffered incessant horrors perpetrated by Israel, which pursues its inhuman aggression, genocide and serious war crimes as it seeks to exterminate the Palestinian people in its historic and legitimate territories, which have been occupied for many decades, and endangers regional and international security and peace. Today marks 346 days of bombings, famine, disease, dispossession, genocide and extermination, with more than 41,200 deaths, most of them — as everyone here is aware — children and women, while 85 per cent of the total population in Gaza has been displaced.

Nicaragua, like the international community as a whole, hopes that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968) will lay the foundations for the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, freedom and independence. The United Nations, due to its historic decisions on that matter, has a permanent and ineluctable responsibility until the question of Palestine is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with international legitimacy.

The International Court of Justice, the highest judicial body of the United Nations, has confirmed in its advisory opinion that the presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and that it therefore has the obligation to end its presence in the occupied Palestinian territory as soon as possible. All

States, the United Nations and regional organizations have the obligation to recognize, implement and respect the advisory opinion of the Court and must not provide aid or assistance to maintain the situation created by the State of Israel and its sponsors. Our General Assembly mandated the advisory opinion; it is therefore our responsibility to take all measures necessary to end the illegal occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The main judicial organ of the Organization was emphatic in stating that the State of Israel has committed and continues to commit violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian population and has the obligation to remediate that internationally illegal act, as well as all other violations of international law that it has perpetrated and continues to perpetrate against the Palestinian people.

Nicaragua has experienced first-hand the attacks of neocolonialism and imperialism, and it has also seen how the international judicial system responded to the just cause of our small nation. That is one of the reasons why Nicaragua believes that the opinion of the International Court should be translated into effective actions. With respect to Palestine, the Assembly must respond to that call in the fulfilment of its functions in a forceful and unwavering manner, with the aim of guaranteeing respect for the authoritative legal determinations adopted by the Court in order to quickly put an end to this illegal and catastrophic situation and achieve justice, peace and long-overdue security.

Nicaragua advocates respect for the rule of law within the framework of international law and, together with the international community, expects Israel to comply with all its international obligations. In demanding an immediate ceasefire, Nicaragua reiterates its historic and permanent solidarity with the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to self-determination and to the establishment of the State of Palestine within the 1967 borders and with its capital in East Jerusalem. The peoples of the world are with Palestine and for its freedom. We believe Palestine will win. Palestine will be free.

Mr. Al Rubkhi (Oman) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr. Yang on his election to preside over the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. We wish him every success in his noble tasks.

The Sultanate of Oman believes that implementing international law is the basic pillar of the maintenance of international peace and security. That is why the Sultanate of Oman values the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). The advisory opinion reflects the commitment of the international community to justice and the rule of law and calls on Israel to end its illegal presence in those territories, to halt its illegal settlement activities and to make reparations to the Palestinian people for the damage caused by those policies.

The Sultanate of Oman believes that dialogue and multilateralism are the only way to address disputes and resolve crises. Consequently, we underscore that the rendering of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice is an important step in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy. The international community bears the collective responsibility to ensure the implementation of the advisory opinion, to end the occupation and to achieve a comprehensive and just solution, leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State within the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Sultanate of Oman expresses its grave concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the continued siege and military operations. We call for the immediate lifting of the siege and facilitating the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid. We stress the importance of international efforts

to ensure reconstruction and a decent life for Palestinians in Gaza. A sustainable solution can be achieved only by addressing the humanitarian situation in parallel with political efforts to reach a sustainable and comprehensive peace.

The Sultanate of Oman supports international legitimacy. It is important to implement the recommendations contained in the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion. We call on all Member States to support draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, before us today, which is aimed at strengthening justice and peace. That support is not only a legal obligation; it is a moral responsibility to protect the rights of peoples and enable them to determine their own fate.

In conclusion, the Sultanate of Oman stresses its principled and firm stance in support of the Palestinian question and the Palestinian people in achieving their legitimate aspirations. We believe that justice, equality and respect for the rule of law are the bases through which we can achieve sustainable peace. We call on all to seize this opportunity to achieve that common goal for a better future in the region and the entire world.

Mr. Shoman (Belize): Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 seeks to do what should have been done long ago — end Israel's unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. The International Court of Justice has reminded us that it is for the General Assembly and the Security Council to deal with the precise modalities to do that. The draft resolution before us represents the minimum required to fulfil our obligation, and it cannot prejudice the other rights of the Palestinians, especially the right of return of all refugees since the Nakba of 1948.

