



# General Assembly

Tenth Emergency Special session

Official Records

**55<sup>th</sup>** plenary meeting

Wednesday, 18 September 2024, 10 a.m.

New York

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*President:* Mr. Philémon Yang ..... (Cameroon)

*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.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:** Members are reminded that, at the 53rd plenary meeting of the tenth emergency session, held yesterday, the Assembly decided that the debate on agenda item 5 would be suspended at 11 a.m. today to proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 and that the debate would continue after the action on the draft resolution.

**Mr. Abushahab** (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Philemon Yang on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and thank him for reconvening this tenth emergency special session. I also thank His Excellency Mr. Dennis Francis for his outstanding stewardship of the work at the previous session.

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

The United Arab Emirates welcomed the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 19 July (see A/78/968) regarding the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The opinion is an important step in the course of the Palestinian cause as it affirms Israel's obligations under international law. Alongside other States and international organizations, the United Arab Emirates participated in the International Court of Justice's proceedings on the advisory opinion. We affirmed at that time that the Israeli occupation was illegal and that it was high time that it ended. That position reflects the international community's collective will.

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Today the United Arab Emirates supports draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, submitted by the State of Palestine. The draft builds on the Court's advisory opinion and sets out a road map for moving forward, including by demanding that Israel end its occupation within 12 months, cease its settlement activities and halt measures that violate the historical status quo at holy sites in Jerusalem. While we look forward to the General Assembly's positive response to the advisory opinion, we also emphasize the importance for the Security Council to translate it into practical steps.

This emergency special session is being held after nearly a year of devastating war in the Gaza Strip, where we stand as witnesses to a humanitarian tragedy, unprecedented in our modern history, that has claimed the lives of more than 41,000 innocent civilians and displaced the vast majority of Gaza's population. In that context, the United Arab Emirates affirms the importance of the following.

First, an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire must be achieved in Gaza. Full and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance to all those in need must also be ensured, and all hostages and detainees must be released. The relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2735 (2024), 2728 (2024), 2720 (2023) and 2712 (2023), must be implemented. In that regard, we express our appreciation for the mediation efforts undertaken by Egypt, Qatar and the United States.

Secondly, priority must be given to improving the health situation in the Gaza Strip. The resurgence of polio, following its eradication 25 years ago, is a dangerous indicator of the collapse of the health system in Gaza. In that context, on 11 September the United Arab Emirates, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, contributed to the largest medical evacuation from Gaza since the war began. We have also funded a campaign to offer polio vaccines to more than 640,000 children in Gaza.

Thirdly, all settlement activity in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, must be halted. The increasing Israeli military incursions and settler attacks must also be halted. Moreover, the existing historical and legal status quo and the Hashemite custodianship of the holy site in Jerusalem must be respected.

Fourthly, the conflict must be defused by relaunching a credible peace process leading to the realization of a two-State solution and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. In that regard, the United Arab Emirates welcomes the onset last week of the State of Palestine's exercise of additional rights and privileges at the United Nations. We look forward to the day when Palestine obtains full membership of the Organization. We also welcome the wave of recognitions of the State of Palestine and call on other countries to take similar steps.

In conclusion, the Palestinian people have long suffered under occupation. The time has come to end the suffering and to ensure them a secure and stable future, just like other peoples of the world.

**Mr. Niang** (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset of my remarks, I congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over the General Assembly and express Senegal's commitment to offering you its solidarity and support for the success of your mandate.

Senegal aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Cameroon and Uganda, respectively, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

I welcome the fact that the General Assembly has redressed a historic injustice by allowing the State of Palestine to sit alongside us. I would also like once again to

invite Member States that have not yet done so to recognize Palestine and support its efforts to become a full Member State.

My delegation bows piously before the memory of the tens of thousands of Palestinians, hundreds of humanitarian workers and dozens of reporters and journalists killed in Palestine by the repeated and continuous attacks of the occupying Power.

I hardly need recall that over the past 11 months, the population of Gaza has endured a truly collective punishment that has caused the deaths of more than 41,000 people, mostly women and children, and sown disease, famine and destruction. In that regard, my delegation expresses its serious concern about the report issued recently by Ms. Francesca Albanese, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, which concludes that

“there are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating that Israel has committed genocide has been met” (A/HRC/55/73, *summary*).

For a people who aspire only to live freely and sovereignly on their land, this situation must end. That is what our humanity demands and what the law requires.

In that regard, my delegation welcomes 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 territory, including East Jerusalem, and the illegality of Israel’s continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/78/968). The opinion confirms what we all know, namely, the illegality of the occupation and the violation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians have the right to live in an independent, contiguous, viable and sovereign State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In addition to the current situation in Gaza, which requires a cessation of hostilities and unwavering solidarity, the international community remains faced with the nagging question of when and how can justice be done to the Palestinian people. Through draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, each of our States is given the opportunity to take a further step in that direction. That is why the Court recommends in its opinion that our Organization, in particular the General Assembly and the Security Council,

“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” (A/78/968, *para. 285 (9)*).

That is why Senegal co-sponsored the draft resolution and hopes that it will be adopted by a large majority.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, for complete, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip, and for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice. It is through such combined efforts that we will be able to put an end to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. In the name of international solidarity, we must all draw on the depths of our humanity to revive the hope for lasting peace between Israel and Palestine. That is the ultimate guarantee of security for all.

**Mr. Ley de Araujo Mantilo** (Timor-Leste): I thank you, Mr. President, for reconvening this emergency special session. My delegation congratulates you on your election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

Timor-Leste, a nation born from a long struggle for self-determination and sovereignty, remains committed to justice, peace and the rights of all peoples. Our experience, rooted in colonialism, foreign occupation and the quest for national identity, informs our perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This statement

must be understood in the context of Palestine's right to statehood. My delegation respects the right to self-defence of all States Members of the United Nations, including Israel. As a nation that has faced similar challenges, we firmly advocate for the protection of human rights and for peaceful resolutions to international disputes. Our position on that matter is grounded in the core principles of sovereignty, equality and international law.

Understanding the historical context, we recognize the Palestinian people's decades-long endurance of occupation, displacement and fundamental rights violations. Our commitment to self-determination compels us to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspiration to an independent State. International law, particularly United Nations resolutions, support Palestinian rights and condemn illegal settlements and actions in the occupied territories. Timor-Leste believes that settlements alter the demographic balance and undermine the two-State solution. Israeli actions in Jerusalem, especially those altering the status quo of holy sites, incite tensions and highlight the precariousness of human rights under occupation.

As a United Nations Member, Timor-Leste urges collective action to ensure that the voices of oppressed communities are heard. The Palestinian plight should evoke not only sympathy but also concrete international responses that uphold justice and human dignity. We maintain that dialogue and diplomacy must prevail over violence and unilateral actions. Our Government affirms international solidarity with oppressed peoples, drawing parallels between our struggle for independence and the Palestinian quest for statehood. We advocate for Palestine's recognition as a sovereign State, which is essential to ascertaining Palestinian rights and fostering meaningful discussion. Our support for resolution 67/19, which recognized Palestine as a non-member Observer State, underscores our acknowledgement of Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination.

Timor-Leste emphasizes the protection of civilian populations in conflict zones. Palestinian suffering due to military action and the humanitarian blockade of Gaza warrants urgent attention. We stand firm against violence and call for accountability for war crimes. Timor-Leste's national position is clear. We seek justice and peace based on international law, human rights and self-determination. Our support for the Palestinian cause is unwavering, motivated by our shared history, history and commitment to a just world.

Guided by those values, we will vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, before us today. Our vote represents a call for new dialogue and diplomacy. We believe that peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians is not only possible but imperative. By supporting the draft resolution, we advocate for a future where both peoples can live in dignity, security and mutual respect. The vote in favour of the draft resolution embodies our dedication to the principle of justice and human rights. It reflects our historical struggle and our unwavering hope for a world in which all nations and people can exercise their rights freely. We stand with those who seek peace, and it is our responsibility to contribute to a just resolution for the Palestinian people, reaffirming our commitment to a fair and equitable global community.

**Mr. Doualeh** (Djibouti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, on behalf of the Republic of Djibouti, I congratulate you warmly on your outstanding election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

(*spoke in English*)

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

Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 is a test for the Members of the United Nations. It tests whether we truly believe what we say when we call for respect for the rule of law. It tests whether we are truly committed to a peaceful solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict based on international law, as our prior resolutions stipulate. It tests whether we are willing to support the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine, two sovereign and independent States, living side-by-side in peace and security. It tests whether we are sincere in declaring our commitment to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. If we are truly committed to those ends, all of which are reflected in numerous prior resolutions adopted by the Assembly, and by the Security Council, then we must vote in favour of the current draft resolution and adopt it by an overwhelming majority.

The advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968) constitutes an authoritative statement of international law by the world's highest and most respected authority on international law. It demands our respect and it demands our support. The draft resolution before us is the appropriate vehicle for our expression of that support. The text of the draft resolution echoes the language of the Court and is entirely consistent with it. Everything in the draft resolution reflects the findings of the Court as set forth in its advisory opinion.

The opinion did not appear *sua sponte*. It was requested by the General Assembly in December 2022 (see resolution 77/247). It is the Court's response to the specific questions that the General Assembly referred to it. After considering the written and oral submissions of more than 50 States and international organizations, and reviewing the voluminous evidence submitted by the Secretary-General and the participating States, the Court has given us its answers to our questions, which now constitute authoritative rulings on international law. Those rulings establish, with the force of international law, the rights of the Palestinian people, the legal obligations on the State of Israel, the legal obligations on all other States with which all States committed to the rule of law must comply, and the legal obligations on the United Nations itself. Having asked the Court for its opinion, and having received it, it falls to all Member States to respect it and comply the obligations that are now incumbent upon us.

