



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
28 January 2022

Original: English

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## **Letter dated 26 January 2022 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the 8950th meeting of the Security Council, convened on 19 January 2022 under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The interventions of the in-person participants will be published as an official record of the Security Council (S/PV.8950).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8950th meeting, the following delegations submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed: Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Costa Rica, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Qatar and the Republic of Korea. These statements will be issued as an official document of the Security Council in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to Permanent Representatives of Security Council members dated 7 May 2020 (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, and reference to the official document will be made in S/PV.8950.

*(Signed)* Mona Juul  
President of the Security Council



**Annex I****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the 120 member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Norway on its successful presidency of the Security Council this month and to express our gratitude for the opportunity for the Non-Aligned Movement to present its position on the question of Palestine, which has historically constituted an issue of concern and vital importance to the Movement and remains one of the longest-standing items on the Security Council's agenda.

During the online Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 13 and 14 July 2021, under the theme "The Non-Aligned Movement at the centre of multilateral efforts in responding to global challenges", the ministers adopted a political declaration, stressing, inter alia, that a just, lasting and peaceful solution to all aspects of the question of Palestine, based on internationally endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda and an ongoing responsibility of the United Nations until it is satisfactorily resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

In that regard, the member States of the Movement once again reaffirm that this ongoing historic injustice, with the over 54-year Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory and other Arab territories at its core, continues to pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security, is the source of innumerable human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law and requires urgent attention and action, in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations. The international community cannot remain paralysed on this issue and cannot accept arguments that it is intractable or that peace is not possible at this time. International consensus on a just solution is firm and clear. We have multilateral political and diplomatic tools to promote the achievement of a peaceful resolution and must use them responsibly and urgently.

The Security Council in particular has a clear responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security. It must uphold its Charter duties and must act to implement its own resolutions, which constitute the foundation for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict. The question of Palestine cannot be the exception to international law and to the authority of the Security Council. We therefore remain deeply concerned that, for too long, this organ has been unable to fulfil its mandate on this important question, particularly due to the use of the veto by one permanent member. The members of the Movement call on the Security Council to overcome its paralysis and fulfil its Charter duties towards the Palestine question, restoring credibility to this organ and upholding its obligations towards the achievement of a just and peaceful solution to this protracted conflict and tragic injustice.

The Non-Aligned Movement still believes that resolution 2334 (2016), which reaffirmed the Security Council's many relevant resolutions on the matter, provides the most effective and viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for the achievement of a just outcome on the basis of the two-State solution along the 1967 lines, in accordance with the long-standing terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community, namely, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as ensuring

the fulfilment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

We therefore reiterate NAM's call for full compliance with resolution 2334 (2016) and for the effective implementation of its provisions and obligations, particularly by the occupying Power. That includes respect for States' obligations with regard to distinction, which is a matter central to ensuring accountability. We also underscore the need for the intensification of international and regional diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation, which began in 1967, and achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive solution, as also called for in resolution 2334 (2016), and we call on the Security Council to examine all practical ways and means to ensure its implementation, as it has pledged to do.

Similarly, the member States of the Movement continue to call for full respect for, and the implementation of, all other relevant resolutions, including with regard to the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities and the status of occupied East Jerusalem. Respect for United Nations resolutions and international law would create the necessary conditions for bringing an end to the occupation, justly resolving the conflict in all its aspects and making Palestinian-Israeli peace and security a reality for the benefit of both peoples, the region and the international community as a whole.

It is imperative that action be taken immediately, in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to redress the situation on the ground, which has been marked by rising violence, particularly settler violence, and terror and tensions that must be urgently de-escalated, and to foster an appropriate environment in the pursuit of peace. That must include a halt to all unilateral and unlawful measures, which serve only to embolden Israel to further pursue its illegal policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. Actions that undermine Security Council resolutions and the historic and legal status quo of Jerusalem and its holy sites are provocative and dangerous, destroy the prospects for peace and should not be supported or celebrated by any country. Threats of annexation by Israeli officials and continued settlement activities and forced displacement of Palestinian families from their homes and lands must be unequivocally condemned. Any measures taken in that regard must be forthwith rejected as null and void and without any legal effect and must be met with firm measures of accountability for such grave breaches, including lawful countermeasures.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for full respect for the historical status quo at the holy sites, for the Hashemite historical custodianship exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of Jordan, over the Christian and Muslim holy sites in the city and for the protection of the sanctity of the holy sites.

