



DIVISION FOR
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Bulletin

on action by the United Nations system and
intergovernmental organizations
relevant to the question of Palestine

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I. PASSING OF FORMER UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL ILTER TÜRKMEN

On 7 July, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini issued the following [press release](#) on the passing of former UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Türkmen, who served the Agency from 1991-1996.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of former UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Türkmen, who served the Agency between 1991 and 1996 in Istanbul yesterday. A seasoned diplomat, prior to working with UNRWA, Mr. Türkmen served as Turkey's Permanent Representative to the United Nations both in New York and Geneva, and also as the Foreign Minister of Turkey between 1980-1983. Mr. Türkmen joined UNRWA as Commissioner-General during a difficult period and was a strong supporter of the pioneering Refugee Affairs Officer programme that provided passive protection to Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory during the first intifada. He leaves behind a legacy that has had ripple effects on UNRWA and the Palestine refugee population it serves. The Agency offers its heartfelt condolences and sympathy to his family.

II. EU ENVOYS, UN VISIT MASAFER YATTA

On 8 July, the Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA) issued this [press release](#).

Heads of Mission and representatives from the European Union together with likeminded countries and the UN visit Masafer Yatta where some 1,200 Palestinians, including over 500 children, are threatened by mass demolition, displacement and forced transfer. This visit comes after Israeli authorities increased coercive measures in the area, including military training, home demolitions, blocking civilian movement, impeding humanitarian aid operations and issuing demolition orders.

Diplomats met residents who explained the devastating impact of the increasingly difficult living conditions and the fear of losing their homes and livelihoods, following the Israeli Supreme Court ruling on 4 May, permitting the Israeli army to evict the residents. Since the ruling Israeli authorities have demolished dozens of family homes and animal shelters, issued over thirty additional demolition orders and a seizure order to allow for the construction of a patrol road, reactivated military training in the area for the first time in years and impeded the delivery of humanitarian aid to families in need.

“I am deeply troubled by the testimonies I have heard today and by the coercive measures taken by Israeli Security Forces that could lead to the forced transfer of the largest community in decades in the occupied Palestinian territory. These actions are in clear violation of international law and basic human rights. By pursuing these actions notably in Area C representing 60% of the West Bank, Israel is not only acting in contravention to its obligations as an occupying power but is also taking us further away from a two state solution with a viable and contiguous Palestinian state at its core”, said the European Union Representative Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff. As reiterated on 10 May 2022 by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative, settlement expansion, demolitions and evictions are illegal under international law. The EU condemns these actions and

urges Israel to cease demolitions and evictions, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian and international human rights law. Under Art 49 of the IV Geneva Convention, forced transfer is prohibited regardless of motive, including the removal of persons from a designated firing zone or closed military area.

III. COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HOLDS MEETING, ACCREDITS THREE NGOS

On 13 July, the Committee held its 407th meeting to consider implementation of its 2022 programme of work. Further details are available in the [press release](#) (reproduced below) and [video](#) of the meeting.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held its 407th meeting, which Ambassador Cheikh Niang chaired, to consider progress in the implementation of its 2022 programme of work. The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine updated the Committee on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Committee members and Observers made interventions calling – among other issues – to increase support for UNRWA. The Committee approved the accreditation of the following three CSOs recommended by the Committee Bureau., i.e., Leonard Education Organization (L.E.O.) (United States); Law for Palestine (L4P) (Sweden); and Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (H.R.C.) (State of Palestine).

IV. UN SPECIAL RAPORTEURS URGE ISRAEL TO FREE PALESTINIAN YOUTH

On 14 July, Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the right to health, issued a [press release](#) urging Israel to free Ahmad Manasra, a Palestinian detained since he was 14 years old, while suffering serious mental health conditions.

UN human rights experts today urged the Government of Israel to immediately release Ahmad Manasra, a 20-year-old Palestinian detained in Israeli prisons since he was 14 years old, while suffering serious mental health conditions.

