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**Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)****Summary record of the 25th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 10 November 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Kasselakis (Vice-Chair) (Greece)**Contents**Agenda item 47: Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Al Hassan (Oman), Mr. Kasselakis (Greece), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 47: Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories
(continued) (A/77/501, A/77/520 and A/77/493)

1. **Mr. Ghelich** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the findings set out in the reports under consideration were appalling. The mandate of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories must be supported in order to further raise awareness of illegal Israeli activities and mobilize international action to end such violations of basic human rights. As the occupying Power, the Israeli regime had continued to conduct forcible evictions and possibly the forcible transfer of Palestinian families for more than seven decades, in flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions. The unlawful, inhumane and expansionist policies of Israel had denied the Palestinian people their inalienable rights and caused their living conditions to worsen. Palestinians continued to be subjected to violence and intimidation by Israeli settlers. The occupying regime had taken unprecedented measures to Judaize Jerusalem and to alter or eliminate the Palestinian Christian and Muslim presence there. The international community must hold the apartheid regime of Israel accountable for those violations. His country remained steadfast in supporting the Palestinian people in their legitimate resistance against the occupation and in their quest to exercise the right to self-determination and establish a sovereign State with Al-Quds al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital.

2. The Syrian Golan was an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic. All discriminatory and illegal policies towards the Syrian population and all attempts to change its physical character, demographic composition and legal status constituted a flagrant violation of their human rights, of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. As had been stated by the Security Council, the decision by Israel to impose its laws and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was without international legal effect.

3. **Mr. Abusrewel** (Libya) said that the question of Palestine remained a major concern for both the Government and the people of Libya. Grave violations of the rights of the Palestinian people continued despite condemnations, United Nations resolutions and

international peace initiatives. Peace would not be achieved so long as Palestinian territory remained occupied and the occupation authorities continued to build settlements, annex territory, impose unjust blockades and construct walls that made the Palestinian territories resemble a giant prison. With time, the prospects for a two-State solution had faded.

4. The policy pursued by the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was illegal, illegitimate and inhumane. It was high time for the international community to act in order to end the worst and most violent occupation known to humanity. Otherwise, the next generation of Palestinians would not see peace as a solution and would see no way to establish an independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Attempting to force the Palestinians to settle in other societies would not be a solution; the Palestinian people demanded the right to return to their homeland.

5. Some might wonder why his delegation was discussing the concerns of the Palestinian people when Libya was suffering from multiple serious crises. The answer was that, while all Arab peoples faced crises, the Palestinian question remained an unhealed wound in the heart of every Arab, every defender of self-determination and every champion of human rights.

6. **Mr. Akay** (Niger) said that an absence of serious negotiations and an inability to tackle the causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had led to an alarming security situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The military operations conducted by the Israeli security forces had sparked a rise in violence, particularly affecting women and children. Such disproportionate use of force had disastrous consequences for civilian populations. The strict restrictions imposed by Israel on the movement of people and goods hindered the provision of basic social services and economic activities. All States, including Israel, the occupying Power, must respect their international obligations with regard to the protection of civilians.

7. His delegation was deeply concerned by the attack on a school in Nablus on 4 October 2022 by Israeli settlers, which had flagrantly violated Security Council resolution 2601 (2021). Settlement activities, including evictions and forced displacements, were part of the daily lives of Palestinians and had significant psychological consequences. While the Palestinian people faced economic pressures and the risk of food insecurity, humanitarian action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory also faced a chronic financial shortfall. The international community must demonstrate greater solidarity with the Palestinian people, notably through support for the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

8. The apartheid situation experienced by the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation was deeply concerning. Niger supported the two-State solution, in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

9. **Ms. Özgür** (Türkiye) said that unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory fuelled tensions and conflict, diminished the chance of lasting peace in the region and undermined prospects for a two-State solution. The rising tension owing to raids and military blockades in the West Bank and East Jerusalem were particularly concerning. Continuing violations of the sanctity and status of Jerusalem and the Aqsa Mosque were unacceptable, and illegal settlements, forced evictions, demolitions, arbitrary arrests and settler violence must come to an end. The decision to list Palestinian civil society groups as terror organizations should be revoked.