The Non-Aligned Movement commends the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as Chair of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. The Movement welcomes the Call for Al-Quds/Jerusalem, signed in Rabat on 30 March 2019 by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis, to stress the important role that Al Quds/Jerusalem plays as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and the need to preserve its specificities and features as a city of peaceful coexistence.

In relation to the Gaza Strip, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement, particularly the grave humanitarian situation, which regrettably continues to deteriorate day by day. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its call for the

complete lifting of the illegal Israeli blockade, which continues to inflict untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men in Gaza. This crisis must be comprehensively addressed in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions and in the context of the unequivocal calls and overriding responsibility to bring an end to the illegitimate, belligerent Israeli foreign occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967.

In the absence of a solution, the member States of the Movement reiterate their call for the continued provision of the needed humanitarian and socioeconomic assistance to the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees. The Non-Aligned Movement therefore stresses the importance of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), along with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, in alleviating their plight and calls for full support for UNRWA's mandate to ensure the continuity of its vital programmes and its contribution to regional stability. In the light of the continuing financial shortfalls, we urge the international community to provide UNRWA with sufficient and predictable funding to ensure the continuity of its indispensable operations in all fields of operation.

As Israel has clearly abdicated on its obligations as the occupying Power to protect the Palestinian civilian population, as prescribed by the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, we also reiterate our long-standing call for international protection for the Palestinian people. This is urgent in order to alleviate the dire state of insecurity of the occupied population and prevent the loss of more innocent human lives. Failure to do that can lead only to further escalations and the tragic loss of more civilian lives.

In that connection, we reiterate our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, many of which may amount to war crimes. The absence of justice only fosters greater impunity, leads to the recurrence of crimes and destabilizes the situation on the ground, thereby further diminishing the prospects for peace. We continue to call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure a cessation of, and accountability for, the violations that are being systematically committed by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. We reiterate that Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law and must be held to account if it continues its blatant contempt of this organ and its international legal obligations.

With regard to the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken, by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981, which purports to alter the area's legal, physical and demographic status and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. In that regard and in line with our principled position, we once again demand that Israel abide by resolution 497 (1981) and fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to its 4 June 1967 borders, in implementation of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). In addition, we reiterate our condemnation of the unilateral and arbitrary proclamation by the United States of America on "Recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel" and renew our call on the Security Council to unequivocally condemn that provocative act.

Moreover, the member States of the Movement emphasize that Israel must withdraw from all Lebanese territories, including Shaba'a farms, the Kfar Shuba

hills and the Lebanese part of Al-Ghajar village up to the Blue Line, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular resolution 1701 (2006).

In conclusion, we seize this opportunity to reiterate our call for the international community to act collectively and responsibly, to uphold international law and to exert all the necessary efforts in support of the just Palestinian cause, the ultimate goal of which is to bring an end to this historic and grave injustice. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, and reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve justice and fulfil their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

**Annex II****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Rodrigo A. Carazo**

[Original: Spanish]

Let me congratulate Norway and Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt for her successful presidency of the Security Council in the month of January and for organizing this timely open debate on one of the longest-standing items on the Security Council's agenda. I would also like to thank Mr. Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, for his informative briefing.

As we have heard repeatedly, the cycle of violence in the Middle East continues. There will be no real and lasting solution to the conflict without political will on both sides. The lack of a solution to the conflict not only affects the Palestinian population but also directly affects the Israeli people. In that regard, Costa Rica wishes to express its concern regarding the following issues.

First, the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory remains grave, in particular due to Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Costa Rica reiterates the need to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories, including prisoners, detainees and humanitarian personnel, such as Juana Ruiz Sánchez Rishmawi, be safeguarded, particularly during a serious health crisis like the current one, which crosses borders and communities. In turn, we recognize and reaffirm the need to safeguard Israeli rights to security and peace while paying equal attention to the rights of Palestinians, including non-discrimination and freedom of movement. Respect for human rights is non-negotiable.

Secondly, in 2021 we saw the highest level of settler violence since 2012. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 400 settler attacks against Palestinians were recorded during the first 10 months of 2021. We therefore reiterate our concern about the expansion of illegal settlements, settler-related violence, demolitions and confiscation of Palestinian homes, which is steadily worsening. In particular, we deplore the creation of a commercial and entertainment space in Ma'ale Adumim, now known as Mishor Adumim, in the occupied West Bank. That project seeks to normalize the process of annexation of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Moreover, five years have passed since the adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), which calls for an end to all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, yet Israel continues to ignore those provisions. We urge the Security Council to take responsibility in order to ensure that its decisions be obeyed. We also strongly call on both parties to adopt an approach based on equality and full respect for international law and human rights.