The Secretary-General, in his statement of 24 October 2023 (see S/PV.9451), expressly linked the growth and expansion of Israeli settlements to the permanent acquisition of Palestinian territory. The facts are indisputable. Under the umbrella of its prolonged military occupation, Israel has been steadily annexing the occupied Palestinian territory, and it continues to do so. Its declared objective is the permanent acquisition of the territory and the exercise of sovereignty over it, in defiance of the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force, a peremptory norm of international law. In the words of the African Union:

"The prolonged Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories is, in itself, unlawful ... [It] qualifies as an internationally wrongful act of a continuing character ... [T]he policies and practices associated with it amount to de facto and de jure annexation of the Palestinian territories, which violates the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force."

That is why the Court's advisory opinion is so critical and so urgent. It very clearly establishes that the two-State solution that is so vital to the needs of both peoples requires that the main obstacle to that solution — the interminable Israeli occupation of Palestine — be brought to an end. That is why the Court has ruled, in the clearest possible terms, that international law demands that the illegal occupation be terminated as rapidly as possible. The modalities, as the Court stated, in equally clear terms, are for the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council, to implement.

The present draft resolution is the vehicle for implementing the Court's ruling. It is, as I said earlier, a test of our commitment to the rule of law. Djibouti strongly urges all Member States to support it.

**Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh): I thank you, Sir, for convening this resumed emergency special session in the context of the ongoing genocidal war perpetrated against the helpless civilian population in Gaza and the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July (see A/78/968), issued upon the request of the General Assembly and declaring the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories to be illegal.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Cameroon and Uganda on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, respectively (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

The ongoing atrocities in Gaza against unarmed Palestinian civilians have already caused more than 41,000 deaths, including those of more than 14,000 children and more than 11,000 women. That is an undercount, as most of the more than missing 10,000 Palestinians are believed to be buried under the rubble. More than 100,000 people have been injured, while 1.9 million have been displaced and are living in inhuman conditions.

Unfortunately, despite the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, the massacre of a besieged civilian population continues unabated before the naked eyes of the whole world. An immediate ceasefire, as stipulated in Security Council resolution 2728 (2024) of 25 March, remains elusive to date. We have also witnessed hundreds of deaths in the occupied West Bank since 7 October 2023. Those are not only grave violations of human rights, but also gross violations of all international humanitarian laws, including those on the protection of civilians.

The ongoing killings of civilians cannot be acceptable by any standard. The international cooperation must act and bring an end to such grave crimes against humanity. The perpetrators need to be held accountable. We welcome the historic verdict of the International Court of Justice on 19 July and call upon Israel to fully abide by it. The illegal occupation of Palestinian lands must end within a specific timeframe. The Security Council should immediately recommend full membership of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

As an immediate first step to implement the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, we demand that Israel stop its military operations in Gaza and the West Bank, withdraw its troops from Gaza and agree to an unconditional permanent ceasefire. Israel must also stop building new illegal settlements, dismantle all existing settlements and evacuate all existing settlers from Palestinian lands. The United Nations and its Member States must undertake all measures to establish Palestinian sovereignty on all Palestinian lands, as per the pre-1967 borders. We must press Israel to end its apartheid-like illegal colonial occupation of the Palestinian territories. Israel must be compelled to provide reparations to the Palestinian victims as part of its compliance with the International Court of Justice's directives.

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice is indeed an important addition to efforts to clarify the international legal regime's non-approval of Israel's illegal acts of occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory, in addition to numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. We need to uphold the Court's verdict and to undertake tangible, collective measures to end the more than seven decades-old miseries of the Palestinian people.

We also appreciate the indictments by the International Criminal Court (ICC) related to the war in Gaza — a bold step in the midst of formidable challenges. The international community needs to stand beside the ICC in that regard. We believe that



for the perpetrators of mass atrocity crimes, it is important that their accountability be ensured. We hope that all segments of the United Nations system will cooperate in that regard. We appreciate the statements made to date by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights about the abysmal humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza and expect that all Member States will address the grave situation without any double standard.

Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is before this emergency special session, calls for the implementation of the International Court of Justice's verdict, and the United Nations system and its Member States need to undertake all necessary measures to that end. The adoption of the draft resolution today, in our view, would be another important step towards outlining the legal consequences for Israel if it does not agree to end its occupation. Bangladesh has co-sponsored the draft resolution and calls upon all delegations to vote in its favour.

In conclusion, while we are discussing watershed outcome documents like the pact of the future and the declaration on future generations, which are to be adopted this month, it is regrettable that the international community is still observing mass atrocities in Gaza in particular and the illegal repressive occupation of Palestinian lands in general. That cannot continue any longer. Therefore, we demand actions so that our Palestinian brothers and sisters can rid themselves of the scourge of occupation and atrocities soon and be able to live peacefully as an independent nation.

**Mr. Shilla** (United Republic of Tanzania): The United Republic of Tanzania wishes to congratulate you, Sir, and the Vice-Presidents on your well-deserved election to lead the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation as you discharge your noble duties.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.53). However, we wish to complement it with the following remarks.

As we gather here today to decide on the legality of the Israel occupation of Palestinian territory, the entire territory of the Gaza Strip is under the full military control of Israel Defense Forces. The situation in Palestine is worsening and the number of civilian deaths and injuries is drastically increasing. Gaza is on the brink of a dire humanitarian situation. The destruction of housing and key infrastructure is critical, and humanitarian access remains severely constrained. According to the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Sigrid Kaag, the number of injured is now 93,000, which is among the highest in recent times, and the death toll since October 2023 has risen to more than 41,000.

In this situation, there is justification for the urgent need for the General Assembly and the Security Council to make a necessary intervention to stop further human suffering in the Palestinian territory. It is the long-standing position of the United Republic of Tanzania to oppose any form of colonialism or the acts of one State illegally occupying another country's territory. For that reason, we categorically oppose the illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory.

In addition, Tanzania supports the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968). Furthermore, my delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, "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".

In conclusion, Tanzania reiterates it is a historical and principled commitment to the realization of the ultimate goal of the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living peaceful side-by-side. Let us work together to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East, where all nations and people can live in dignity and freedom, so that the whole world can enjoy peace and tranquillity.

**Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives): I thank you, Sir, for reconvening the tenth emergency special session at a defining moment for international law.

The International Court of Justice has spoken clearly. Israel's actions constitute a violation of international law. Now, it is our responsibility to respond with decisive action. The suffering of the Palestinian people did not begin last year. It did not begin with the building of the wall. It did not begin with the events of 7 October 2023. For nearly eight decades, the Palestinian people have endured the harsh realities of occupation, apartheid and oppression.

During the proceedings of the case, the Maldives submitted both written and oral statements in support of Palestine. That is because we stand on the side of justice and we stand for upholding the rule of law. Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which is before us today, is simple and direct. It calls for Israel to withdraw its forces from the occupied Palestinian territory. It demands an end to Israel's illegal policies and practices. But it is not just a call on Israel; it is a call on all of us. It demands that Member States act. We must not turn a blind eye to those violations.

It is time that the United Nations imposed sanctions, including an arms embargo, on Israel. That is not a symbolic gesture; it is an important step to prevent further violations and hold Israel accountable. The world should not and cannot legitimize Israel's unlawful occupation. No law-abiding nation should. We must also stop any form of aid that supports or sustains the occupation. That is not a matter of political preference; it is an obligation under international law. If we fail to act, we undermine the very principles of justice and equality upon which this institution is built. The credibility of the United Nations and the rule of law are at stake. That is why the Maldives fully supports the call for reparations from Israel. The damage inflicted on Palestine must be acknowledged and the harms must be recorded. Reparations are not just about financial compensation — they are about justice. They recognize the long-standing suffering endured by the Palestinian people and the need for accountability.

The starting point for an enduring solution in the Middle East must be granting full membership of the United Nations to the State of Palestine. That is not only a fundamental element of a lasting solution, but also a moral imperative. Israel must recognize and respect the sovereignty and independence of Palestine on the lands it has occupied since 1967, with East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital. Israel must allow the safe return and resettlement of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have been forcibly driven from their homes. That is not just a matter of legality — it is also a matter of humanity. The right to return is essential to achieving justice and lasting peace in the region.

We also call on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to act swiftly. The ICC must issue the arrest warrants requested by the Prosecutor in May. Israel's actions—genocide, warcrimesandcrimesagainsthumanity—mustnotgounpunished. The ICC must ensure that impunity does not prevail and that justice is served.

We call on all Member States to take their obligations seriously. We must reject any form of military, financial or material support that enables Israel's illegal actions. This is not the time for evasion or delay. This is the time to draw strength from our collective humanity to honour our legal and moral obligations. The Maldives remains steadfast in its commitment to justice for Palestine. What needs to be done is here, before us, in the draft resolution. To realize it, we must resolve to act



collectively, with humanity front and centre, to safeguard the future of Palestine and the Palestinian people.

**Mr. Gómez Hernández** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): The situation in Gaza is a human and humanitarian tragedy that continues almost a year after the terrible terrorist attacks that Hamas perpetrated against Israel on 7 October 2023, which we have condemned repeatedly.

Spain continues to demand an agreement for an immediate ceasefire that would allow the massive and unhindered entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the immediate release of all Israeli hostages, in accordance with Security Council resolutions. We support the mediation work of the United States, Qatar and Egypt and urge the parties to end the violence. We condemn the recent attacks against humanitarian workers in Gaza, including against a school of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Nuseirat last week, and recall the obligation under international humanitarian law to protect humanitarian workers. The provisional measures demanded by the International Court of Justice remain unfulfilled.

Since 10 September, the Palestinian Observer Mission has occupied its place alphabetically in the Hall, a step that goes beyond the symbolic, since it represents progress towards the objective of full membership, which Spain supported in the voting on resolution ES-10/23 on 10 May and that was translated at the national level in the recognition by Spain of the State of Palestine on 28 May.