10. It was essential to address the root causes of the issues affecting the region through negotiations. However, the lack of progress towards a solution was deeply troubling, and had been compounded by the international community's lack of interest. Türkiye consistently supported the right of the Palestinian people to live in a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, based on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also supported the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

11. **Mr. Al-barati** (Yemen) said that Yemen supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign and independent State, in line with relevant international resolutions and with the Arab Peace Initiative, which stressed that comprehensive peace and the normalization of relations with Israel must be predicated on an end to the occupation of Arab lands, the exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and the right of Palestine refugees to return to their homeland and to a just solution consistent with General Assembly resolution 194 (III). A viable Palestinian State should be established within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Continued efforts were needed, including through support for the Hashemite guardianship of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in the occupied city of Jerusalem, to preserve the city's Muslim and Christian demographic character.

12. His Government condemned the settler-colonial policies of the occupying Power and called on the

Security Council to implement its resolution 2334 (2016). The Israeli entity, the occupying Power, should immediately end all settlement activity in all Palestinian territories, especially in Jerusalem. The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip should be lifted and all Palestinian detainees should be released, especially women, children and older persons. Yemen welcomed the signature by Palestinian factions of a national reconciliation agreement as an important step towards Palestinian statehood.

13. The State of Palestine should be granted full membership in the United Nations. Countries that had not yet done so should recognize the State of Palestine and support all its endeavours to hold the Israeli regime accountable for crimes against humanity and war crimes. In that regard, Yemen welcomed the announcement of Australia that it had revoked its recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called on other countries to do likewise.

14. Yemen categorically rejected all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal and demographic status quo in the Syrian Golan and considered all Israeli practices aimed at consolidating its full control over the Golan to be null and void and in violation of international agreements, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions. The Syrian people had a right to recover all of the occupied Syrian Golan within the borders of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant international resolutions.

15. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that, although the international community had repeatedly called for an end to the aggressive activities against the Palestinian people, the Israeli occupying forces continued the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the indiscriminate killing of women and children, the expansion of illegal settlements, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Those illegal activities were in grave violation of international law and the rights of the Palestinian people. Bangladesh remained committed to supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people for an independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, under a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

16. The Israeli occupation and its apartheid practices should be definitively dismantled; all relevant United Nations resolutions and all prior recommendations set out in the reports of the Special Committee should be implemented; and access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan should be

facilitated for the Special Committee, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

17. The lack of access to basic services for the Palestinian people was deeply concerning; such access must be ensured without delay to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. The continued Israeli occupation was the biggest impediment to Palestine achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Also of concern were discrimination in access to justice, attacks on journalists, evictions and demolitions, and detention of Palestinians, including children. Bangladesh therefore welcomed the request, in the draft resolution on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/C.4/77/L.12) for the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the matter. The General Assembly should develop a plan to end the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime, including through concrete measures taken by the Security Council to ensure the compliance of Israel.

18. **Ms. Samai** (Algeria) said that her delegation fully supported Palestinian sovereignty over all Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return of refugees, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and authoritative international resolutions. The Palestinian people had languished under occupation for decades. Political horizons were narrowing because the occupying Power continued to violate international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions and to systematically undermine the two-State solution through apartheid and a policy of *fait accompli*.

19. Her delegation strongly condemned the escalating aggression against Jerusalem, the intensification of forcible evictions and the attempt to alter the city's demographic composition. It condemned the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements, the seizure of Palestinian property, house demolitions, the annexation of territory, violations of holy places and attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo of the Haram Al-Sharif. The international community should oppose the Israeli colonial settlement regime, which engendered discrimination and apartheid. It should bring its policies and positions into line with the rule of law and promote peace and security through multilateral engagement in the peace process, with a view to implementing the two-State solution.

20. The occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan was a significant threat to regional peace and security. All authoritative international resolutions stipulated that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was applicable to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and stated that the imposition by the occupying Power of its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Golan were null and void and without international legal effect.

21. Mindful of the need for a comprehensive political settlement, Algeria had hosted meetings that had culminated in the adoption of the Algiers Declaration regarding reconciliation among Palestinian factions. It supported the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

22. **Ms. Omarali** (Brunei Darussalam) said that current global challenges, including geopolitical conflicts, climate change, food insecurity and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, had exacerbated the struggles of the Palestinian people. More than ever, the international community must enhance its efforts to improve the situation in Palestine. The ongoing work of UNRWA to provide health care, water and sanitation and proper education to Palestinians was commendable, despite the current financial shortfalls; its mandate should therefore be renewed. Brunei Darussalam would continue to support the efforts of UNRWA to provide critical humanitarian assistance and adequate health care in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and had established donation channels to that end.