The international community continues to fail the Palestinian people because we refuse to face the reality that the Palestinians are suffering the effects of a settler colonialism that has been ongoing for 76 years, since European settlers used terrorist means to displace the indigenous population of Palestine from their land. The critical issue in that respect is the denial of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which the Court lamented 20 years ago in its opinion concerning the separation wall (see A/ES-10/273).

What they are suffering now is a direct result of that denial. The Court has now declared the Palestinians' right to self-determination to be peremptory, one from which no derogation is permitted. That peremptory right was also the foundation of the Court's finding that Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and must be brought to an end as rapidly as possible. The President of the International Court of Justice has also declared that

“this withdrawal cannot be conditional on the success of negotiations whose outcome will depend on Israel's approval. [...] Otherwise, the cessation of violations of international law, including violations of peremptory norms (*jus cogens*), would be subject to the veto of the perpetrator of those violations”.

But in anticipation of the Court's opinion and since its delivery, Israel has only entrenched its hold on the Palestinian people and territory and accelerated its annexation policies. On 17 July, just two days before the advisory opinion was delivered, the Israeli Knesset adopted a resolution — the first of its kind — rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian State entirely. The next day, Israel assumed authority in Area B of the West Bank, and since then it has continued to approve new settlements and expanded its genocidal war in Gaza into the West Bank. Let us please stop this before many more Palestinians are slaughtered.

Israel has brazenly continued its never-ending incremental appropriation of much of the fifth of Palestinian land which was turned into an alphabet soup by the Oslo accords, with Area C totally controlled by Israel and accounting for almost 60 per cent of the occupied Palestinian territory. The ability to vastly increase the number of

its colonists, called settlers, on the land supposedly reserved for the Palestinian State has been made possible by two things: the use of force and terror against the native population, and the unreserved support given to Israel by certain States, which have continued to mouth opposition to the settlements while allowing them to proliferate. It should now be clear to all what the Israeli State has proclaimed in word and action all along — that the intention is not to give up that land but to gradually appropriate it, to have a never-ending occupation that becomes in practice total annexation and thus an evisceration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

If we agree that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination, as the Assembly has reaffirmed for decades, then they have a right to struggle for that right, including the right to armed struggle against the authorities that oppress them — the State of Israel. Resolution 45/130 of 1990,

“Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, *apartheid* and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle.” (*resolution 45/130, para. 2*)

We can no longer allow Israel’s supposed security interests to be a trump card to disguise its brutal repression and oppression of the Palestinian people. That has led to unjustified uses of disproportionate and lethal force against Palestinians, throwing a million Palestinians, including children, into prisons without a fair or any trial, where they are routinely tortured and terrorized. Israel has carried out more house demolitions and more appropriation of land and resources, depriving Palestinians even of access to water. Israel has fragmented the strip of land that Palestinians were allowed to cluster in, deliberately establishing separate systems and separate treatment for each of the territories that cut Palestinians off from their communities, schools and medical facilities. In addition, Gaza, an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory, has been under total siege, in clear violation of international law. Even before the present war, Gaza was routinely referred to as an open-air prison and indeed, a concentration camp, with all that that implies. Now it is a killing field.

And yet every peaceful Palestinian effort to end the oppression and to assert the right to self-determination through diplomacy, peaceful protest or organized boycotts and divestment has been met with repression or rejection, not only by Israel but by powerful supporters of Israel. Israel has consequently not been modest about proclaiming its intention to finish the job by annexing all the Palestinian territory. It did so blatantly in our faces last September, when its Prime Minister stood at this very rostrum (see A/78/PV.10) and held up a map of the new Middle East, with all the occupied Palestinian territory entirely absorbed into Israel, giving us notice that the occupation and the colonialism would never end — a declaration of extermination to all Palestinians. Only people supremely confident in the fact that absolutely nothing will be done to prevent their atrocities would so openly flaunt their intention right here — right before our eyes.

And now we have the advisory opinion (see A/78/968) we asked for from the International Court of Justice, and it tells us that there is an illegal occupation, that there is an apartheid system and that there is systematic and discriminatory oppression. The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has spoken. Will we listen? Importantly, it has agreed with what Palestinians and many human rights groups have been saying for years — that the abhorrent system of racial discrimination also known as apartheid is being imposed in Palestine. I do not have to explain to the Assembly how odious that system is. The only country ever suspended from the Organization was South Africa, because of apartheid. And there we did not even have the benefit of the United Nations Court certifying that abominable crime.