The International Court of Justice issued its advisory opinion of 19 July on the legal consequences arising from the occupation of Palestine (see A/78/968) and clearly established that the occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal and must end as rapidly as possible. It also established the obligation of Israel to cease all its settlement activity and to evacuate the settlers from the Palestinian territory, repairing the damage caused. It also established the obligation of all States not to recognize the current situation and not to facilitate the occupation.

The Court determines that the Security Council, and especially the General Assembly, must specify the actions necessary to end the occupation as rapidly as possible. In that spirit, Spain supports and is a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, on the advisory opinion that has been submitted to the General Assembly, and welcomes the willingness of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to make suggestions and comments on the draft.

The draft resolution should mark a milestone in the implementation of the two-State solution, which is the only path to peace, and should be reflected in the actions of all United Nations bodies and members of the international cooperation. The draft resolution highlights our commitment to international peace and security, as well as our firm defence of the international order and our consistency in demanding an end to the use of force in relations among members of the international community.

**Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone): Sierra Leone aligns this statement with the statements delivered by the representatives of Cameroon, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES/PV.53). Sierra Leone further thanks the State of Palestine for the historic introduction of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.3/Rev.1, and states without equivocation that we support and will vote in its favour. This is why.

By resolution 77/247, adopted on 30 December 2022, the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, on questions regarding

“the legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation,

settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967” (resolution 77/247, para. 18 (a))

and on the question:

“How do the policies and practices of Israel referred to ... affect the legal status of the occupation, and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the United Nations?” (*ibid.*, para. 18 (b))

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations — the world’s court — on 19 July duly obliged by responding to the questions posed by the General Assembly through its advisory opinion (see A/78/968), with its clear and unambiguous opinion that, *inter alia*:

“the State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful ... that the State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible ... that the State of Israel is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory ... [and] that the State of Israel has the obligation to make reparation for the damage caused to all the natural or legal persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” (A/78/968, para. 285 (3), (4), (5) and (6)).

The International Court of Justice, in its legal and moral clarity, proceeded to outline the obligations of all States with respect to its opinion to the effect that,

“all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” (*ibid.*, para. 279).

Further, the Court opined that

“international organizations, including the United Nations, are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” (*ibid.*, para. 285 (8)).

Finally, the International Court of Justice called on the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, which requested the opinion, and the Security Council to,

“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” (*ibid.*, para. 285 (9)).

In welcoming the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, Sierra Leone is of the view that the ask by the Court on the General Assembly is, as referred to, to consider the precise modalities and further action required to rapidly end the unlawful presence of Israel in occupied Palestine. The draft resolution that has been put up for our consideration contains such precise modalities to give effect to the advisory opinion.

Sierra Leone accepts the view that advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice, in and of themselves, are not binding. However, we the General Assembly can give effect to the opinions of the Court. Further, in addition to their great legal weight and moral authority, the Court’s advisory opinions can clarify international law and crystallize customary international law. The 19 July advisory opinion of the Court performs that important function, particularly with respect to the State of Palestine’s right to self-determination, a *jus cogens* norm.

The critical modalities contained in the draft resolution also follow the important customary international law principles laid out in the International Law Commission's articles on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, in that a State held responsible for an internationally wrongful act is required to stop the unlawful conduct and make reparations for the injury. That is the function the modalities in the draft resolution will play; hence our unequivocal support.

At this stage of intense violence in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for over 11 months, Sierra Leone also considers this action by the General Assembly to be a significant step towards the realization of achieving the political horizon of the two-State solution, as highlighted in the many resolutions on that question adopted by the Assembly and the Security Council. The International Court of Justice, in the advisory opinion, stresses

“the urgent necessity for the United Nations ... to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region” (*ibid.*, para. 282).

Accordingly, Sierra Leone reaffirms its support for the two-State solution based on the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions adopted on the question of Palestine, beginning with resolution 181 (II), which recommends the creation of an independent Jewish State and an independent Arab State, in line with Article 4 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. Alrowaieci** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and to thank you for reconvening this tenth session emergency special session to follow up on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem (see A/78/968), at the request of the General Assembly.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Group of Arab States; Cameroon, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.53).

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and has co-sponsored draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which the General Assembly will consider shortly, especially because of its importance in supporting the inherent right of the brotherly Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In light of the war that has been waged against the Gaza Strip for nearly a year, the Kingdom of Bahrain renews its call for the international community to assume its responsibilities in calming the situation, achieving a ceasefire, protecting civilians and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of the Strip.

The Kingdom of Bahrain also reaffirms the outcome of the thirty-third regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States, held in Bahrain in May under the chairmanship of the King of Bahrain, and its adoption of the initiative to issue a collective call for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to resolve the Palestinian question on the basis of the two-State solution, end the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, and establish an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian State.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms its position in support of all international efforts aimed at giving priority to dialogue and negotiation to end

the war in the Gaza Strip and calls on the international community to assume its responsibilities in supporting the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people and efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in a way that enhances security and stability in the region for the benefit of all its peoples.

**The President:** We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

In light of the decision taken by the General Assembly yesterday to suspend the debate on agenda item 5 this morning, the Assembly shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

**Ms. DeMiranda** (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): The present oral statement is made in the context of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The present statement has also been distributed to Member States.

Under the terms of paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to convene during its seventy-ninth session 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.

With regard to paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, in the absence of modalities for the international conference, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential costs implications of the requirements of the conference. When the format, scope and modalities of the conference are determined, the Secretary-General would assess the budgetary implications and advise the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, once modalities are known, in accordance with established practice, the availability of conference services and the date of the conference would be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. In that regard, reference is made to paragraph 11 of resolution 69/250 and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 78/245 of 22 December 2023, in which the Assembly invited Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings.

**The President:** For members' information, the draft resolution has closed for e-sponsorship.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

**Ms. De Miranda** (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, and in addition to the delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Afghanistan, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Comoros, Cuba, The Gambia, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Lebanon, Maldives, Niger, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

**The President:** Before giving the floor for explanations of vote before the voting, I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Ms. King** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): The conflict in the Gaza Strip continues to test not only the most fundamental principles of international law,

but also the moral conscience of the international community. The situation is catastrophic, with the Gaza Strip having devolved into a site of carnage. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as of 13 September at least 1.9 million people across the Gaza Strip were internally displaced, with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reporting that between 7 October 2023 and 9 September 2024, at least 41,020 Palestinians were killed and 94,925 injured. Let us be clear — that dire situation is inextricably linked to illegal occupation, dispossession and harsh settler colonialism, which have gradually eroded the internationally established borders.

The recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968) is unambiguous. Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and must be brought to an end as rapidly as possible. That conclusion is in line with the many General Assembly resolutions that have been adopted. It is also in accordance with the unambiguous statements made in the Hall by an overwhelming majority of Member States, which have not wavered in their support of the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, and which the International Court of Justice has recognized as a peremptory norm of international law.

It is that international law that operates as the public policy fabric in our civilized society, and it is our responsibility to ensure that any attempt to flout those principles is not carried out with impunity. When international law is applied uniformly, it safeguards a framework of justice, accountability and predictability. It is in our collective interest to ensure its strict application, as its erosion enables the atrocities that we are currently witnessing in the Gaza Strip today.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, being considered today, not just because it is morally right so to do, but also because human dignity and justice demand that we honour the fundamental principles that guide this institution.

Both Israel and Palestine can exist peacefully alongside each other within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats or acts of force, and Security Council resolution 242 (1967) remains the enabler of that achievement. Both nations deserve that peaceful coexistence. However, we underscore that the right to peace and security does not grant a license for the illegal occupation and suppression of the rights of the Palestinian people, which have been clearly established under international law. Additionally, and recalling the pronouncement of the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion, occupation cannot transfer or confer sovereignty to the occupying Power.

The stains of the ongoing war are being etched into the narrative of our history and imprinted deeply into the palms of our hands. The emphasis on nationalistic pursuits and politics to the detriment of lives and livelihoods is reprehensible, and a solution will not and cannot be found in hostilities. The only viable way forward is one achieved through dialogue and peaceful means. The international community, particularly those members with influence, are under an obligation to work constructively towards facilitating an end to the hostilities that would enable an environment conducive to achieving a long-term solution. Naturally, that would mean supporting the draft resolution to give effect to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. As responsible actors, we must rise to the occasion and prioritize the greater good of humankind and future generations.

**Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea): This being the first occasion for my delegation to address you, Sir, in your new capacity as President of the General Assembly, may I take this occasion to congratulate you and the delegation of Cameroon on your important mandate and to also wish you all the best.

Papua New Guinea notes with great interest and concern the draft resolution before the Assembly, subsequent to the International Court of Justice advisory opinion issued on 19 July (see A/78/968).

Let me place on record that Papua New Guinea, as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM), regrettably, disassociates itself from the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries co-sponsorship of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 and the accompanying statement delivered yesterday by the representative of Uganda, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.53). We do so because elements contained in the draft resolution and the NAM statement are inconsistent with our national position on the issues addressed.

Like many other countries, Papua New Guinea continues to be concerned over the serious evolving humanitarian, peace and security, and other challenges in Palestine and Israel, which continue to impact adversely the lives and livelihoods of Israelis and Palestinians alike, and with its wider implications for the Middle East region and beyond.

It is nearly a year since the terrible, deplorable and tragic Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel and the taking of hostages. The hostages remaining in captivity must be returned immediately to Israel without further preconditions. We condemn in the strongest terms the recent murders of Israeli hostages. It is also unacceptable that a disproportionate number of Palestinians continue to be killed, maimed and left destitute. The conflict must be ended for the sake of Israelis and Palestinians alike. We pay tribute to those parties, including Egypt, United States and Qatar, seeking pathways to end the tragic conflict. Likewise, the brave humanitarian frontline workers serving affected people's and communities in the conflict areas — including those that have fallen in the line of duty, including those from the United Nations — deserve our commendation and support.

The draft resolution before the Assembly demands that Israel make unilateral concessions without any reciprocal steps from the other parties involved. Such unbalanced demands, in our considered view, will not only perpetuate the conflict but may also reinforce views that the International Court of Justice advisory opinion proceedings may have been biased, given the Court's sole focus on the actions of Israel and not on the policies and practices of all actors involved in the conflict.