23. The Palestinian people deserved freedom, justice and access to equal economic and social opportunities. They continued to be deprived of their inalienable rights to self-determination, basic freedoms and safe return to their homes and property. Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its strong condemnation of the repeated violations of Palestinian human rights and dignity and ongoing illegal actions of the occupying Power, which continued to refuse to engage with the Special Committee. The occupying Power should return to the negotiating table, de-escalate tensions and refrain from acts that might further aggravate the situation. Her country supported the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine. It believed that Palestine should be granted full membership in the United Nations.

24. **Mr. Mills** (United States of America) said that both Israelis and Palestinians deserved to live safely and securely, with equal measures of freedom, dignity, security and prosperity. A negotiated two-State solution remained the best way forward, through direct

negotiations between the parties. His delegation continued to oppose the annual submission of a number of draft resolutions biased against Israel; it rejected measures that were not constructive and sought to delegitimize that country. Failure to acknowledge the shared history of the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount in those draft resolutions demonstrated that they were intended only to denigrate, rather than to contribute to peace. His delegation was therefore deeply concerned by some of the wording in the draft resolution on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/C.4/77/L.12), including on the request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. Such efforts were counterproductive and detracted from the shared objective of a negotiated two-State solution. Moreover, that wording had been inserted late in the negotiation process, something that had not allowed for sufficient consultation on the matter.

25. The one-sided approach of the General Assembly towards the Middle East undermined trust between parties and failed to create the kind of positive international environment that was conducive to achieving peace. That approach consumed limited time and diverted resources from other global challenges, while failing to contribute towards a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Every year in the Fourth Committee, many delegations reiterated the same messages they had delivered for years. It was time to move beyond those talking points and pay attention to events in the region. In recent years, several countries had signed the Abraham Accords and other normalization agreements with Israel, leading to a new course of progress and possibilities across the Middle East. For example, the Negev Forum provided an opportunity to expand regional cooperation and integration to achieve shared security and prosperity. In that connection, while negotiations had been indirect and did not constitute normalization, Israel and Lebanon had made the historic and difficult decision to demarcate a maritime boundary. Meanwhile, however, there had been no change in the discussions of the Fourth Committee. The General Assembly should seek a new way forward and abandon resolutions that were biased against Israel and distracted from efforts to achieve peace.

26. **Ms. Kuzee** (Namibia) said that the occupying Power had not been sufficiently held to account for its long-standing practices of annexation, settlement expansion and human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Its refusal to cooperate with the United Nations was regrettable. Moreover, the violations of human rights and international law

documented in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/77/356) raised questions regarding the complacency of the international community.

27. Namibia continued to support the two-State solution of Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and security, on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. That remained the only viable solution for a comprehensive, lasting peace in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Her delegation also supported the full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations. Action should be taken at the international level to support the Palestinian people, who had the inalienable right to political and economic freedom and civil liberties. Namibia supported the proposal of requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the prolonged occupation of Palestine by Israel.

28. **Mr. Sithole** (South Africa) said that, in order to entrench the domination of Israelis over Palestinians, Israel was institutionalizing a regime of systematic oppression and an apartheid system against the Palestinian people. The hallmarks of the crime of apartheid were clearly articulated in the relevant reports, including those by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Holding Israel accountable for such atrocities was not anti-Semitic. The forcible evictions and demolitions and the legitimization of settlements by Israel were particularly alarming, recalling the apartheid era in South Africa. The systematic inequality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was reminiscent of the two systems of justice and education that were implemented in South Africa during the apartheid regime.

29. All United Nations mechanisms should be used in support of Palestinian self-determination. The United Nations must seek justice for the Palestinian people through the application of international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, which Israel had violated for more than six decades. The possibility of reviving a mechanism such as the Special Committee against Apartheid should be considered for that purpose. South Africa also supported the legitimate Palestinian application for full membership in the United Nations and urged other Member States to do the same.

