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Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Summary record of the 402nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 February 2021, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chair: Mr. Guterres (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.183/2021/L.1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of officers

2. **The Temporary Chair** invited the Committee to consider nominations for the posts of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur of the Committee.

3. The following nominations had been received by the secretariat of the Committee: Mr. Niang (Senegal) for re-election to the office of Chair; and Ms. Raz (Afghanistan), Mr. Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba), Mr. Koba (Indonesia), Mr. Gertze (Namibia) and Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) for re-election, as the five Vice-Chairs. Ms. Raz had agreed also to serve as the acting Rapporteur until another Committee member was nominated for the post.

4. *Mr. Gertze (Namibia), Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua), Mr. Koba (Indonesia), Mr. Niang (Senegal), Mr. Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba) and Ms. Raz (Afghanistan) were elected by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Niang (Senegal) took the Chair.*

Statement by the Secretary-General

6. **The Secretary-General** said that the unresolved question of Palestine underlined the continued importance of the Committee, as affirmed by the recent adoption by the General Assembly of all the resolutions on the question of Palestine recommended by the Committee. The year 2021 presented tremendous tests and opportunities, challenging the international community to reinvent its approach to making and sustaining peace while also confronting the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

7. The pandemic had had a severe impact on Palestinians, particularly in Gaza. The occupation and the fragile socioeconomic, humanitarian and political situation had pushed the public health system to the brink. The United Nations and its partners were supporting the Palestinian Government's pandemic response and, through the efforts of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, its preparedness to receive and administer vaccines.

8. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process continued to encourage Israel to help address the priority needs of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to support COVID-19 vaccine availability, in line with the obligations of Israel under international law.

9. The United Nations remained committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis in resolving the conflict and bringing an end to the suffering. He once again called on the Government of Israel to immediately halt all settlement activity, which was a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

10. Persistent acts of violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, along with Israeli restrictions on movement and access and other violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law exacerbated mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians, thereby diminishing the likelihood of attaining peace.

11. The Committee played an important role in mobilizing international opinion and assisting Palestinians and Israelis with re-engaging in meaningful negotiations. The long-agreed goal was clear: ending the occupation and realizing a two-State solution with Jerusalem as the capital of both States, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, in line with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and bilateral agreements.

12. The call by President Mahmoud Abbas to convene an international peace conference under United Nations auspices and an expanded Middle East Quartet, with considered preparation and involvement by the key parties, provided a positive opportunity to advance peace in the region. The parties must refrain from unilateral acts that could jeopardize the resumption of the peace process. He also welcomed the presidential decree issued by President Abbas to hold legislative, presidential and Palestinian National Council elections in 2021. The holding of elections in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as in Gaza would constitute a crucial step towards Palestinian unity, giving renewed legitimacy to national institutions, including a democratically elected Parliament and Government in Palestine. Elections were a vital part of building a democratic Palestinian State founded on the rule of law and with equal rights for all. The Committee's support for those efforts would be crucial.

13. He commended the Committee's efforts to mobilize the sustainable, predictable and long-term support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) that Palestine refugees needed and deserved.

14. The Committee had an important advocacy role; he called on all to uphold the values of the Charter of the United Nations as a shared cooperation framework for the realization of the rights of Israelis and Palestinians.

Statement by the Chair

15. **The Chair** said that his country, Senegal, remained committed to fulfilling the Committee's mandate of working to realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. He expressed appreciation for the remarkable contribution of the Division for Palestinian Rights under the adverse conditions wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic to enable the Committee to perform its duties and encouraged the Division to persist in its efforts, in particular by carrying out the training programme for Palestinian Government staff.

16. Over the years, the Committee had taken various approaches to fulfilling its mandate; its goal had always remained one of constant self-improvement. Against the increasingly uncertain backdrop of the peace process, stalled since 2014, and of decades of movement and access restrictions imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, current developments on the ground and the health and economic crises caused by the pandemic had exacerbated the already fragile social, economic, humanitarian and political situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He deplored the relentless pursuit by Israel of illegal settlement expansion, as evidenced by the recent announcement that some 800 new housing units would be built in the West Bank, and by the opening of a new road in the Jerusalem area, dubbed the apartheid route, the entire length of which separated Palestinians and Jewish settlers.