Ultimately, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be resolved only around the negotiating table through peaceful dialogue, not in the courtroom or in other forums. We therefore call on both parties to return to the negotiating table, including through the two-State solution process, to find a mutually amicable and lasting political settlement that provides for both Israel and Palestine to live side-by-side in peace and security.

We also recognize the seriousness of the various calls being made in the draft resolution. Considering the importance of those issues, it is regrettable that, for small developing countries like my own, we have yet to comprehensively consider the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, given the fact that the opinion was delivered less than two months ago. The importance of adequate timing for proper consideration of the issues related to the opinion at the national level cannot be overstated.

Another most important point related to the International Court of Justice advisory opinion that needs to be carefully considered is the level of dissenting and separate opinions of the Court's Judges and what they signify. Some of them are profound and most troubling, to say the least. That raises the spectre of the credibility of the advisory opinion. While we recognize that the International Court of Justice



should be treated with the utmost respect, including for its advisory opinions, the manner and character of the process leading to this particular advisory opinion call into question the legitimacy of the opinion itself.

It is for those reasons that Papua New Guinea today will vote against the draft resolution now before the General Assembly.

**Mr. Silk** (Marshall Islands): I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly.

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands hereby announces its decision to vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, regarding the situation in Palestine. That decision has been reached after careful consideration and reflects our deep commitment to humanitarian values and international law. As a nation that has experienced the profound impacts of global conflicts, we cannot remain silent in the face of the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people. Our vote is a testament to our conscience and our belief in the fundamental human rights and dignity of all peoples. The key points underlying our decision are as follows.

First, as regards humanitarian concerns, we are deeply troubled by reports of civilian casualties and the deteriorating living conditions in Palestinian territories. As a global community, we have a moral obligation to address that humanitarian crisis.

Secondly, with respect to commitment to international law, our support for the draft resolution aligns with our unwavering respect for international law and the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice.

Thirdly, concerning advocacy for peaceful resolution, we believe that the draft resolution is a step towards encouraging a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the long-standing conflict, which is crucial for regional and global stability.

Fourthly, regarding our support for self-determination, as a small island nation that values its sovereignty, we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Finally, as to the call for international action, our vote is a call on the international community to increase its efforts in providing humanitarian aid and supporting peace initiatives in the region.

The Marshall Islands reaffirms its commitment to a two-State solution and urges all parties involved to engage in meaningful dialogue to achieve lasting peace. We believe that our support for the draft resolution is consistent with our values and our vision for a more just and peaceful world.

**The President:** We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

Before proceeding further, I wish to address the question concerning the majority required for the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

In the light of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 18 of the Charter of the United Nations, is there any objection to taking action on draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting?

There being no objection, the two-thirds majority of members present and voting is therefore required for the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 entitled "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".

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

Argentina, Czechia, Fiji, Hungary, Israel, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu

*Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 was adopted by 124 votes to 14, with 43 abstentions (resolution ES-10/24).*

**The President:** Before giving the floor for explanations of vote, I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Ms. Schwalger** (New Zealand): New Zealand supported resolution ES-10/24 after careful consideration. We did so because we support a two-State solution and because we support international law.

The Israel/Palestinian conflict has gone on for too long. The suffering it has led to on both sides is immense. Its broader destabilizing impact on the region is profound. The effects are felt as far away as New Zealand. The only way to end the conflict is the two-State solution. Both sides need to return to negotiations to achieve that.

The resolution, though not perfect, sets the international community's expectations that both parties must move towards a negotiated settlement. We hope that the adoption of the resolution will provide impetus to the parties to re-engage in

negotiations. The 12-month time frame set out in the resolution for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory is frankly unrealistic. A two-State solution needs to be the product of negotiations. Aspirations need to be tempered by realism, given the complexities to be addressed.

However, in the next 12 months we expect Israel to take meaningful steps towards compliance with international law, particularly through withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory. We would also expect the Palestinian Authority to take meaningful steps to assume political and security control of the occupied territory.

We are strong supporters of the International Court of Justice. The Court's advisory opinion (see A/78/968) aligns with New Zealand's long-standing view that Israel's conduct in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful. However, we are disappointed that, in some cases, the resolution goes beyond what was envisaged in the advisory opinion.

Although the resolution does not impose obligations on New Zealand beyond any already existing under international law, New Zealand stands ready to implement any measures adopted by the Security Council. New Zealand will continue to impose travel bans against extremist settlers and others involved in violations of international humanitarian law, as we deem appropriate.

**Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore): I take the floor to explain my delegation's vote on resolution ES-10/24, which we have just adopted.

Singapore has always attached the greatest importance to international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We voted in favour of the resolution after careful and thorough consideration due to our respect for the International Court of Justice, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as well as for international law more broadly.

Nevertheless, we wish to place on record our serious reservations, as we did when resolution 77/247 was adopted in December 2022, about the use of the Court's advisory jurisdiction to bypass the need for States' consent in submitting what are essentially political disputes between two parties for adjudication. That approach sets an unsettling precedent, with wider implications that warrant further examination. We do not consider it appropriate to involve the Court in such disputes in that way.

We have serious reservations about the resolution's call for measures that have not been negotiated by the Israelis and Palestinians, the parties directly involved in the conflict. We are concerned that this will further harden positions on both sides and make the prospects of a political solution even more remote. Israelis and Palestinians alike have legitimate security needs that must be taken into consideration in order to break the cycle of violence. Our long-standing view remains that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be resolved only through direct negotiations between both sides so as to achieve a comprehensive, just and durable solution.

*Mrs. Kasymalieva (Kyrgyzstan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

In that connection, Singapore does not endorse the overreaching scope of the modalities and actions prescribed by the resolution for States, particularly but not limited to those enumerated in paragraphs 4 and 5. They include measures that go beyond not just the advisory opinion (see A/78/968) but also our current obligations under international law, and which will have far-reaching consequences on the prospects of the peace process.

As nearly a year has passed since the attack of 7 October 2023 by Hamas on Israel, our priority now must be to redouble efforts to implement the Security Council's resolutions on the situation in Gaza and work towards a ceasefire. The 7 October attack by Hamas on Israel was a terrorist attack and Israel, like every country, has

a right to defend itself, in accordance with international law. Today 101 hostages remain in Gaza, and Singapore continues to call for their safe, unconditional and immediate release.

At the same time, in exercising its right of defence, Israel must comply fully with international law, including international humanitarian law and the rules governing the conduct of war. In our view, the Israeli military response has gone too far. In addition, Singapore's consistent view on Israeli settlements is that they are illegal under international law and make it much harder to arrive at a two-State solution. Both sides must find the resolve to remove obstacles to peace and work towards a negotiated two-State solution, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Returning to the resolution that we have just adopted today, however well-intentioned we are in seeking clarity on the legal position, we need to exercise the utmost care in the appropriateness of involving the Court in disputes like this, where the ultimate objective of an enduring solution depends on the disputing parties being able to achieve a negotiated solution. In Singapore's view, that should surely be the goal of all members of the Assembly.

**Mr. Kulhanek** (Czechia): Allow me to begin by reiterating Czechia's unwavering support for the people of the West Bank and Gaza in their pursuit of political aspirations for their own future statehood. My country also stands ready to support any meaningful efforts to end violence in the region. However, if those efforts are to succeed, they must be the result of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, as that offers the only viable path to lasting security and peace for all.

Given the current circumstances on the ground, we believe that resolution ES-10/24 is not a step in the right direction, as it risks potentially sowing further divisions and hindering peace talks in an already fragile conflict situation. Furthermore, the resolution fails to address the immense security challenges Israel faces, including Hamas's use of the Gaza Strip as a launching pad for its rampage of killing of Israelis, while systematically using Palestinian civilians as human shields. Allow me to take this opportunity to reiterate our call for the immediate release of all the hostages brutally abducted on 7 October 2023. It is with great concern that I must note that the General Assembly has once again failed to acknowledge that issue with today's vote.

Czechia fully respects the role and independence of the International Court of Justice. However, we regret that, due to the unilaterally formulated questions posed by resolution 77/247 of December 2022, the Court's advisory opinion in question (see A/78/968) could not pay enough attention to Israel's legitimate security interests and its right to self-defence. The resolution before us today goes even further and interprets the opinion expressed by the Court in an entirely one-sided way.

It is of the utmost importance to re-establish a political horizon towards a two-State solution. A negotiated agreement remains the only way forward to guarantee security, political stability and democratic development for both Israel and Palestine. We also encourage the region to embark on a path of cooperation, including through the Abraham accords, to foster a better future in the Middle East. Rather than introducing new initiatives here in New York, we need to see positive developments in the region.

It is precisely for those reasons that Czechia was not in a position to support the resolution and voted against it.

**Mr. Sekeris** (Greece): Today's vote takes place in the midst of a crisis in the Middle East that has long transcended the regional level and has unfortunately taken on global dimensions. Dramatic developments on the ground over the past year have created an acute sense of urgency for addressing the situation in all its

aspects. The horrendous terrorist attacks committed by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the continued holding of hostages in Gaza underline in no uncertain terms the absolute necessity for Israel's legitimate security needs to be addressed, respected and safeguarded. In any case, Israel has the right to protect its own security and to self-defence.

Resolution ES-10/24 does not make any reference to the need to conduct direct negotiations between the parties to work towards a two-State solution, which has been the consistent position of the international community for decades, yet Greece decided to vote in favour of the resolution. That decision was based on Greece's unwavering support for international law and the institution that embodies it, the International Court of Justice. It is our principled belief that the work of the International Court of Justice should be protected even in the case of disagreement. International law and the rule of law lie at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations and serve as a shield against all forms of violations.

