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Agenda item 16

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE  
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES

Report of the Economic Committee

1. The Economic Committee considered the question of permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (agenda item 16) at its 10th, 12th and 15th meetings, on 16, 21 and 26 July 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and the Syrian Golan (A/48/188-E/1993/78).
2. At the 10th meeting, on 16 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. It heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.
3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Malaysia and the Syrian Arab Republic and the observers for Algeria, Israel, Tunisia and Egypt.
4. At the same meeting, the representative of the League of Arab States and the observer for Palestine made statements.

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan

5. At the 12th meeting, on 21 July, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of Algeria, 1/ Angola, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 1/ Iraq, 1/ Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar, 1/ Saudi Arabia, 1/ Senegal, 1/ Sudan, 1/ the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, 1/ and Yemen, 1/ introduced a draft resolution (E/1993/C.1/L.4) entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan". Subsequently, Egypt 1/ and Pakistan 1/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 15th meeting, on 26 July, the Secretary of the Committee read out the following amendments made to the draft resolution as a result of informal consultations:

(a) In the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "continued construction" were replaced by the word "establishment";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the word "adverse" was deleted before the word "repercussions";

(c) In operative paragraph 6, the words "a comprehensive report on the economic and social consequences of the Israeli exploitation of the natural resources of the occupied Palestinian territory and of the occupied Syrian Golan" were replaced by the words "a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution".

7. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States of America and Belgium, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1993/C.1/L.4, as orally amended, by a roll-call vote of 40 to 1, with 3 abstentions (see para. 9 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Japan, Poland, Russian Federation.

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1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

8. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Australia, Poland, Japan and the Russian Federation.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

9. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/172 of 22 December 1992,

Recalling also its resolution 1992/57 of 31 July 1992,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and other resolutions affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 2/ to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its concern at the establishment, by the Israeli occupying Power, of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the settlements of new immigrants therein,

Welcoming the Middle East peace process started at Madrid on 30 October 1991 and recognizing that a complete freeze of settlement activity would significantly enhance the prospects for progress in this process,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 3/

2. Deplores the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and regards the settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace;

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2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

3/ A/48/188-E/1993/78.

3. Recognizes the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. Strongly deplores Israel's practices in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, in particular its confiscation of land, its appropriation of water resources, its depletion of other economic resources and its displacement and deportation of the population of those territories;

5. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regards any infringement thereof as being without any legal validity;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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