We need to take that seriously. We need to take immediate action to let the world know, let Israel know, that we will not allow so monstrous an evil to tarnish our humanity and that we will do all in our power to eradicate it. That is, after all, why we are here. That is our duty as Members of the United Nations. If we let this moment pass, if we let the International Court of Justice opinion be politely acknowledged and nothing more, then we will be complicit in what happens next.

All that we are witnessing — the apartheid, the ethnic cleansing, the genocide — could have been avoided if we had acted earlier, as was our duty, and if we had ensured the exercise of the right to self-determination. As Belize stated to the International Court of Justice in the advisory opinion,

“Israel cannot be permitted to continue flouting one of the most fundamental principles of international law with impunity. Impunity breeds inhumanity”.

That inhumanity stares us in the face now. How will we respond?

We must do all in the power of the United Nations system, most essentially by implementing an immediate arms embargo, as recommended by the Human Rights Council in April, by imposing meaningful sanctions and by heeding the call of over a dozen United Nations special rapporteurs and other experts who affirmed in July that,

“The advisory opinion reaffirms peremptory norms prohibiting annexation, settlements, racial segregation and apartheid, and should be seen as declaratory in nature and binding on Israel and all States supporting the occupation.”

We must join forces to end the genocide, end the apartheid system, end the colonialism and State terrorism, and so end the atrocity that has for so long been a major obstacle to world peace and security and stained the conscience of humankind. As we heard at the start of this debate concerning the right time to do the right thing, the time is always now. We urge all peace-loving Member States to support draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein appreciates this opportunity for the Assembly to meet today in emergency special session to discuss the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice from July (see A/78/968). There is enormous importance in having full clarity on the legal issues that are relevant to the two-State solution to which the Organization has been committed for decades. We therefore commend the Court for the advisory opinion, in line with its role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force and the right to self-determination. Liechtenstein reaffirms its political commitment to a two-State solution that would allow Israel and Palestine to live together in peace and security and ensure that we live up to the promise that we made to the peoples of Israel and of Palestine so many years ago.

In December 2022, the Assembly requested this advisory opinion (see resolution 77/247) on the central question of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the consequences of Israel's actions in violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The Assembly's commitment that self-determination is a right to which the Palestinian people are entitled is not up for dispute. It is the basis on which the Assembly initially elaborated the two-State solution in resolution 181 (II) and that is upheld every year in the Assembly's resolutions on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The use of the Court's advisory opinion function as a basis to settle the application of such issues is also well established, including with regard to the situation before us today, for example in the opinion on the construction of a separation wall. It

is on the basis of our commitment to the central role of the Court that we made a written submission, in this case supporting its jurisdiction over the question at hand, confirmed unanimously by the judges of the Court.

In the issuance of its opinion, the Court provided a comprehensive account of ongoing violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. It reaffirmed its view that self-determination is a prerequisite for human rights, and it has shown how the unlawful annexation of territory, including by seeking to acquire sovereignty over an occupied territory, is contrary to the prohibition of the use of force. We welcome in particular the Court's engagement with those thorny and complex questions regarding Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations and *jus ad bellum*. At the same time, the advisory opinion also makes clear that annexation, undermining the right to self-determination, can occur through certain other policies and practices that do not include highly visible uses of force, and thus without explicit violations of Article 2 of the Charter.

We note the conclusion of the Court, with a remarkable level of convergence among its judges, that Israel is obligated to end its occupation as rapidly as possible, to evacuate all Israeli settlers and to provide large-scale reparations for the damages caused by the occupation. The Palestinian Authority, as well as Hamas, of course, have their own legal obligations that need to be met for the two-State solution to be viable.