Lastly, allow me to reiterate our sincere desire to promote, also through our principled stance today, a political process towards a two-State solution. Greece, as a country of the region, stands ready to assist any peace effort conducive to the promotion of the much-needed stability and prosperity in the region.

**Dame Barbara Woodward** (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom abstained in today's voting on resolution ES-10/24. The United Kingdom did so not because we do not support the central findings of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion (see A/78/968), but rather because the resolution does not provide sufficient clarity to effectively advance our shared aim of a peace premised on a negotiated two-State solution — a safe and secure Israel alongside a safe and secure Palestinian State.

As a State committed to the international rule of law, we respect the Court and call on States to unite around renewed efforts towards a negotiated settlement, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. We stand ready to work with other Member States on future resolutions before the General Assembly and in the Security Council, seeking to fashion a broad consensus on the way forward with re-energized determination to accelerate the path to peace.

While our abstention reflects our unwavering determination to focus on efforts to bring about a peaceful and negotiated two-State solution, the United Kingdom aims by this statement to indicate our clear view that Israel should bring an end to its presence in the occupied Palestinian territories as rapidly as possible and that every effort must be made to create the conditions for negotiations that provide for a sovereign, viable and free Palestine alongside a safe, secure and free Israel, recognizing the security concerns and right to self-defence of each one. We must also work towards the reunification of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, in line with the 1967 borders and under the effective control of the Palestinian Authority as a fundamental step towards a two-State solution.

Turning now to address settlements in particular, the United Kingdom is gravely concerned by Israel's continued actions, which undermine prospects for peace. The expansion of settlements, in clear violation of international law, must cease immediately. There have been unprecedented levels of violence committed by extremist settlers over the past year. We have witnessed with grave concern how an increasing number of residents of illegal Israeli settlements and outposts have systematically used harassment, intimidation and violence to put pressure on Palestinian communities to leave their land. We call on Israel to hold those responsible to account. Alongside our partners, the United Kingdom has imposed sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for those acts. We continue to track closely those acts of violence and, where appropriate, the United Kingdom

will seek to extend sanctions. We are clear. Any efforts to change the geographic or demographic makeup of the occupied Palestinian territories through force and outside a negotiated settlement are illegal.

The situation in Gaza continues to subject Palestinian civilians to horrendous suffering, and over 100 hostages remain held by Hamas in abhorrent conditions. We need to see an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of the hostages. We will continue to work urgently to help bring peace and galvanize a political process towards a two-State solution that provides long-term peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

**Mr. Chaivaivid** (Thailand): Thailand reiterates our firm respect for international law and our adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the non-use of force against it.

We remain deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, which have gravely affected the civilian population. We continue to urge all parties concerned to immediately cease fire, terminate all hostilities, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, comply with international humanitarian law and implement relevant Security Council resolutions to alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Thailand reiterates the call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, including Thai nationals, and for their proper treatment pending their release.

Today we voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24 in the hope that it would reinvigorate momentum towards peace and security in the region and the eventual fulfilment of the two-State solution. Our vote today reflects our principles, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter. We continue to appeal to all sides to seek ways to resolve the situation through peaceful means with a view to realizing the two-State solution, by which the States of Israel and Palestine can live side-by-side in peace and security, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

**Mr. Rae** (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada's position on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is guided by our historic and unwavering commitment to international law and a framework that best ensures the peace and security of Israelis and Palestinians.

The horrific Hamas terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023, which Canada continues to unequivocally condemn, and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza have made a return to a process leading to a two-State solution more urgent than ever. An immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages is required. Hamas must lay down its arms, and urgent action is needed to address the humanitarian catastrophe. Canada will continue to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, humanitarian reconstruction and development efforts, and security assistance to ensure greater security and stability in the region.

The loss of life and destruction of infrastructure in Gaza are frankly horrific and unacceptable. The processes of legal accountability, confidence-building and establishing the conditions for peace and justice will require extraordinary efforts from all parties and from all of us. We remain ready to do our part.

(*spoke in English*)

Let us be clear that there are aspects of resolution ES-10/24 that Canada agrees with. Canada does not recognize permanent Israeli control over territories occupied in 1967. To be precise, that has been a consistent position of all Canadian Governments since that time. The Fourth Geneva Convention applies in the occupied territories and clearly establishes Israel's obligations as an occupying Power, in particular



with respect to the humane treatment of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Canada also considers Israeli settlements to be a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. We also condemn violence by extremist settlers that harms Palestinians and threatens prospects for peace.

Canada recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination and supports the creation of the Palestinian State. We support the International Court of Justice's critical role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and in upholding the international rules-based order. We took note of the advisory opinion that was issued on 19 July (see A/78/968) and at that time we called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion. We continue to do so.

Our problem with the resolution is that it goes well beyond the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. We cannot support a resolution in which one party, the State of Israel, is held solely responsible for the conflict. Canada supports Israel's right to live in peace with its neighbours within secure boundaries and recognizes Israel's right to assure its own security. That is the right of every sovereign State represented in the Assembly. However, there is no mention in the resolution of the need to end terrorism, concerning which Israel has serious and legitimate security concerns. Once again, the resolution fails to mention the horrendous attack and the atrocities of 7 October 2023, which were carried out by Hamas. We continue to support Israel's right to defend itself against any form of terrorism.

In addition, we are concerned that the resolution contains language that aligns with the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, which Canada firmly opposes. That effort seeks to uniquely isolate Israel in a conflict in which everyone in the Hall knows that many other States and non-State actors are also directly involved. That is not the path to a just resolution of the conflict.

For those reasons, Canada abstained in the voting on the resolution. We are committed to continuing our work with the international community to help advance peace in the region, which must include a two-State solution. We will always stand with the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in their right to live in peace, their right to live in security and their right to live in dignity. That is the only path that will take us to a long-lasting solution to the ongoing crisis, with which the Assembly has been involved since the creation of the United Nations.

**Mr. Larsen** (Australia): Australia is resolute in advancing the cause of peace around the world, including the urgent need for a two-State solution in the Middle East, and Australia is a resolute defender of international law, including the International Court of Justice. That is why we abstained in the voting on resolution ES-10/24 with great disappointment.

We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion (see A/78/968). We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination and gave the world a path to a two-State solution. We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion. However, we are concerned that by making demands of the entire United Nations membership that go beyond the scope of the advisory opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel to do.

We are deeply disappointed that those concerns were not able to be addressed. Australia supports many of the principles of the resolution and we are already doing much of what it calls for. We adopted the name "occupied Palestinian territories" because that is what they are. We have affirmed that Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal. We insist that Israel must cease settlement activity. We have sanctioned extremist Israeli settlers because they must be held to account for their violence. We will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a

visa to travel to Australia. We doubled our funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East because it does vital work. We have not supplied weapons to Israel in at least the past five years. We continue to call out unilateral actions that undermine the prospect for peace, and we have moved our position on recognition.

We now see recognition as an integral part of a peace process and as a way to contribute meaningfully towards the realization of a two-State solution. It is a matter of when, not if. It is the only way to break the cycle of violence and the only hope for a prosperous future for both peoples, a Palestinian State and the State of Israel, living side-by-side behind secure borders. Any alternative is either unacceptable or unachievable. The occupation must be brought to an end, such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel and for the region.

To conclude, we meet at a time when the situation in Gaza is catastrophic, when the human suffering is unacceptable, when international law is under strain, and when the region is on the brink of escalation. We urge Member States to remain focused on those most desperately urgent issues. We want to see aid flow at scale, we want to see civilians protected, and we want the terrorist group Hamas to release the hostages it took on 7 October 2023. There must be an immediate ceasefire and the conflict must end.

**Mr. Yamazaki** (Japan): Japan voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24 after thorough consideration. We would like to make the following points as our explanation of vote.

First, as a country that values the rule of law, Japan attaches great importance to the role of the International Court of Justice and its advisory opinions. Japan has been contributing to the work of International Court of Justice, including the advisory opinion under discussion (see A/78/968), by participating in the proceedings, in which we elaborated on the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force.

Secondly, as stated in the advisory opinion, Israel's continued settlement activities are in violation of international law. They undermine the prospects of a two-State solution. The International Court of Justice tasked the General Assembly to follow up on its advisory opinion. Therefore, Japan has been constructively involved in such discussions as a responsible Member State.

However, we observe that there remain some elements that would have required further consideration on what the most appropriate measures would be to address the advisory opinion. For instance, the resolution includes language regarding sanctions and other issues related to bilateral relations. We understand that those measures are to be taken based on the domestic laws and policy decisions of each country. We should not lose sight of what the only realistic approach for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is. It is to rebuild trust between the parties and to ultimately realize a two-State solution through negotiations, in line with international law and based on the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as internationally agreed parameters.

Last but not least, with regard to the grave situation in Gaza, Japan has consistently condemned the terror attacks by Hamas and others and has expressed deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation. We again call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of the hostages and the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza at scale. Japan will continue to strongly support the tireless efforts of the United States, Egypt and Qatar to that end.

**Ms. Stoeva** (Bulgaria): Bulgaria is firmly committed to upholding the principles of international law. We are convinced that it is only through full respect for international law that peace, security and justice can be achieved. The International Court of Justice is essential in upholding those principles, and undoubtedly its

findings, and those of all international judicial institutions, should be respected and implemented by all.

We have consistently supported the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people pertaining to their right to self-determination and we are convinced that the Palestinian people, like all peoples, have the right to a sovereign and independent State. A just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-State solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security and mutual recognition, is needed now more than ever.

Unfortunately, given the current political context, we are not convinced that the resolution just adopted will facilitate the achievement of that comprehensive goal. It goes beyond the scope of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion (see A/78/968) and falls short of objectively addressing the realities on the ground. For that reason, Bulgaria was not in a position to support the resolution and abstained in the voting on it.