17. Unbelievably, it remained necessary to recall that Israeli settlements in occupied territory and the occupation itself were illegal under international law and United Nations resolutions and that such violations constituted a serious obstacle to peace. Such factors as settlement, occupation and incitement to violence were known to all and undermined confidence between the parties. The Committee therefore condemned all forms of violence and incitement to hate.

18. The Committee had long echoed the widely expressed concerns regarding the manner in which the Israeli authorities had been administering the COVID-19 vaccine, disregarding the obligations under international humanitarian law of Israel as an occupying Power to safeguard the health of the population under its occupation, including prisoners and detainees. He therefore called on Israel and the international community to ensure that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people were upheld, including the right to live freely and with dignity in an independent, sovereign State.

19. Such regional and global challenges as terrorism, violent extremism, poverty and exclusion could only be

tackled by achieving a definitive solution. To that end, the Committee was engaging in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders in order to make progress towards that common objective. He reaffirmed the position of the Organization in favour of the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within the recognized pre-1967 borders.

20. The best way to create the conditions conducive to lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians was to renounce all forms of violence and the policy of imposing facts on the ground, and to resume negotiations aimed at attaining a comprehensive solution that guaranteed the right of each party to a sovereign State. He supported the call by the President of the State of Palestine to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of an extended Middle East Quartet, enlisting the participation of regional actors. All parties must abstain from unilateral acts that undermined the possibility of relaunching the peace process. Israeli and Palestinian leaders should seize the opportunity to resume serious negotiations to achieve the two-State solution, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

21. The Committee reiterated the centrality of the Arab Peace Initiative, the convening of an international peace conference, the recent meeting of the Middle East Quartet and the efforts of Egypt and other countries to promote intra-Palestinian reconciliation. It also welcomed the recent decree by President Abbas to hold legislative and presidential elections in May 2021 with a view to consolidating the foundations of democracy and unifying the Palestinian people under a single, legitimate national Government.

22. Turning to UNRWA, he urged Member States to continue to provide robust support to the Agency in the form of predictable, sufficient and long-term resources and thereby to rally international solidarity with Palestine refugees, particularly in the areas of education, health, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

23. In order to ensure that the international community delivered on its commitment to the two-State solution, the peace process must be relaunched and all outstanding issues – ranging from refugees and Gaza to the status of Jerusalem – must be addressed. To that end, the Committee would continue to work with Member States and regional groups to mobilize greater support for the Palestinian cause. It would support all initiatives aimed at realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and achieving a just solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Statement by the Observer for the State of Palestine

24. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the immense challenges and changes of the previous year had spared no one, deepening existing vulnerabilities and inequities around the world. After decades of occupation, oppression and displacement, the burden of the Palestinian people had been especially onerous. The international effort to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and address poverty, hunger, climate change and the grave humanitarian consequences of conflict must not fail to include Palestine. In order to build back better, global cooperation, which had been weakened by efforts to diminish multilateralism and undermine respect for international law, must be revived to address the greatest challenges. The United Nations remained at the centre of such efforts, which must include action to resolve protracted conflicts and prolonged injustices. The question of Palestine, the longest-standing unresolved item on the agenda of the United Nations, involved the deprivation of an entire people of fundamental rights to freedom, dignity, equality and peace. The same spirit of dialogue, collective responsibility and action that had driven the visionaries who had established the Committee in 1975 must be summoned to tackle other urgent global issues, on the basis of the rule of law and shared values. His delegation therefore regretted the false accusations of bias and anti-Israeli sentiment levelled against the Committee by Israel, which denied the Committee much-deserved support.

25. The State of Palestine once again urged all States to support the Committee and mobilize collective efforts to achieve a just solution to the conflict that guaranteed the rights of the Palestinian people and established lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis. The long-standing international consensus that would underpin such a solution called for an end to the Israeli occupation that had begun in 1967 and for the achievement of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, and to realize the rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination, and attain a just solution for Palestine refugees.