Finally, we urge both sides to avoid unilateral actions that could further exacerbate tensions and undermine prospects for the resumption of negotiations and the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Preserving the viability of the two-State solution and consolidating the 20 May 2021 ceasefire are key issues that must continue to guide discussions. We urge both States to resume the peace process on the recognized international legal parameters, based on 1967 borders and the resolutions of the Security Council.

## Annex III

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

[Original: Arabic]

At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Madam President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January and to wish you every success in presiding over the Council's proceedings. I also thank the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland, for his briefing.

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Group of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Five years have passed since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which occurred when Egypt was a member of the Security Council. That resolution stressed the need to put an end to Israeli settlement activities and to distinguish between the territories occupied since 1967 and the rest of Israel. Since that time, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories has only deteriorated further. Settlement has expanded in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. There have been attempts to expel Palestinian families from the East Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan. Palestinian homes and facilities, including those built through the support of donors, have been demolished. Murders of unarmed Palestinians, particularly children, by the occupying forces and settlers have increased without even the most minimal protection provided to Palestinians by the occupying forces. Israel also issued a decision classifying six Palestinian civil society organizations as terrorist organizations even though they are partner organizations of international donors, not least the United Nations.

The holy sites in East Jerusalem have not been spared violations by the occupying forces and hardline religious groups. Such violations led to the recent escalation between the two sides last May, which resulted in the dozens of fatalities. Egypt has repeatedly warned of that danger, stressing the need to respect the legal and historical status quo in East Jerusalem under the patronage of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In the face of all this, Egypt has worked to contain the situation and maintain the ceasefire in cooperation with all regional and international parties concerned. We have announced the allocation of \$500 million for reconstruction projects in the Gaza Strip, to be implemented by Egyptian companies. Egypt is also continuing its efforts to make the ceasefire permanent and look for ways to resume negotiations. Last month, it hosted a six-party meeting that included the Foreign Ministers and intelligence chiefs of Jordan and Palestine.

The historical responsibility of Egypt with respect to the Palestinian cause and defence of the rights of the Palestinian people once again calls upon us to reaffirm that the only solution that can break the vicious circle of violence and avoid further bloodshed for the innocent is to grant the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, above all the right to an independent Palestinian State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with agreed international references, the Arab Peace Initiative and the two-State solution.

To achieve that goal, the right climate must be created for the resumption of negotiations. All unilateral actions, especially settlement, must be halted. An international peace conference must be held in accordance with agreed international terms of reference, and support must be provided to the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East so that the latter can fulfil its mandate with respect to Palestinian refugees.

At the regional level, Egypt supports the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Hans Grundberg, and looks forward to cooperating with him and assisting his efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Yemeni crisis through a political solution that guarantees the unity, sovereignty and independence of Yemen. Such a settlement must fulfil the aspirations of the Yemeni people and end their humanitarian suffering, in accordance with the basic terms of reference for the crisis, namely, resolution 2216 (2015), the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementing Mechanisms, and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference.

Egypt devotes attention to supporting United Nations efforts in Syria and Yemen, where it is crucial to push forward the political process and bring about a comprehensive ceasefire within the parameters set forth in the relevant Security Council resolutions. We stress the need for the Security Council to play a more proactive role to bring about political settlements of those crises, impose ceasefires and combat terrorism and illegal armed organizations.

Egypt reiterates its deep concern about the continued launching of attacks by vessels on other vessels at sea and the attendant threat to international freedom of navigation. It condemns in the strongest terms the attacks against Saudi Arabia and the escalating use of force outside internationally agreed frameworks by certain parties in the region, a course of action that violates international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and threatens regional and international peace and security. Also of concern is the continued interference by certain countries in the region in the internal affairs of other States and the fuelling of sectarian divisions to stir up conflicts.

Egypt continues to support all efforts to bring about stability in Libya and hold the postponed presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously and as soon as possible, with a view to putting Libyans in charge of their future.