**Mr. Marschik** (Austria): As my colleagues saw, Austria abstained in the voting on resolution ES-10/24. Here is why.

Austria is strongly committed to strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels and believes that an international system based on respect for and compliance with international law is an essential precondition for lasting peace, security, economic development and social progress. Such a system benefits us all. We also want to reaffirm our full support for the International Court of Justice and its crucial role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Austria respects the Court's judgments and legal opinions, including the advisory opinion (see A/78/968) that the resolution addresses.

Austria fully supports the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security within recognized borders based on the pre-1967 borders. Our political leaders have consistently advocated for that position. In January, Foreign Minister Schallenberg, at the Security Council, called on the international community to do more to achieve that aim by laying the foundations for a life in peace and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians alike (see S/PV.9534).

Austria remains committed to that goal, but we believe that genuine peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike can be achieved only through a political process. It is regrettable and incomprehensible that the resolution does not reflect the need for such a negotiation process. It also does not take into account Israel's legitimate security concerns.

Furthermore, as many colleagues who have spoken before have pointed out, the resolution goes beyond the advisory opinion in several areas, including with a view to responsibilities of third States regarding trade relations with Israel and sanctions, which are not mentioned in the advisory opinion. While the European Union has adopted sanctions against certain individual violent settlers, the broad call for sanctions and import restrictions contained in the resolution does not correspond to any legal obligation of third States. Finally, let me emphasize that Austria does not support the establishment of any additional follow-up mechanisms under article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as envisaged by the resolution, since those would constitute a duplication of the already existing mechanisms and procedures of the Convention itself.

For those reasons, Austria abstained in the voting on the resolution today and calls instead on both sides to return to the negotiating table. Austria stands ready to support efforts that can rebuild hope for peace, liberate the hostages held by Hamas and bring an end to the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. We

categorically reject any unilateral attempt from any side to undermine the prospects for a two-State solution.

**Mr. Lagatie** (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the authors of resolution ES-10/24 for their constructive approach. Belgium voted in favour of the resolution adopted today. That vote is in line with our oral presentation to the International Court of Justice on 20 February.

Belgium consistently advocates that respect for international law must be our compass and guide the action of the international community in all circumstances. Like a majority of the States in the Assembly, my country resolutely supports the International Court of Justice, which is one of the main pillars of the international judicial system. The resolution adopted today is in line with the Court's advisory opinion of 19 July (see A/78/968).

The illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and illicit settlement policies have for decades perpetuated a system that violates the human rights of the Palestinian population in a climate of impunity. That reality jeopardizes the chances of any peace process in the Middle East. Those practices must stop. In the absence of alternative modalities or actions being proposed, my country supports those presented today through resolution ES-10/24.

Belgium applies the policy of differentiation with regard to Israeli settlements, in compliance with Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). Belgium also notes that sanctions have already been adopted against violent settlers within a European framework. Belgium is ready to discuss the adoption, also within that framework, of new effective and proportionate countermeasures in relation to the illicit actions identified by the Court.

The adoption of the resolution does not mean an unfavourable revision of Israel's right to exist within its internationally recognized borders, much less a reduction in the security of the Israeli population — quite the contrary. Let us be very clear on that subject. Terrorist groups like Hamas, whose actions we firmly condemn, feed on oppression, the denial of justice and the feeling of helplessness that overwhelms those whose rights are denied. The resolution's text offers a realistic perspective to give hope in the strength of the law to a population that, because of the injustices it has suffered for too long, has been left to the mercies of extremist ideologies. It is up to us to give effect to it so that the resolution can fully contribute to promoting peace and reconciliation.

In that spirit, Belgium welcomes the organization, in New York on 26 September, of a meeting on the situation in Gaza and the implementation of the two-State solution as a path towards a just and comprehensive peace and hopes that a realistic process can be defined there. It fully supports the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognized borders.

We know that we are facing a long and difficult road. To alleviate the immeasurable suffering caused by the conflict and limit the risks of its spread, Belgium continues to call for the implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate release of all hostages, respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, and a significant, sustainable and unconditional increase in the flow of humanitarian aid throughout the Gaza Strip and full humanitarian access by land.

Belgium is convinced that a negotiated political solution is the only perspective that will allow Israelis and Palestinians alike to live decently in peace, side-by-side. We will continue to resolutely support all efforts in that direction.

**Mr. Lagorio** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Argentine Republic supports the fundamental role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ

of the United Nations, in the defence of international law and in the maintenance of international peace and security. In particular, Argentina highlights the important task that the Court performs in the exercise of its contentious function, enabling the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means so as not to endanger international peace and security or justice. Likewise, Argentina stresses the importance of the advisory function of the Court. The conclusions of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations determine and interpret the rules of law that are applicable not only to the United Nations, but also to all countries of the international community.

Although the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice are not legally binding, they constitute precedents that contribute to the clarification and development of international law, and even more so if they are requested by the General Assembly, the principal deliberative organ of the United Nations. Indeed, it should be noted that what is binding is customary international law and that which is established in current international treaties. In that sense, the Court's opinions on what customary law establishes and on how current treaties should be interpreted are an extremely useful guide for States.

In line with Argentina's commitment to the highest Court in The Hague, we understand that the Court's own legal mechanism should not be distorted or decontextualized but, on the contrary, preserved in order to defend and respect international law, in accordance with its Statute and the Charter of the United Nations. In this case, resolution ES-10/24 goes beyond what is established in the advisory opinion (see A/78/968), impacting its non-binding nature. Likewise, the resolution omits any mention of the Hamas attack of 7 October 2023, a fact that cannot be ignored in any way. In that context, moving forward with the implementation of the advisory opinion, as sought by the resolution adopted, would jeopardize initiatives aimed at achieving a ceasefire, to which the Argentine Republic is committed.

Our negative vote does not in any way mean that Argentina is no longer committed to a just and definitive peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is only through the resumption of a process of dialogue, based on a solution of two States living side-by-side in peace and security within secure and internationally recognized borders, that it will be possible to achieve a lasting peace.

**Mrs. Tahzib-Lie** (Netherlands): I thank President Yang for reconvening this week's emergency special session. On behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, it is my honour to deliver this explanation of vote on resolution ES-10/24, on 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 thank the International Court of Justice for its valuable advisory opinion, which forms the basis of today's resolution. The Kingdom of the Netherlands holds the International Court of Justice in the highest esteem as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and we are proud to host the Court in The Hague. The resolution is an important reflection on the Court's advisory opinion and possible future steps. The implications of the advisory opinion for Dutch policy are currently under consideration by our Government.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands abstained in the voting on the resolution at hand. We did so taking into account the following considerations.

First, although not formally part of the advisory opinion, the resolution takes the period after 7 October into account without referencing the heinous attack of Hamas on Israel, with great implications for Israel's security. While the war that unfolded afterwards is still ongoing and the fate of many of the hostages is still



uncertain, we all see the catastrophic humanitarian situation and an enormous loss of human life in Gaza that needs to be addressed immediately, including through an immediate ceasefire.

Secondly, in that context a negotiated and sustainable two-State solution is now needed more than ever. Unilateral calls for an internationally imposed solution or for a time-specific withdrawal are not helpful, nor are unilateral actions like the expansion of settlements on the ground, as they move the two-State solution further from reality and are not in line with international law. We therefore urge both parties to engage in talks that lead to a sustainable situation in which the Israeli and the Palestinian people, as well as the wider region, can live in peace and security. We reaffirm our commitment to the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including its right to an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State, living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel.

Thirdly, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has reservations regarding paragraph 5 (b) of the resolution. We would therefore like to add the following additional clarification to our vote. Considering the current situation in the region, Israel's security concerns remain legitimate. While it remains of utmost importance that Israel retain its right and ability to defend itself, we stress that this must be exercised in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant areas of international law, including international humanitarian law. In that light, the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to point out that the transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to all parties involved in the conflict should be prevented when it is concluded that such transfers are contrary to international export control norms and standards.

I would like to end by again thanking the International Court of Justice for its valuable advisory opinion. The Kingdom of the Netherlands will continue to work with all parties towards a sustainable and peaceful solution.

**Ms. Horváth** (Hungary): Hungary decided to vote against resolution ES-10/24 today. Our position is not contradictory to our long-standing commitment to the International Court of Justice. We take note of the Court's advisory opinion (see A/78/968), issued on 19 July. To quote the Court's President, His Excellency Judge Nawaf Salam,

“By stating the law, the Court provides the parties and the international community with a reliable basis for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.”

We fully share that vision of peace in the region and commit to the means necessary and adequate to achieve it.

The resolution, however, does not set a path forward for implementing the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion. Instead, it selectively interprets the Court's opinion, imposes deadlines that may not be feasible on the ground, and calls for unilateral actions that would undermine efforts to rebuild trust and to create an atmosphere in which negotiations are possible. Furthermore, we believe that the path to achieving peace and resolving the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be grounded in direct bilateral negotiations between the parties.

Hungary continues to fully support any meaningful efforts agreed by the parties, including within the Oslo framework, which has been and remains the reference point for any further negotiations. Regrettably, instead of fostering reconciliation and returning to dialogue, the violence in the region has risen to levels not seen since 2000. Amidst those rising tensions, we stress that unilateral actions that could further inflame the situation must be avoided. We believe that there are no quick fixes to the conflict.



First, we must ensure that terrorist attacks like that of 7 October 2023 will not happen again, secure the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, bring an end to the hostilities in Gaza and ensure full, rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian aid at scale for Palestinians in need. Once the hostilities cease, a political solution must be pursued — one that is based on a long-term strategy agreed by all parties involved and supported by the Security Council. Negotiations on all issues will succeed only if international law and justice serve as their foundation.

Hungary reaffirms its support for a two-State solution that allows the State of Israel to live side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition with an independent, democratic, sovereign and viable Palestinian State.

**Mr. Baghdadi** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Syrian Arab Republic would like to thank all States that voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24 today. Syria voted in favour of the resolution as an expression of its categorical rejection of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon.