26. United Nations resolutions adopted over the decades had established the widely-backed terms of reference and parameters for a just solution; what was missing was the will to uphold the law, implement those resolutions impartially and hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its systematic violations, end those violations and the suffering they caused, and salvage the two-State solution. He welcomed the Committee's support for the initiative by President

Abbas to hold an international peace conference at the earliest possible date; and the appointment of the new Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with whom his Government would continue to engage. International support, including urgent funding for UNRWA, was sorely needed in order to overcome persistent obstacles and alleviate hardship. In that connection, the decree by President Abbas calling for elections in 2021 was a significant step towards promoting peace.

27. Those who said that the obstacles to peace were too great and that it was not the time for grand initiatives to attain it contradicted the Committee's mandate and the purposes and principles of the United Nations. For those denied their freedom and dignity, no cause was more pressing. In closing, the State of Palestine expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General, the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society groups and their solidarity with the Palestinian people, and it stood ready to work with all stakeholders to make real progress towards a more just and peaceful future.

Adoption of the programme of work for 2021 (A/AC.183/2021/L.2)

28. **The Chair**, introducing the streamlined draft programme of work for 2021 (A/AC.183/2021/L.2), said that section I of the document gave an overview of the mandates of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as set out in General Assembly resolutions 72/20 and 75/21 respectively; section II reviewed the activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights; and section III dealt with the continuing review and assessment of the programme of work.

29. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft programme of work.

30. *It was so decided.*

Update by members and observers of the Committee on their activities in relation to the question of Palestine

31. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that the role of the Committee was more relevant than ever. The situation on the ground required a redoubling of efforts to advance the cause of the Palestinian people. The Committee should continue to strengthen its engagement with other countries and its cooperation with the United Nations to ensure that the aspirations of Palestinians were taken into account. Furthermore, the

Palestinian people must continue to receive economic and development support and humanitarian assistance, including access to COVID-19 vaccines. His delegation would remain steadfast in its support for the Palestinian cause.

32. **Mr. Elhomosany** (Egypt) said that his Government had followed the activities of the Committee over the previous year and participated in its efforts to promote and mobilize support for Palestinian rights. The question of Palestine, in addition to being an Egyptian foreign policy priority, constituted the central issue of the Arab world. Egypt, for its part, would continue to advance the cause of Palestine in all regional and international forums and frameworks, in cooperation with all partners, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the agreed terms of reference of the peace process. His Government looked forward to the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations as soon as possible. Tangible actions should be taken on the ground to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering, in the light of the humanitarian situation and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also necessary to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip and extend to UNRWA the support the Agency needed to confront its financial crisis and fully implement its mandate. Lastly, all Israeli practices that undermined the two-State solution must cease immediately, especially those practices involving settlement activity.

33. **Mr. Asokan** (India) said that the Committee had undertaken a successful visit to India in 2020, during which productive discussions had been held on many issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. India had always called for a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict in order to achieve the two-State solution. In addition to providing political support, India had consistently supported the efforts of the Palestinian authorities through projects and capacity- and institution-building. India had also increased its annual contribution to UNRWA to \$5 million in response to the financial crisis faced by the Agency. India, in its capacity as a member of the Committee and of the Security Council for the term 2021–2022, would play a constructive role towards achieving a peaceful, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. India had also recently become a member of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA and would seek to continue to make a positive contribution and strengthen the Agency's humanitarian efforts.

34. **Mr. Naeemi** (Afghanistan) said that 2020 had been a challenging year for the work of the Committee, with

the COVID-19 pandemic curtailing the number of in-person meetings that could be held. Nevertheless, thanks to the support of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee had been able to adapt to the new circumstances and ensure the continuity of its work. In 2021, the Committee must enhance its efforts to mobilize international support for the realization of a just and lasting solution to the conflict. Member States should support every initiative aimed at the advancement of the Palestinian cause, including the convening of an international peace conference, as proposed by President Mahmoud Abbas, in order to relaunch genuine peace talks. As a country that believed in the Islamic values of unity and fraternity and that had itself witnessed conflict and destruction for decades, Afghanistan was committed to the cause of the Palestinian people and understood their desire for self-determination. His Government had used various forums and platforms to raise awareness of the urgency of achieving the two-State solution and establishing an independent Palestinian State, along pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

35. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting social, economic and environmental crises had underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation. The year 2021 would be of historic consequence as Governments sought to revitalize cooperation and ensure that no one was left behind; the Palestinian people had already been left behind. His delegation hoped that the people of Israel and Palestine could live together in peace, enabling the region to focus its energies, resources and talents on development and progress.

36. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that there was no plan B to the two-State solution, a view also shared by the majority of Member States. A political dialogue addressing the historic injustice of the occupation, based on the pre-1967 borders, international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, was the only way to ensure peaceful relations between Israel and Palestine. Peace would not be achieved without renewed political processes and engagement. The Committee had been entrusted with the responsibility to assist the peoples of Israel and Palestine in resolving their differences. However, despite the adoption of resolutions and decisions aimed at enabling the Committee to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to assist in ending the Israeli occupation and to mobilize international support for the Palestinian people, there was no end in sight to the conflict.

37. Nevertheless, it was encouraging that the new Administration of the United States of America was in

the process of reversing the previous Administration's policies on Israel and Palestine, and was supportive of a mutually agreed two-State solution, with Israel living in peace and security alongside a viable Palestinian State. The new Administration's intent to restore United States assistance programmes that supported economic development and provided humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people was also welcome. Namibia was fully committed to the cause of the Palestinian people, who must be able to exercise their inalienable rights in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Palestine must be allowed to take up its rightful place among the global community of nations and become a member of the United Nations and all its specialized agencies.

38. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that his delegation had long championed the creation of a Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the 1967 borders, coexisting in peace with Israel. It was more important than ever for Member States to stand by their commitments and rise to emerging challenges. His delegation was confident that there would be peace and stability in the Middle East once Palestinians were able to realize their inalienable rights and aspirations, through a true two-State solution, in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The Palestinian people also had the right to sustainable development. The full attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals was necessary in order to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

39. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba) said that the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict undermined international peace and security and was at the heart of tensions in the wider Middle East. The Committee and the international community must redouble their efforts to find a definitive solution to the conflict. His delegation had condemned the decision of the previous United States Administration to declare Jerusalem the capital of Israel and to move its embassy there as a grave and flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions and international law. The unilateral declaration undermined the historical status of Jerusalem and the legitimate interests of Palestine and other Arab and Muslim countries, and had grave consequences for peace and stability in the Middle East. In addition, the withdrawal of financial support for UNRWA by the United States, the largest donor to the Agency, had considerably increased the suffering of the Palestinian people. His delegation was delighted that the new Administration was prepared to review that decision and once again provide support for UNRWA and Palestine refugees.

40. He called on the Security Council to fulfil its mandate to maintain international peace and security by adopting the measures necessary to enforce the relevant resolutions on the Palestinian question. Cuba would continue to support a broad, just and lasting solution to the conflict, on the basis of a two-State solution that would allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination in an independent sovereign State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along pre-1967 lines.

41. **Ms. Joyini** (South Africa) said that her delegation was concerned about the recent pronouncements made by the Government of Israel regarding the further advancement of its settlement plans in the occupied West Bank. Almost all United Nations Member States agreed that Israeli settlement construction was a violation of international law and that the occupation of Palestinian territories should end. Such Israeli actions were a flagrant violation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and contravened international law. In order to maintain the credibility of the United Nations, all Member States must abide by the resolutions they adopted. Their words and actions must be aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people, protecting their land and property, and providing the necessary, impartial support towards achieving a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

42. It was important to identify ways for the Committee to enhance its activities aimed at serving the Palestinian people, given the added challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. In that connection, the Committee should increase its engagement with civil society organizations in Israel and Palestine, as such organizations played an important role in enhancing transparency and empowering Palestinian communities. They gave a voice to the voiceless and, by improving the protection and promotion of the rights of the Palestinian people, could help the Committee to execute its mandate fully. Engagement with civil society organizations would also increase the visibility of the work of the Committee. Given that virtual meetings had become the norm during the pandemic, engaging with such organizations would be easier than ever. Her delegation was pleased that the programme of work for 2021 made provision for increased involvement of civil society organizations and would support more such initiatives.

43. In the light of the decree issued on 15 January 2021 by President Abbas announcing the holding of legislative, presidential and Palestinian National Council elections later in the year, 2021 would be an important year for the Palestinian people. Her delegation urged the relevant organs of the United

Nations and the international community to support efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian State, existing side by side with Israel within internationally recognized borders, based on those of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with all relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and internationally agreed parameters.