We are working with all of our Libyan brothers to ensure that stability is maintained during the current transition. We are following with concern recent tensions in Tripoli, where some militias have once again taken up arms, as well as the delay in the departure of all foreign forces, mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libya, which is a violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the outcomes of the Berlin and Paris tracks. In that connection, Egypt supports the efforts of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and hopes for tangible progress in consolidating security and military institutions in Libya, which will be a key component of the stability desired for that country.

Egypt continues to support economic reform efforts in Libya in its capacity as Chair of the economic working group established by the Berlin process. It is working to bring about the consolidation of Libyan economic institutions, the reunification of the Central Bank of Libya and transparency in revenues and expenditures, with a view to preserving the wealth of the Libyan people, ensuring that it is spent in their interests and not squandered and safeguarding the rights of each region.

In conclusion, Egypt reiterates that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved and further violence averted in the Middle East only if there is full compliance with internationally recognized resolutions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs, and only if all Arab territories occupied in 1967 are liberated, especially in Palestine and the Syrian Golan.



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**Annex IV****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom**

[Original: Arabic]

First of all, my country's delegation supports the collective Arab position on the Palestinian issue as expressed in the statement of the Group of Arab States in New York delivered on behalf of the Group by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt. We also support the statement of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries delivered by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan and the statement of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation delivered by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of the Niger.

My country's delegation would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Norway for assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month. We commend you, Madam President, for giving Member States an opportunity to express their views at this open debate on a subject that touches upon security, peace and stability in the Middle East and the world as a whole.

The Security Council is meeting today to discuss the continued aggression, persecution and repression being perpetrated in complete violation of human rights and international law against the people of the State of Palestine and its territories occupied for more than seven decades by the Israeli entity, which is the occupying Power. That puts before the Council a genuine and decisive challenge in supporting the oppressed Palestinian people.

We call on the international community to stand firmly and unequivocally against aggressive settlement policies, activities intent upon ethnic cleansing and demographic change, and violation of the sanctity of houses of worship and holy places by the occupying Power. We must act to provide justice for the Palestinian people, which is being subjected to genocide, and restore their legitimate rights in accordance with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. We must take measures to ensure the protection of civilians under occupation and force the occupying Power to withdraw from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, release Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and halt Israeli settlement measures aimed at Judaizing the city of Jerusalem and eliminating its Arab Islamic character.

We reiterate yet again Iraq's unconditional support for the just Palestinian cause and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. We reiterate our condemnation of continued incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupying Power, the Israeli entity, its practice of spreading terror among defenceless Muslim worshippers and its brutal attacks on our people in the State of Palestine. We condemn the illegal and illegitimate decisions on Jerusalem issued by the usurping Israeli occupier, and we reject the denial of Palestinians' historical right to the land of Palestine.

We reiterate my country's firm position that a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question is possible only through the establishment of a full-fledged independent Palestinian State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance international resolutions. We urge action to be taken to implement the provisions of international agreements, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. We also reject any step that runs counter to international law in relation to Jerusalem. We call on the States of the world that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so as soon as possible. We call for support for the aspirations of our brother Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, which would greatly enhance and consolidate security, stability and peace in the Middle East.

**Annex V****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Amal Mudallali**

It is an honour to have the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Her Excellency Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, preside over this meeting, knowing the historic and active role of her country as a peacemaker and a partner for peace in the region.

We thank Norway for holding this quarterly open debate at the ministerial level, with the hope to contribute to “renewed efforts to create a political horizon for a solution to the conflict”, as its concept note aspires. As a positive step, we welcome the ministerial-level meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians held in Oslo last November.

True Peace in the Middle East — a just, lasting and comprehensive peace — can come about only through the establishment of a Palestinian State. That was precisely the essence of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, adopted 20 years ago at the Arab Summit in Beirut, which is still as valid today as it was two decades ago. The Arab Peace Initiative offers a comprehensive solution to the conflict based on the land-for-peace formula and on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, international law rooted in all relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and most recently 2334 (2016), which constitute the united legal and political positions of the United Nations on the question of Palestine.

Despite all the international efforts and the resolutions of this organ, the reality on the ground for the Palestinians has worsened in over 70 years. The cruel reality of the occupation has not changed — Israeli military campaigns of aggression in Gaza, an expansionist settlement policy coupled with the demolition of Palestinian homes to make way for Israeli settlers, and efforts to deprive Palestinians of their fundamental rights — is still the daily reality for Palestinians. All of that continues with a growing sense of impunity.