30. The international community, including the General Assembly and Security Council, must compel Israel to cease all illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East

Jerusalem; all acts of violence, provocation and incitement; and all other illegal practices and human rights violations. The continuous expansion of Israeli settlements onto Palestinian land and the threat of annexation violated international law and undermined the prospects for a two-State solution. Although the issue had been on the agenda of the United Nations since its establishment, no concrete actions had been taken to address such crimes against humanity.

31. **Ms. Ratnamurti** (Indonesia) said that the deteriorating human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, was deeply concerning. The oppression and disproportionate use of force by the occupying Power had led to numerous civilian casualties, and sustained apartheid policies had further denied the inhabitants of the occupied territories their basic rights and livelihoods. The expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied territories diminished hopes for the two-State solution and incited further violence and human rights violations. The occupation must not be normalized, and the occupying Power must be held accountable for its violations of international law and international humanitarian law, particularly against the backdrop of calls for accountability further to recent developments in eastern Europe. A just and lasting solution was necessary to end the long-standing cycle of violence and hardship. All parties should take action to revive the peace process and realize the two-State solution, based on internationally agreed parameters and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

32. **Mr. Alajmi** (Kuwait) said that the State of Palestine had the fundamental right to absolute sovereignty over all its territories occupied in 1967. His delegation stressed the Arab identity of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine and called on the international community to take a more effective stand against the wide-ranging crimes of the Israeli occupation, which included grave breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law, the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Those breaches included the continuing illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip; the intentional targeting of civilians and civilian facilities; the obstruction of humanitarian and medical assistance; and settler-colonial practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the annexation of territory, the expansion and construction of settlements, the expulsion of Palestinian residents, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the confiscation of property.

Kuwait condemned the desecration by settlers and occupation forces of holy places in Jerusalem. Such actions were aimed at altering the historic status quo of the Aqsa Mosque, dividing it spatially and temporally and obstructing the right of Muslims to pray there.

33. The international community must act decisively to stop the crimes committed by the occupying Power and lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip in order to end the growing humanitarian and economic crisis. The international community must also support the efforts of the State of Palestine to provide international protection for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. The occupation authorities must hold to account those responsible for the assassination of Shireen Abu Akleh and engage in good-faith negotiations towards a two-State solution, in accordance with international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

34. **Mr. Nishiyama** (Japan) said that his delegation continued to support a two-State solution based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters. It was concerned at the situation on the ground, including the large number of casualties due to violence, especially in parts of the West Bank. The parties should show restraint and make efforts towards confidence-building, particularly between security authorities. The expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was highly concerning, as it violated international law and United Nations resolutions and had a significant impact on Palestinian human rights. The Government of Israel should immediately halt settlement activities, demolitions and evictions, which undermined the viability of a two-State solution.

35. The humanitarian, socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip remained dire, and involved a vicious cycle of violence that must end. If people lost hope for the future after years of suffering, they would become more inclined towards violence to make their voices heard. Japan would continue its efforts to improve the situation, including through its invitation programme for teachers from Gaza. It hoped that the reconciliation agreement signed in Algeria would lead to the realization of elections in the Palestinian territories, which would both promote Palestinian unity and enhance the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority. The Foreign Minister of Japan had exchanged views with 16 Arab ambassadors in Japan in October 2022 and had confirmed the commitment of his country to peace in the Middle East.

36. **Mr. Erdan** (Israel) said that every year, a package of distorted resolutions that were completely detached from reality was adopted at the United Nations, singling out and condemning Israel, which was the only vibrant liberal democracy in the Middle East. The only outcome of those resolutions was to perpetuate the conflict and exacerbate the situation on the ground. When the immoral, politicized anti-Israel majority at the United Nations supported the abhorrent lies of the Palestinians, it led them to believe that they could continue spreading their culture of hatred and violence denying the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish State, and refusing to make any concessions, which were essential for reconciliation and peace. However, Israel would never surrender to their radicalism and hate, and no biased external body would endanger its future.

37. The Palestinians had never been interested in peace; they were only interested in the destruction of the Jewish State by any means, be it terror, hate or delegitimization. That much had been clear since the United Nations had voted in favour of establishing a Jewish State. The Palestinians had immediately rejected that State and attempted to murder all of the Jews in Israel. They had rejected every peace plan and initiative. Their serial rejectionism and support for terror were the only barriers to peace.