My country affirms that its vote in favour of the resolution does not in any way imply recognition of Israel and does not mean denying the usurping Zionist entity the status of occupation. The result of the voting reflects the great international solidarity with the Palestinian cause and shows that the vast majority of Member States uphold international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the rights of the Palestinian people, and that they unequivocally reject the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and Arab territory in general.

With the adoption of the resolution today, the United Nations reiterates its unequivocal support for the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State that enjoys full membership of the Organization and takes its natural place among Member States, which it has deserved for decades.

**Mr. Hwang** (Republic of Korea): To begin with, we express our strong support for realizing the aspirations of the Palestinians to an independent State, which is crucial to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In that regard, my delegation reiterates its support for the land for peace formula, a principle that has underpinned the peace process on the Palestinian issue for more than half a century. Any action in the General Assembly should be in line with that principle.

The land for peace formula, developed to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, remains critical, particularly given the frustration with the stalled peace process and continued settlement expansion since the Oslo Accords. In that context, we note with concern that the text of resolution ES-10/24 does not fully reflect the formula. While it clearly demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory within 12 months, it falls short of demanding that all relevant actors ensure peace in the region.

We fully respect the guidance provided by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion (see A/78/968). The Court has stated that it is of the opinion that the General Assembly should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end the unlawful presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory as rapidly as possible. However, concerns remain that certain actions listed in the resolution, such as those in paragraphs 4 and 5, are not within the scope of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. In that regard, we abstained in the voting on the resolution.

We hope that all actions in the Assembly will help the realization of the long-standing aspiration of the whole world towards the vision of the two-State solution, Israelis and Palestinians living side-by-side in peace within secure and recognized borders and free from threats.

**Ms. Rodríguez Mancía** (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Government of Guatemala abstained in the voting on resolution ES-10/24 and wishes to state its position on this issue:

First, Guatemala reiterates its full and unconditional support for resolution 181 (II), by which the international community decided to establish two States — one Arab and one Jewish. Guatemala does not deviate from that historic position and declares without reservation that Israel and Palestine have the right to live as independent and democratic States, side-by-side in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders. Our vote today was therefore not a deviation from our vote of 10 May (see A/ES-10/PV.49).

Secondly, Guatemala respects the International Court of Justice, and the advisory opinion (see A/78/968) largely agrees with my country's position on policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory. However, Guatemala does not hide the fact that it has reservations regarding some paragraphs of the resolution that have compelled us to act in the way we have.

Thirdly, Guatemala condemns all acts of violence and provocation that primarily affect the civilian population. Our Government is opposed to all acts of terrorism, be they State-sponsored or perpetrated by isolated extremist groups. It categorically rejects targeted assassinations, suicide attacks and all acts of violence that affect innocent civilians.

Fourthly, there is an alternative path to self-perpetuating and counterproductive policies of confrontation and violence. The parties could choose to return to the path of direct negotiations, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to oversee the implementation of any agreement they may conclude.

There is an urgent need to put an end to all indiscriminate aggression and to seek a peaceful and negotiated solution to that long-standing conflict.

**Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes** (Latvia): Today Latvia voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24, "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". Our vote reaffirms our unwavering commitment to international law and support for the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Latvia considers the Court to be a key institution in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including by advising the General Assembly on legal questions upon request.

Consequently, it is in the interests of the international community that advisory opinions provided by the Court be treated with the greatest possible seriousness. That means addressing breaches wherever they occur. It is especially important for smaller countries like my own, Latvia. Given our history, marked by centuries under foreign rule and a struggle for independence, we rely on the Charter of the United Nations and respect for international law to guarantee our sovereignty.

We condemn Hamas in the strongest possible terms for its brutal and indiscriminate attacks across Israel on 7 October 2023, and call for an immediate release of hostages without preconditions. We also reiterate our recognition of the right of Israel to defend itself, in line with international law and international humanitarian law. The ongoing deadly violence only corroborates the need for a political horizon that ensures lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike. A ceasefire in Gaza is vital to stop the horrendous civilian suffering and to provide humanitarian relief at scale.

Today's vote should be interpreted without prejudice to any decision on official recognition of the State of Palestine. Latvia remains committed to a just

and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-State solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, sovereign, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

**Mr. Parvathaneni** (India): Today's voting takes place against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The world has been witnessing that conflict for more than 11 months now. It has resulted in the deaths of thousands, including women and children. The consequent humanitarian crisis is large in scale.

Our position on the conflict has been clear and consistent. We have articulated it several times. We unequivocally condemn the terror attacks on Israel of 7 October 2023. We condemn the loss of civilian lives in the conflict. We call for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and we stand for unrestricted and sustained humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip. India's abiding commitment to achieving a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue is also known.

I use the floor to reiterate that only a two-State solution, achieved through direct and meaningful negotiations between both sides, will lead to enduring peace.

India abstained in the voting today. We have been strong advocates of dialogue and diplomacy. We believe that there is no other way to resolve conflicts. There are no winners in conflicts. The cost of conflict is human lives and destruction. India attaches utmost respect to the Charter and principal organs of the United Nations. Our joint efforts should be directed towards bringing the two sides closer, not driving them further apart. We should strive to build bridges and not to widen the divides. I urge the Assembly to make a genuine effort to strive for peace.

In conclusion, I emphasize our steadfast commitment to a resolution of the conflict and the restoration of peace by bringing human suffering to an end. We will continue to be guided by that spirit. To that end, we stand ready to continue our engagements towards achieving sustained peace.

**Mr. De Rivière** (France) (*spoke in French*): France is committed to respecting international law and reaffirms its full support for the International Court of Justice. As the Court states in its advisory opinion of 19 July (see A/78/968), the Israeli colonization of Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, constitutes a violation of international law.

States are obliged not to recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the illicit presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories. France will not recognize the illegal annexation of territories. France seeks to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) on the policy of differentiation, which is aimed at reifying the legal distinction between the internationally recognized territory of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.

It was in that spirit that France voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24, submitted by Palestine. We should have preferred it closely echo the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, but we commend the efforts to improve the initial draft.

France calls on the Assembly to condemn the flagrant violation of international law constituted by the barbaric terrorist attacks and sexual violence committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups on 7 October 2023 in Israel. France condemns those heinous acts in the strongest possible terms and reiterates its solidarity with the Israeli people. It reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the security of Israel.

The continued settlement activity is a major obstacle to the two-State solution, the only path capable of guaranteeing a just and lasting peace. It is also the only solution that can guarantee Israel's security in the long term. That will require the

creation of a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State and the resumption of peace negotiations. It is urgent to achieve a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Israel's unilateral actions must cease. The undermining of the status quo on the Holy Esplanade is dangerous. International humanitarian law must be respected by all parties. We call for the release of all hostages, a massive delivery of aid and access to essential services for civilian populations.

Faced with rising tensions, we must do our all to avoid a regional conflagration. France is pursuing its efforts in that direction, in conjunction with its partners.

**Mr. Tammsaar** (Estonia): Estonia voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24 because of our unwavering commitment to an international, law-based, multilateral system. That also requires compliance with the norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, by all United Nations Member States.

We support the International Court of Justice as the main judicial body of the United Nations for ensuring compliance with international law and the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We are convinced that relying on international law will help us move towards a two-State solution and ensure both the security of Israel and the future of Palestine.

We express our unwavering commitment to Israel's right to self-defence and security in the light of the threats from Hamas and other terrorist groups. Israel's legitimate security concerns must be addressed in the process of ending the occupation. To de-escalate tensions in the region, we call for the immediate and unconditional implementation of Security Council resolution 2735 (2024), which proposes a comprehensive, three-phrase ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza and release the hostages.

**Ms. Baeriswyl** (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968) reflects the rules and obligations of the parties to the conflict, specifically international humanitarian law. Switzerland's support for the International Court of Justice is unwavering. As guardian of international law, including international humanitarian law, the Court is a key component of the global legal order and plays a key role in the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Switzerland contributed to the 19 July advisory opinion during the consultative process and supports it. The illegality of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, which has been ongoing since 1967, is now beyond doubt. It must end, and a political horizon must be re-established. However, Switzerland notes that certain points in resolution ES-10/24 go beyond the advisory opinion, including the 12-month deadline for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory, without mention of how Israel's security is to be guaranteed, as well as the provision related to sanctions.

That is why we abstained in the voting. Our abstention in no way diminishes our commitment to respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, in keeping with common article 1 of the Geneva Conventions. As the depositary State of the conventions, Switzerland will carry out the mandate entrusted to it under the resolution by convening a conference of high contracting parties within six months.

We reiterate that respect for international law and the protection of civilians are our topmost priorities. That includes an end both to settler violence and to acts of terror, such as those perpetrated on 7 October 2023. In Gaza, we need a ceasefire, safe, swift and unhindered humanitarian access and the release of all hostages. It is high time that we resumed the peace process so as to achieve a two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security within

secure and recognized borders. That is the solution to which Switzerland remains deeply committed.

**Ms. Michail** (Cyprus): We voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24, based a consistent point of principle. Cyprus supports the International Court of Justice in rendering advisory opinions on important legal questions referred to it by the organs of the United Nations. The role of the International Court of Justice is paramount in the rules-based system, as is respecting the Court's decisions and advisory opinions. Notwithstanding that point of principle, we wish to also make the following points.

The resolution includes language and provisions that do not strictly fall within the scope of the July advisory opinion (see A/78/968) and it does not fully cover the international context. We unequivocally condemn in the strongest of terms the heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and its deplorable conduct towards the hostages.

Cyprus fully supports the ongoing mediation efforts of the United States, Egypt and Qatar and reiterates its call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all the hostages and a surge of humanitarian assistance into Gaza as the pathway towards long-term peace.

Ultimately, the only sustainable way forward that meets the security concerns and needs of the legitimate stakeholders is reviving the Middle East peace process on the basis of a two-State solution and in line with United Nations resolutions. We stand ready to support that aim, as it is the sole way to equally ensure conditions of sustainable security and stability for Israelis and Palestinians alike, and it is a crucial step towards fostering stability in the Middle East as a whole.