The Security Council has to uphold its responsibility for peace and security for the Palestinian people by implementing its own resolutions, creating a political horizon based on respect for international law and moving beyond mere words of condemnation. Prolonging this untenable status quo will only ensure the death of every prospect for establishing a Palestinian State.

The Chief of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, warned again that the lack of long-term funding for the Agency poses an “existential” threat to millions of Palestinian refugees, including those living in Lebanon. In December, I accompanied the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, on his visit to a refugee school in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon. I saw and heard poor Palestinian children — some of whom are twice refugees, having fled the civil war in Syria where they were living in Palestinian refugee camps — tell Mr. Guterres that they go to sleep hungry many nights a week because their families cannot afford to feed them anymore. It was heartbreaking. No child should go to sleep hungry.

The services provided by UNRWA are essential to the livelihood of those Palestinian children. The cuts in contributions to UNRWA, in addition to the pandemic, have brought misery to the lives of thousands of Palestinian refugee children. That is why we implore the Security Council and all peace-loving and children-loving nations to guarantee predictable and sustained funding for UNRWA.

As I mentioned, the Secretary-General visited Beirut in December with a Christmas message of solidarity at a time when the Lebanese people were reeling under multiple crises, from the pandemic to the financial crisis to the aftermath of the

Beirut port explosion. That was compounded by political gridlock that prevented the Government from meeting to solve the daily problems of the population. Everybody across the political spectrum in Lebanon welcomed the Secretary-General's message and his visit. His call for dialogue and unity had a positive impact on the atmosphere in the country.

Today, a month after the visit of the Secretary-General, we are welcoming a positive development. The Government is returning to hold its meetings, and the country is readying itself for the upcoming parliamentary elections, to be held in May 2022. A lot of hope hangs on those elections to infuse new momentum in the political life of the country. The upcoming meetings of the Government are important for putting the country back on track for political and financial stability through steps to pull the country out of its financial crisis with the help of international institutions and Lebanon's friends.

Lebanon highly values the important role that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) plays in peace and security in south Lebanon and is grateful to the troop-contributing countries for their decades-long commitment to peacekeeping in Lebanon.

The daily Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity in violation of resolution 1701 (2006) increase tensions in the area and represent a threat to peace and security. But the presence of UNIFIL and its role in de-escalation and reducing tension are essential to keeping the status quo and preventing any miscalculation or escalation on the border. The Lebanese Government remains committed to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) in its entirety, and we call again on the Security Council to put an end to Israeli violations.

In resolution 2591 (2021), which renewed UNIFIL's mandate, the Security Council authorized UNIFIL to take temporary and special measures to support and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces with the provision of relevant additional non-lethal material and logistical support, owing to the economic crisis Lebanon is facing. Those provisions are very timely and needed and further accentuate the important role UNIFIL is playing in Lebanon.

The Middle East is ripe for a different future, a future of peace. The road towards peace is a well-travelled one, and everybody knows what is required to reach this much-promised peace. We need peacemakers and people with courage to start the journey. I hope the Security Council can show the way soon.

## Annex VI

### **Statement by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the United Nations**

As Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) group, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the States members of the OIC.

Our deliberations today take place while the situation in the Middle East, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is dangerously worsening. In fact, 2021 was the bloodiest year since 2014 in terms of casualties and crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation.

The new year of 2022 starts with the Palestinian issue remaining as the most prominent challenge on the international political agenda. The previous year witnessed the escalation by Israel, the occupying Power, of its apartheid practices, colonial settlement expansion, land confiscation, home demolition and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law, human rights law and relevant United Nations resolutions. The failure of the Security Council to hold Israel accountable for these illegal policies has regrettably emboldened Israel to refuse to heed any of the Council's resolutions in blatant defiance of the international community.

Throughout the past year, Israeli occupation forces continued to use excessive and indiscriminate force with impunity against Palestinian civilians, causing deaths and injuries, including among children, women and elderly. Israel also protected fanatic Jewish settlers and encouraged them to create militia groups, carry weapons to terrorize Palestinian civilians, wreak havoc, fire weapons, assault people, ram cars, raid towns, torch structures and vandalize homes, properties, crops, mosques and agricultural fields.

In that regard, we forewarn that if such illegal acts are left unchecked, it would further embolden the occupying Power and the fanatic settlers to continue committing violations and crimes against the Palestinian people and fomenting further and widespread violence, thereby creating a situation of total instability and chaos, with dangerous ramifications.