38. The draft resolution on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem ([A/C.4/77/L.12](#)) would close the door to any future progress. It provided for a poisonous measure, namely the involvement of the International Court of Justice. The Palestinians were exploiting the Court as a weapon of mass destruction in their jihad war aimed at demonizing Israel. By weaponizing an international body to force Israel to submit to all of their outrageous demands, the Palestinians were destroying any chance for future dialogue. Israel must and would defend itself against such threats and unilateral steps. One year before, without any call for negotiations or mutual concessions, President Abbas had threatened to turn to the International Court of Justice unless Israel acceded to all his destructive demands. During the previous year, however, the Palestinians had continued funding terrorists with millions of dollars, spreading hatred and glorifying murder. Nearly 5,000 Palestinian terror attacks had been perpetrated against Israelis during the past 11 months. The act of involving the International Court of Justice would do more damage than merely inflaming the conflict; it would destroy any hope for progress. Abbas sought to damage Israel, but his actions would primarily harm the Palestinians. It was common knowledge that the Palestinian Authority had no control

over Gaza, and that Abbas had constantly cancelled elections because the overwhelming majority of Palestinians did not support him.

39. The weaponization of an external body to impose the twisted reality of the Palestinians on Israel was doomed to fail. No entity would force Israel to endanger its future and security, and no one could say that the Jewish people were colonizing their own ancestral homeland. The draft resolution, together with all the other distorted Palestinian resolutions, presented complete falsehoods. Israel was a peace-seeking nation, having already signed peace agreements with six Muslim countries. By ensuring tolerance and cooperation, instead of hate and terror, a better future could be created. However, the Palestinians preferred to strengthen hatred, and until their destructive practices were condemned, reconciliation was impossible. The involvement of the International Court of Justice dashed any hopes for reconciliation. Any Member State that supported the draft resolution would become marionettes in the Palestinians' fatal charade, and would only serve the Palestinians' true goal, namely, to eviscerate the State of Israel.

40. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories constituted a crime and a blatant violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions and other relevant international declarations. A just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine could be achieved only on the basis of international law, the authoritative international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. Such a solution required an end to the occupation of all Arab lands, including the Syrian Golan and Lebanese territories; a halt to settlements; a just resolution to the refugee question; and the guarantee of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, especially their right to self-determination and to establish a viable independent Palestinian State within the borders of 4 July 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. In addition, the status quo in Al-Quds al-Sharif and the Islamic and Christian holy places must not be compromised.

41. Qatar condemned all measures that contravened international law in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, such as discriminatory laws and measures, the killing and wounding of civilians, detentions and forced expulsions, and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, including the systematic demolition of homes as collective punishment. Qatar also rejected the obstruction and politicization of humanitarian assistance and the unjust 16-year blockade of the Gaza Strip.

42. The expansion of the illegal settlements, including in East Jerusalem, was an obstacle to the realization of the two-State solution and to social and economic development. The decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and without international legal effect.

43. The Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was applicable to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in other Arab territories occupied since 1967. International mechanisms should be established to implement, according to a fixed timetable, the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population ([A/ES-10/794](#)). Existing protection mechanisms should be expanded and revitalized in order to deter violations. In addition, Qatar condemned the assassination of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and called on the international community to open an immediate investigation.

44. **Mr. Jardali** (Lebanon) said that his delegation condemned the refusal of Israel to allow the Special Committee to enter the occupied territories, which hindered its ability to carry out its mandate. For more than half a century, on the pretext of security, Israel had violated the human rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs. The report of the Special Committee ([A/77/501](#)) showed that there had been a notable escalation in discriminatory measures against Palestinians and Arabs, including a worrying increase in the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation forces. That year had been the bloodiest for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2005, when the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had begun systematically tracking the numbers of Palestinians killed. There had also been a steady increase in settler violence against Palestinians, with support and participation from the Israeli security forces. In particular, the killing in Janin of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the wounding of her colleague, Ali Samoudi, underscored the brutality of the occupation.

45. Since 1967, Israel had permitted the construction of 279 settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and there were now approximately 700,000 settlers. Meanwhile, Israel had issued stop-work orders against most Palestinian infrastructure projects on the pretext that permits had not been obtained; however, from 2016 to 2020, fewer than 1 per cent of Palestinian building permit requests in Area C had been approved. In addition, 80 per cent of demolition orders in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, which included 56 schools, occurred within 3 km of existing settlements.