As the guarantor of resolution 181 (II), the Assembly has an obligation to see to it that its goals and the principles underpinning them are realized. Accordingly, we must act to uphold the law and violations outlined by the Court in its advisory opinion. The horrors of the past 12 months, which took place long after the request for the advisory opinion, have put the two-State solution on life support. We must take clear and concerted action to revive it. We look forward to joining the Assembly in taking a step forward for peace, and we call upon the Security Council to consider further action required in line with the Court's advisory opinion.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of the Sudan welcomes the resumption of the tenth emergency special session. It aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Syria on behalf of the Group of Arab States; the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

The delegation of the Sudan reiterates its full support for the Palestinian people's efforts to recover all of their legitimate, inalienable rights, most importantly the right to self-determination, through the two-State solution and to establish their independent sovereign State within the 4 June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with relevant international resolutions and initiatives. We stress the Palestinian refugees' right to return and underscore the need to preserve Al-Quds Al-Sharif, its sanctity and its historic and religious status and to protect it against attempts to change its identity.

The delegation of the Sudan also welcomes the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July (see A/78/968), upon request of the General Assembly, to consider the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. In that context, we call for the advisory opinion to be respected, emanating as it does from the highest legal organ of the United Nations, namely, the International Court of Justice, which has stressed that the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories is illegal and called for the immediate cessation of all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Court's advisory opinion reflects international consensus that Israeli activities and settlements are illegal, that the Israeli presence in the occupied territories is also illegal and that the status of the occupied territories and the resultant circumstances must not be recognized. The advisory opinion also calls for the return of all displaced Palestinians to their places of origin and for them to receive compensation.

The advisory opinion is a historical landmark in the Palestinians' struggle to recover their usurped rights and a step towards achieving justice and freedom for the Palestinian people which they have been denied for decades. The advisory opinion reaffirms the need to respect international law and the decisions of the International Court of Justice.

To conclude, the delegation of the Sudan underscores that peace and stability in the Middle East can be realized only through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, the restoration of the people's rights, an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and commitment to international law, international resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Soberón Guzmán (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We support the resumption of this emergency special session. We congratulate the delegation of Palestine for submitting draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 in its national capacity,

For almost a full year now, we have seen with great concern and alarm the terrible events occurring in the Middle East. In that context, Cuba reaffirms its unwavering and firm solidarity with the Palestinian cause. Our country was pleased to be a co-sponsor of resolution 77/247, adopted on 30 September 2022, through which the Assembly requested an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's prolonged occupation, its settlements and its annexation of occupied Palestinian territory, in flagrant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

In the advisory opinion issued on 19 July (see A/78/968), the Court determined that the United Nations, and in particular the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council, should consider specific measures and the additional means necessary to put an end as rapidly as possible to the illegal presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory. The draft resolution before us today reflects the path to be followed to that end.

The Court concluded that the ongoing presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and that Israel has the obligation to put an end to its presence throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. Through its Supreme Court, the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, are a *de jure* and *de facto* annexation in an obvious attempt to assert Israel's permanent control and sovereignty over Palestinian territory in violation of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the acquisition of land by force and the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination.

In resolution 67/19, the General Assembly recognized Palestine as an observer nation of the United Nations. That demonstrated the support of the international community for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to be a Member of the United Nations. Formalizing the accession of Palestine as a full Member of the Organization is a first step towards bringing about a full, lasting and fair resolution to the conflict.

It is high time for the Security Council to comply with its own responsibilities and functions and that it fulfil its own resolutions to put an end to Israel's barbarity. The occupying Power acts with total impunity under the protection it enjoys from

the Government of the United States, which repeatedly obstructs the actions of the Council, undermining international peace and security. While Israel today is deaf to the demands of the international community and pursues its aggression against Palestine, that is because it enjoys the complicity and support of Washington, including the ongoing transfer of weapons.

We reiterate our condemnation in the most robust terms of the assassination of civilians, particularly women, children and humanitarian workers in the United Nations system, the indiscriminate bombing of people in Gaza and the destruction of housing, hospital and civilian infrastructure, as well as the denial of water, food, electricity and fuel supplies to the people of Gaza. That significantly exacerbates the humanitarian situation resulting from the blockade of the Gaza Strip and is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. We demand once again an immediate cessation of hostilities and call for an end to warmongering rhetoric.

We stress the urgent need for a broad, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of a two-State solution that would allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to have an independent, sovereign State within the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and that would also guarantee the right of return of refugees.

We reiterate the importance of continuing to mobilize urgently through United Nations coordination for the provision of humanitarian assistance to address the disastrous situation in Gaza. Every minute that we remain idle and passive will claim further innocent victims. We have to act immediately. History will never forget that those who could have prevented genocide failed to do so. History will not forgive their indifference.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.