**Ms. Picco** (Monaco) (*spoke in French*): Monaco voted in favour of resolution ES-10/24. In doing so, Monaco recognizes the role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Monaco's vote in favour of the resolution is a legal decision, not a political one. It is a circumstantial decision dictated by a particular situation. My delegation reaffirms its support for respect for international law and international humanitarian law, the fundamental basis of international relations.

We are deeply concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. We condemn terrorism and the attacks of 7 October 2023 perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorist groups and call for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages. We also reiterate Israel's right to defend itself.

In speaking out in favour of the resolution, Monaco reiterates its commitment to multilateralism and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. Von Uexküll** (Sweden): Sweden firmly supports the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and fully respects its independence and the functions assigned to it under the Charter of the United Nations and its Statute. Sweden has taken note of the Court's important advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, rendered on 19 July (see A/78/968). While not legally binding in itself, we regard it as an authoritative interpretation of important elements of international law on several important issues.

The Court's findings coincide with what is already the joint position of the European Union (EU). The EU has stated that it will not recognize changes to the 1967 borders unless they are agreed by the parties. Based on its national law and Security Council resolutions, the EU has for many years supported a lasting and sustainable peace on the basis of a negotiated two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

Sweden reiterates its firm position that international law must be respected at all times and by all parties, including Israel and Palestine. Civilians must be protected and humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach those in need. Although the advisory opinion does not deal with the situation on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel and Gaza, the EU, including Sweden, stands firm in our call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza to alleviate the suffering of civilians, allow for a massive scale-up of humanitarian assistance, and secure the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

In response to the attacks against Israel by Hamas and other groups on and after 7 October 2023, the EU has reaffirmed its support for Israel's right to defend itself. The war that now rages has made a two-State solution all the more urgent, and it should be clear to everyone that a Hamas-ruled Gaza cannot be part of a solution. For example, the International Court of Justice did not set a deadline for the implementation of its opinion. In that regard, Sweden believes that it would have been better if the resolution before us had provided more time for the parties to discuss and identify the modalities for follow-up to the Court's advisory opinion so as to ensure that the measures adopted were conducive to resuming negotiations in order to achieve a two-State solution.

For those reasons, Sweden abstained in the voting on the resolution.

**Mr. Massari** (Italy): Italy abstained in the voting on resolution ES-10/24. We fully recognize the consultative competence of the International Court of Justice to make legal determinations on matters of international law with regard to questions posed to it by the General Assembly. Our abstention in no way represents a challenge to the authority of the Court.

At the same time, while we recognize the improvements that the adopted text contains, as compared to the first draft circulated by the State of Palestine, the resolution still goes beyond, in some respects, the determinations of the Court, such as, for example, the imposition of sanctions and the indication of strict deadlines for the withdrawal of Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In general, in order for the Court's legal determinations to be implemented on the ground, we must create the conditions under which such implementation becomes possible and real. Let us not forget that the need to create conditions to ensure respect for international law is stated in the very Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations and is one of the key functions of the United Nations. We believe that for the international community and for the United Nations, there is no shortcut to a negotiated two-State solution in which both Israel and Palestine and their people live side-by-side in full security, within mutually agreed recognized borders, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and international law.

Given those considerations, Italy firmly believes that all efforts must now focus on facilitating renewed negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, aimed at rebuilding trust and fostering dialogue. Those are the key parties responsible for driving the peace process forward. The international community must remain steadfast in supporting that effort, with the clear objective of achieving a political and security framework that will bring a lasting end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and lay down a viable road map towards a two-State solution. There is no more urgent moment than now; indeed, we are already behind.

Italy stands ready to take concrete steps and dedicate its resources to ensuring that the two-State solution evolves from a long-standing aspiration into a practical and achievable outcome.

**Mr. Geisler** (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Germany.



Today's meeting is about the right of the Palestinian people to live in their own State, in dignity and in recognition of the State of Israel. Germany has long fought for the two-State solution. We have repeatedly condemned the fact that the prospects of a two-State solution are being undermined by the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and the violence perpetrated by radical Israeli settlers.

The International Court of Justice advisory opinion (see A/78/968) addresses that. The International Court of Justice has stated that the State of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and that Israel is under an obligation to bring it to an end as rapidly as possible. It clearly calls on the United Nations and its Members not to recognize the status quo and to consider modalities and further action to bring an end to it. That is a very far-reaching task that we must take very seriously. We therefore regret the narrow time frame between the presentation of resolution ES-10/24 and its adoption today.

We would also have wished that the resolution followed the conclusions of the International Court of Justice more closely. Unfortunately, the resolution goes beyond the scope of the advisory opinion in several points. Instead of setting unrealistic time frames, it would have been advisable to emphasize more strongly that the parties need to resolve their differences through direct talks. The resolution also fails to spell out that the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion does not cover events after 7 October 2023, the brutal terror attack carried out by Hamas, the taking of hostages and the Israeli response since then. It should in no way undermine ongoing diplomatic efforts. We disagree with provisions that do not acknowledge the right of Israel to ensure its security and the safety of its population. The International Court of Justice has not limited that right in any way in its advisory opinion. We regret that the resolution blurs the lines between the advisory opinion and other legal procedures addressing the situation in Gaza.

Resolution ES-10/24 has been adopted today. For the reasons I have outlined, Germany abstained in the voting. Let there be no doubt that we respect the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion, that we will act in line with the obligations of international law set out in it, and that we are ready to assist in its implementation in its entirety to achieve justice and lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

We do not always agree among ourselves. Here at the United Nations, we come together to seek solutions. International law is what unites us. It is the cornerstone of our international order and must be respected. When it is not, peace and security will not prevail. Our position on the Middle East is clear. The only way to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace is a negotiated two-State solution. The only way to get there is through direct negotiations between the two parties.

**Mr. Tito** (Kiribati): Kiribati abstained in the voting on resolution ES-10/24, in line with our long-standing stance on the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The following lays out our rationale for abstaining.

While we fully respect and honour the International Court of Justice's findings, advisory opinion (see A/78/968) and recommendations to the Security Council and the General Assembly with respect to the current Israeli Palestinian conflict, and while we fully support the admission of Palestine as soon as possible to full membership of the United Nations and the two-State solution to the conflict that has been agreed, Kiribati is of the view that lasting peace between Israel and Palestine cannot be realized by simply turning the advisory opinion and recommendations into a court order, as attempted by the resolution, that requires only one party to the conflict to play its part without requiring the other party to play its part as well.

Peace between two conflicting parties can be achieved only if the two parties can come to together, genuinely ready to forgive and forget the wrongs of the past and move forward with a new sense of friendship, cooperation and good-neighbourliness. My delegation hopes to see the two-State solution implemented by the Security Council and the General Assembly as quickly as possible, using the mechanisms articulated on the pacific settlement of disputes, enshrined in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a significant challenge to global peace and security. Kiribati firmly believes that a sustainable and just resolution can be achieved only through the framework of a two-State solution, whereby Israel and Palestine can coexist peacefully within secure and recognized borders. Kiribati is mindful of the complexities and sensitivities that accompany that long-standing conflict. As a small island nation, believing so much in peace — and we are a very peaceful nation — we value peace, dialogue and respect for international law.

While we recognize the importance of those legal principles, Kiribati has also taken a balanced approach to this matter. While we continue to search for a full understanding of that long-standing and complex conflict, with roots and causes stretching back to the days when the Arab world was ruled by colonial Powers, we opted to abstain in today's vote on the resolution related to the conflict. Our abstention reflects our belief that both parties must come to the table in a spirit of compromise and mutual respect. We remain hopeful that diplomatic efforts guided by the United Nations Charter, international law and the principle of justice can eventually lead to a resolution that benefits both peoples and promotes lasting peace in the region.

In conclusion, Kiribati affirms its commitment to the two-State solution and calls on the international community to support efforts towards a peaceful and just settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We believe that the sooner the two-State solution is progressed and implemented, the sooner lasting peace and happiness can become a living human reality for the people of Israel, the people of Palestine and the peoples of the Middle East.

**Mr. De La Gasca** (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Twenty-four years ago, in September 2000, States Members of the Organization adopted the Millennium Declaration, in which we collectively decided,

“To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.” (*resolution 55/2, paragraph. 9*)

On 19 July, the International Court of Justice, at the request of the Assembly, issued an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/78/968). Although not legally binding, the advisory opinion contributes to upholding international law in international relations. The Court decided that it was up to the Assembly, among other organs, to establish precise modalities to bring an end to Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and to consider what further action was required to that end.

The General Assembly did so in its consideration of a text proposed by Palestine, which reflects much of what is suggested by the Court in its advisory opinion, and has proposed further actions. As it committed to doing 24 years ago, Ecuador is making every effort to strengthen international law and contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes. It therefore supports and upholds the decisions and opinions of the International Court of Justice.

Ecuador shares the view of the Court that the Palestinians' ability to exercise their right to self-determination, including their right to a sovereign, independent State living in peace with Israel within secure borders recognized by both States, as contemplated in the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, would contribute to regional stability and the security of all States of the Middle East.

Our actions and decisions must seek to bring us closer to that goal. That is why, even before the Court rendered its advisory opinion, Ecuador, through its votes both in the Security Council and in the Assembly, maintained its historic position in favour of the two-State solution. Moreover, Ecuador has invariably condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and demanded the immediate release of all hostages and does so again today.

The fact that the new measures proposed are not part of the Court's opinion determined our decision in the voting on resolution ES-10/24. In particular, for Ecuador the timetable in paragraph 2 is artificial. That is why Ecuador abstained in the voting, even as we reaffirm our support for a peaceful and just political solution based on the solution of two States living within the 1967 borders, in line with the relevant resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

Lastly, Ecuador believes that the time is ripe to promote negotiations to ensure the stability, security and well-being of Palestinians and Israelis alike. We must avoid any action that farther distances the possibility of resolving the conflict.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*