44. **Mr. Jardali** (Lebanon), welcoming its efforts to keep the Palestinian question in the spotlight, said that the conferences, seminars and other activities organized by the Committee helped to raise awareness of the challenges faced on a daily basis by Palestinians living under occupation and blockade, and enabled civil society to discuss ways of helping them to realize their goal of living in a free State. For the previous two decades at least, consecutive Israeli Governments had shown no genuine intention of reaching a fair, comprehensive and permanent solution, fulfilling their obligations under international law or abiding by the relevant United Nations resolutions. On the contrary, they had taken steps to prolong the occupation and make the two-State solution harder to realize, leading to continued grief and instability in the Middle East.

45. Palestinians were suffering from a strangling blockade and unliveable conditions in Gaza, and were experiencing hardships and restrictions on their freedom of movement in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In addition, there had been continued expansion of Israeli settlements, a rise in settler violence, excessive use of force by Israeli security forces and increasing demolitions of property by the Israeli authorities, as documented in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. The latest Israeli transgression was the decision of the Israeli Government to build 800 settlement units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and issue tenders for a further 2,500, thereby continuing to cause irreversible damage to the contiguity of the State of Palestine and the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. Such policies and practices were a clear breach of international law, human rights law and the obligations of Israel as an occupying Power, and Israel must be held accountable. The solution to the Palestinian question must be just and comprehensive, based on international law, and rooted in the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#), and in the Arab Peace Initiative.

46. He welcomed the plans of the new United States Administration to restore aid to the Palestinians and to reopen diplomatic missions closed by the previous Administration, as well as its recommitment to the two-State solution, which he hoped would help to restart

international efforts to hold meaningful negotiations. In another encouraging development, the Secretary-General, had recently said that he expected the Middle East Quartet to meet shortly. His delegation hoped that such a meeting would be the beginning of the resumption of negotiations that would eventually lead to the Palestinian people living in peace and in a State of their own, with East Jerusalem as the capital.

47. It was essential to support UNRWA both politically and financially, particularly at a time when Palestinians were facing deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, a situation exacerbated by the pandemic. In that connection, the Palestinian Authority must be provided with COVID-19 vaccines and the necessary medical supplies and equipment to tackle the spread of the disease.

48. **Ms. Rodrigues-Birkett** (Guyana) said that her delegation wished to reiterate its unwavering and principled commitment to the cause of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination and their own homeland. Some 46 years had passed since the establishment of the Committee, yet a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question had yet to be achieved. Member States must not rest until there was a two-State solution, with Palestine and Israel living side by side in peace and security. The Committee and the wider international community must redouble their efforts to promote a peaceful, just and lasting solution, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The slogan “leave no one behind” would remain just that if the Palestinian question remained unresolved. Member States could not allow that to happen.

49. **Mr. Othman** (Malaysia) said that his delegation supported the Palestinian people in their decades-long quest to realize their inalienable right to establish an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and welcomed the reaffirmation by the Secretary-General of the established position of the United Nations regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

50. Malaysia would continue to play an active role in seeking a just and lasting solution to the conflict, including through its membership in the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. In February 2020, Malaysia had hosted the International Conference on the Question of Palestine under the theme “Southeast Asian support for the rights of the Palestinian people”, which had brought together government and civil society

representatives in support of the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

51. His delegation welcomed the decision of President Abbas to hold elections in 2021, which would promote strong and inclusive democratic institutions in Palestine and contribute to the achievement of sustainable peace through a negotiated two-State solution. [Recalling that the Committee was scheduled to hold a virtual meeting with the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on 23 February, he reiterated his delegation's unwavering commitment to the mandate of UNRWA and its support for the Palestinian people in their quest to realize their fundamental rights, in particular their inalienable right to self-determination and their right to a dignified life, justice and prosperity.

52. **Mr. Rodrigo** (Sri Lanka), emphasizing its unequivocal and unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people, said that his delegation appreciated the valuable work being done by the Committee to raise awareness of the Palestinian cause and achieve a just and lasting solution. He hoped that the resilience and strength of purpose of the Palestinian people would continue to inspire Member States to make collective efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Palestine and for the two-State solution, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Palestine and Israel living side by side.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.