The prevailing challenges and serious developments cannot be seen in isolation from other illegal measures and unilateral actions by the Israelis aimed at forcibly and unlawfully altering the legal, historical and political status of the occupied Palestinian territory, especially targeting the occupied city of Jerusalem. This city has been enduring endless Israeli attempts to isolate and Judaize it through ongoing settlement construction, excavations, incursions and desecration of Islamic and Christian holy places, seizure of properties and home demolitions and attempts to illegally expel Palestinian families from their homes, among other violations.

In that regard, we reaffirm that East Jerusalem remains an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, whose illegal annexation by Israel has been rejected and remains unrecognized by the international community. We therefore call on the Security Council to urgently act to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease its illegal actions and measures and comply with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016).

Thousands of Palestinian prisoners, including elderly people, children, women and ill prisoners, in addition to 500 administrative detainees, have been experiencing illegal, inhumane and oppressive measures in Israeli prisons. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable for the well-being of all Palestinian prisoners, including the cancer-stricken prisoner Nasser Abu Hamid, who needs urgent health

care. The OIC calls for releasing ill and administratively detained prisoners held without trial or charge without delay, and for pressuring Israel, the occupying power, to honour its obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian instruments and the relevant Geneva conventions, and to release all the Palestinian women and children it is illegally holding captive in its prisons.

As a result of Israel's ongoing denial of their legitimate rights and illegal colonial occupation, millions of Palestine refugees continue to endure decades of displacement, dispossession and injustice. Their plight is worsening as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) experiences an unprecedented funding crisis. We are confident that cooperation and joint action by all international actors in burden-sharing and in sufficiently and predictably supporting UNRWA's core costs will mitigate these challenges and enhance the Agency's ability to meet the growing needs of Palestine refugees in all areas of operation in these difficult times.

The OIC affirms that addressing the political challenges in Palestine should not overshadow the dire socioeconomic situation further worsened by the decision of the Israeli authorities to continue withholding Palestinian tax revenues. Such an illegal decision constitutes a violation of international law and Israel's commitments under signed agreements and exacerbates the financial, economic and humanitarian crisis experienced by the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm that the Security Council and the International Quartet, along with other international key players, should fulfil their responsibilities and contribute to reviving a credible and meaningful political path for achieving a just, comprehensive and durable solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions. For its part, the OIC will spare no effort in supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and independence in their State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, and a just solution for the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). These are the core components of what will be a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and the OIC calls on the Security Council and the international community as a whole to exert all necessary and serious efforts to advance the achievement of this just solution without delay.

**Annex VII****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**

[Original: Arabic]

We thank you, Madam President, for holding for holding this important open debate. I should also like to thank the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland, for his briefing and his diligent efforts.

As the world remains preoccupied with the challenges associated with the coronavirus disease pandemic, the Middle East is not immune from those challenges, even as it continues to deal with ongoing crises that leave human suffering, insecurity and stability in their wake. That should provide an incentive for the international community and the United Nations to make every possible effort to address those crises and confront challenges to peace and security in the region.

The oldest of those issues is the Palestinian question, which still awaits resolution. Illegal occupation and settlement continue in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016). Unjust practices include illegally annexing Palestinian territory, barring Palestinians from the use of their natural resources, seizing and destroying their property and displacing them from their homes. In the shadow of the occupation, there have been repeated attacks on Muslim and Christian holy sites, reflecting attempts to Judaize holy sites in flagrant non-compliance with international laws and instruments. Those include the recent incursion into the Ibrahimi Mosque. There have also been repeated attacks on unarmed Palestinians, as has occurred in towns and villages north of Nablus. All that serves to underscore the need for the international community to fulfil its responsibilities to protect the Palestinian people and their holy sites and put a stop to those flagrant violations of human rights and international law and instruments.

We reaffirm the firm position of Qatar in support of full enjoyment by our Palestinian brothers of all their inalienable rights. The State of Qatar recognizes the need to address the difficult humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people. Qatar is committed to promoting conditions conducive to peace and stability. The State of Qatar remains in the vanguard of States providing relief assistance, humanitarian aid and development support. Its ongoing efforts in the Gaza Strip include a cash assistance programme and the provision of fuel and basic building materials to help improve living conditions.