That situation showed that the goal was to connect existing settlements and undermine Palestinian territorial contiguity and the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. That was a blatant violation of Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

46. Lebanon shared concerns about the dire humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the land, sea and air blockade. Lebanon condemned the plan of the occupation authorities to increase the number of Israeli settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan over the next five years through new settlement construction. It also condemned the discriminatory measures against Syrians in the Golan and the plundering of the region's natural resources. The international community must break the deadlock by pressing Israel to cease its violations, end the occupation and comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

47. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that the reports under consideration underscored the significant deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Illegal and unilateral practices carried out by Israel violated the rules of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law. Violence against the Palestinians had increased, and the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, the demolition and confiscation of homes, the construction of settlements, restrictions on the freedom of movement and the closure of crossing points had continued. In addition, Israel pursued unilateral measures aimed at changing the demographic composition and the legal and historic status of Al-Quds al-Sharif.

48. Those practices fuelled tension, which threatened the two-State solution and dispelled hopes for peace. His delegation called for an end to the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan. The international community should compel Israel to implement international resolutions, urge Israel to stop altering the historic, religious, legal and demographic character of Al-Quds al-Sharif, and support the resumption of negotiations for an independent and sovereign Palestinian State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative.

49. The Sudan welcomed the recent agreement reached by Palestinian factions in Algeria and the efforts made by Arab countries to support Palestinian reconciliation, reconstruction and the resumption of

negotiations. It supported the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

50. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation was deeply concerned by the worsening situation on the ground in Palestine and the diminishing prospects for a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution. Israeli settlement activities affected the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories; ran counter to international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law; and violated Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). The Security Council had been unable to uphold its own resolutions owing to the repeated veto exercised by one of its permanent members. Such impunity encouraged the occupying Power to continue with its brutal aggression, domination, exploitation, appropriation, colonial occupation and apartheid. Accountability was therefore necessary as a guarantee for peace.

51. The human rights of the Palestinian people continued to be systematically violated on a daily basis with impunity. Such violations included the arbitrary detention of innocent civilians; the persecution of Palestinian civil society organizations; the annexation of Palestinian land; and the construction of settlements. Security Council resolution 497 (1981), demanding the withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan, also remained unfulfilled. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejected any measure or unilateral action by the occupying Power claiming to alter the legal, physical or demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as any measure to exercise jurisdiction there through the use of force.

52. A two-State solution supported by the international community was the only means to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and move towards the withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan and from all the occupied Arab territories. To that end, the Security Council must promote a resumption of political dialogue and credible negotiations between the parties, and must put an end to its double standards and exceptionalism.

53. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/C.4/77/L.12). Despite the threats voiced by the permanent representative of the occupying Power, the draft resolution deserved collective support. An advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice would provide the necessary legal guidance for progress towards justice, reparations and peace in Palestine and across the Middle East, as well as a political horizon towards the end of

the Israeli occupation. His delegation did not understand the fear of the Israeli Government; if the Israeli regime was sure of the legality of its practices and policies, it had no reason to discredit the proposal. By doing so, it merely demonstrated its interest in perpetuating its policies of occupation and apartheid.

54. His delegation steadfastly supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to a free, independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also supported the full membership of Palestine in the United Nations.

55. **Mr. Razali** (Malaysia) said that the reports under consideration painted an appalling picture of living conditions for Palestinians and Syrians in the occupied territories. The continuous systematic oppression of Palestinians through discrimination, denial of basic human rights, inhumane acts and confiscation of their land and property were tantamount to the crime of apartheid. Malaysia was alarmed at the number of Palestinian fatalities, including children, recorded in the West Bank in 2022, as well as the intensification of illegal settler violence and attacks against Palestinians, often with the support of the occupying Power's forces, resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage. The international community must ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and hold the perpetrators accountable.

56. The continued impunity of Israel was unsustainable, and its intractable attitude showed that it did not have the will to work towards a just solution for lasting peace in the region. The international community should urge Israel to end its illegal colonial settler occupation and apartheid regime, in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The international community should also uphold and implement the relevant United Nations resolutions with regard to the occupied Syrian Golan.

57. Malaysia was fully committed to alleviating the plight of the Palestinian people and working towards the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. The conflict could be resolved only through a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine. His country supported the call to seek guidance from the principal judicial organ of the United Nations on the legal consequences of the actions of Israel. Malaysia continued to support the work of UNRWA, including by providing predictable funding.

58. It was high time for the international community to recognize the statehood of Palestine by granting it full membership in the United Nations. The current

inconsistency and injustice had persisted for too long. The Palestinian people deserved to live freely in peace, dignity and prosperity as a member of the Organization.

59. **Ms. Elarja Flitti** (Observer for the League of Arab States) said that the reports under consideration showed that Israel continued to violate international norms and resolutions and to pursue illegal, unilateral measures in order to impose a fait accompli. Its systematic and brutal settlement policy was aimed at annexing all Arab and Palestinian territories through demolitions, forced expulsions, blockade, illegal detention and the killing of defenceless Palestinians, including women and children.

60. The League of Arab States condemned all violations carried out by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. The Palestinian people and the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan were experiencing mounting despair and frustration because the international community had no genuine vision, and because no genuine progress had been made towards the recovery of their inalienable rights. That situation was alarming. Such despair could not be overcome without direct negotiations between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides and without the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, on the basis of the borders of 4 June 1967. It was not enough for Israel to stress the importance of the two-State solution in the General Assembly; rather, it must immediately enter into direct negotiations, halt the attacks carried out by settlers and security forces, and put a stop to all violations of the human rights of the citizens in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

61. Because it had never been held accountable by the Security Council, Israel had been able to scale up its violations, including attacks by settlers, the plunder of more occupied Palestinian and Syrian lands, defiance of the international two-State solution consensus, disregard for United Nations resolutions and pursuit of a policy of apartheid. It had even silenced journalists, including Shireen Abu Akleh, with live ammunition. Not only had Israel refused to allow an international investigation by the Security Council into the circumstances of that incident, but its security forces had intervened to disrupt her funeral.

62. The League of Arab States consistently rejected all illegal practices and arbitrary measures carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, that were aimed at creating a new status quo through the exploitation of the natural resources of the State of Palestine and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. It supported the work of the Special Committee and denounced the refusal of Israel to allow that body to carry out its mandate and visit the occupied

Arab territories. Israel must comply with international resolutions as the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

63. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that multilateralism and the international system were in crisis, partly due to the disdain and disrespect with which Israel treated the United Nations, to which it owed its establishment. Israel believed that it was above the law and came to international forums to peddle rhetoric and propaganda, belittling and insulting the sovereign countries that stood on principle and refused to condone its human rights abuses and war crimes.

64. Israel had been emboldened by the absence of genuine accountability. In the Security Council, it continued to be shielded from consequences for its violations. By escalating its crimes, it proved every day that it did not want to end its illegal colonial occupation and apartheid policies. By way of its arrogant rhetoric, false allegations and hostile diatribes, it sought to divert attention from the occupation, blockade and persecution, which included the killing of women and children; hunting down of Palestinian men and boys for sport; holding of millions in captivity; destroying, pillaging and plundering; and perpetrating daily violence and terror to maintain its control of another people and their land.

65. The representative of Israel had claimed that the problem lay in resolutions upholding international law, rather than the violations and crimes systematically committed by the occupying Power. He had insultingly referred to delegations that supported the application of international law as the immoral majority. Such behaviour was not acceptable in a diplomatic forum. In his hysterical tirade, he had described the involvement of the International Court of Justice as a destructive step and a form of weaponization. However, it was difficult to see how a legal advisory opinion delivered by the principal judicial organ of the international community could threaten Israel. It was also unclear what peace process would be undermined; Israel itself had rejected negotiations and repeatedly blocked the resumption of such a process. Israel was destroying the two-State solution and the international consensus for peace. Requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice was a peaceful, legitimate response to the escalating Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people and the obstruction of a political horizon. It was not a unilateral step; it was a multilateral step taken by the General Assembly, based on international law and human rights.

66. The statement made by the representative of Israel was part of a long-standing pattern of distorting the facts and divert attention from the crimes of the occupation, thereby evading responsibility. No one should accept such accusations against those who sought to uphold the law and help the Palestinian people to exercise their rights and access justice. While Israel threatened and insulted Member States, the Palestinian people continued to endure an illegal, violent, supremacist occupation every single day, with no end in sight.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.