We also affirm the consistent position of Qatar in support of efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue and bring about sustainable peace in the Middle East. A just, durable and comprehensive settlement will require an end to occupation and settlement in all occupied Arab territories, a resolution of the refugee problem and the exercise by Palestinians of their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the vision of a two-State solution, which the international community has agreed is the only way out of the conflict. In that connection, the State of Qatar stresses that efforts to reach such a settlement will only succeed if they are pursued on the basis of international law, United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the Arab peace initiative, and via negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

With regard to the crisis in Syria, Qatar has repeatedly stressed that ending it will require a political solution in accordance with the first Geneva communiqué (S/2012/522, annex), the full implementation of resolution 2254 (2015) and accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of

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chemical weapons. Qatar remains in the vanguard of countries providing assistance to meet the humanitarian needs of our Syrian brothers.

With regard to Libya, Qatar looks forward to an end to the crisis and the suffering of the Libyan people. We stress the need to consolidate progress on security, political and economic aspects, to proceed with a Libyan-led United Nations-supported political process and to assist the interim Government of National Unity in carrying out its duties, consolidating State institutions, providing basic services and development and holding free, fair and inclusive presidential and legislative elections.

With respect to Yemen, the State of Qatar reiterates its firm position in support of that country's unity and territorial integrity. Qatar looks forward to the crisis being resolved through negotiations between the Yemeni parties on the basis of the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216 (2015). Qatar also continues to play a humanitarian role in supporting our Yemeni brothers, including through a \$90 million contribution to the World Food Programme to help meet urgent food security needs and avert famine.

In conclusion, the peoples affected by the ongoing crises in the Middle East deserve every possible effort to end and resolve those crises so that they can enjoy the security and stability to which they aspire — and which they deserve. Qatar will remain committed to playing a positive role in support of anything that helps to achieve that goal.

**Annex VIII****Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Cho Hyun**

I would first like to thank the President for convening today's open debate and to thank the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland, for his briefing. My Government appreciates his tireless efforts and dedication to bringing peace to the region.

The Republic of Korea reaffirms its support for a two-State solution, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements, as well as its position that the status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected. We call on both Israel and Palestine to resume peace talks and reiterate our support for the mediation efforts of the Quartet and the international community.

My delegation is alarmed at the escalation of settler-related violence in the West Bank and in and around Jerusalem. All acts of violence, by any side, especially those perpetrated against civilians, cannot be justified and must stop. Those who are responsible for such acts must be held accountable. We urge all sides to refrain from further escalation, which undermines the possibility of lasting peace. In that context, my delegation remains deeply concerned about the growth of Israeli settlement, demolitions and evictions. Such unilateral actions are not helpful to addressing the current situation. What we witnessed in May 2021 must not be repeated.

Amid these various challenges, the Republic of Korea welcomes a number of positive developments: the ongoing engagement between Israeli and Palestinian leadership and their agreement that includes relieving the Palestinian Authority's financial crisis, the United States-Palestine Economic Dialogue, and the continuing mediation efforts of Egypt. It is also noteworthy that housing plans for the Palestinian people have been endorsed by the Israeli Government. Furthermore, my delegation takes note of the first round of the municipal elections in Palestine and its high turnout rates. We look forward to the second round taking place in March 2022, as planned.

My delegation welcomes the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee's ministerial meeting in Oslo last November, taking note of constructive discussions between Israeli and Palestinian officials on economic cooperation between the two sides, including enhancing the movement of goods in and out of the Gaza strip.

The Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong support for those efforts by the international community aimed at meeting the Palestinian people's humanitarian and development needs. To this end, in 2021, it contributed approximately \$7 million both bilaterally and multilaterally, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the United Nations Development Programme.

Taking this opportunity to do so, my delegation expresses its grave concern for the military escalation in Yemen. The conflict has taken an alarming toll on civilians, especially women and children, who are being disproportionately affected by this protracted conflict. In this context, the Republic of Korea condemns the Houthis' seizure of the United Arab Emirates-flagged vessel and urges the Houthis to immediately release the vessel and the crew. Furthermore, we condemn the recent attacks on Abu Dhabi, for which the Houthis claimed responsibility. My Government calls for the warring parties to initiate dialogue for a peace process based upon Special Envoy Grundberg's proposals. We also hope that cooperation on



the *FSO SAFER* oil tanker between the parties will be enhanced to prevent a global environmental tragedy.

The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to continuing its constructive role in advancing peace and stability in the region, in cooperation with the United Nations and the international community.

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