“Ahmad’s imprisonment for almost six years has deprived him of childhood, family environment, protection, and all the rights he should have been guaranteed as a child,” the experts said.

“This case is haunting in many respects and his continuous detention, despite his deteriorating mental conditions, is a stain on all of us as part of the international human rights community”.

In 2015, then 13-year-old Ahmad Manasra and his 15-year-old cousin were accused of stabbing two Israelis in the Pisgat Ze’ev settlement in the occupied West Bank. His cousin was shot dead at the scene, whereas Ahmad was hit by a car and sustained serious head injuries while

an Israeli crowd jeered at him. Following his arrest, video footage, widely circulated on media, showed young, distressed Ahmad being harshly treated and severely interrogated without the presence of his parents or legal representative.

“The gut-wrenching scenes of a child with broken bones laying on the ground under a barrage of insults and threats shouted by armed adults in a foreign language; of that very same boy being spoon-fed by unfamiliar hands while chained to a hospital bed and then violently interrogated in breach of human rights norms and principles concerning arrest and detention of a child, continue to haunt our conscience,” the experts said.

“To Ahmad we say, we regret we failed to protect you”.

After he had turned 14 years old in 2016, Ahmad was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison, although the law at the time when the crime was allegedly committed in 2015 did not permit imprisonment of minors under the age of 14. The sentence was later reduced to nine and a half years. His mental condition has, reportedly, steadily deteriorated, possibly as a result of the harsh conditions of his detention, the recurrent instances of solitary confinement and, more tragically, the solitude, away from his family.

“Ahmad’s arrest and detention happened over a span of time which is absolutely critical for the emotional, intellectual and social development of a child. In all actions concerning children, the best interest of the child must be a primary consideration,” the experts said. “In violation of this fundamental principle, the overriding consideration in this case appeared to be Israel’s focus on containing whoever they label as terrorism threats”, they said.

Despite Ahmad’s aggravated mental conditions, Israeli authorities have rejected requests by Ahmad’s lawyers for his early release. Israeli authorities maintain that the offence Ahmad was sentenced for constitutes an act of terror, making him ineligible for early release pursuant to the Counter-Terrorism Law. However, this Law only came into effect in November 2016, and amendments to the Counter-Terrorism Law that barred early release for those convicted of serious crimes involving terrorist acts were introduced in December 2018, long after Ahmad was convicted of attempted murder in May 2016.

“As repeatedly reiterated to Israeli authorities, its ill-defined and overly broad Counter-Terrorism Law has led to far too many instances of arbitrariness and abuse. Ahmad’s case is yet another morally and legally unjustifiable consequence of the Law. Its retroactive application to Ahmad, which resulted in the denial of his early release, is illegal, disproportionate and discriminatory,” the experts said.

Medical reports finding that Ahmad suffers from schizophrenia confirmed the devastating impact of the harsh treatment he was subject to at a young age. “Solitary confinement of a child for such a prolonged period may amount to torture, prohibited in all circumstances under international human rights law,” said the experts. “Ahmad must urgently receive the necessary mental health care and counselling, especially in light of reports he has repeatedly put himself at risk of self-harm.”

“Ahmad’s case provides clear evidence of Israel’s deliberate practices of subjecting Palestinians, including children, to arbitrary detention, torture and inhumane treatment, often disguised as a ‘legitimate’ counter-terrorism response,” said the experts. The case also raises serious concerns of possible violations of international fair trial standards applicable to children, including the prohibition of inducing through coercion a child to a confession or self-incriminatory testimony. “These inhumane practices must end: far too many have already borne the brunt of an unacceptable instrumentalisation of legal tools as means to subjugate the protected local population and force them to accept an occupation that remains illegitimate and illegal”.

The experts criticised Ahmad’s very detention in Israeli prisons, in violation of international humanitarian law. “Israel, as the occupying power, is prohibited from detaining protected persons accused of offences in its own territory,” they said. “This practice violates article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and may also amount to forcible transfer, which constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and is also recognised as a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.”

“We appeal to Israel to urgently release Ahmad, allow him to return to his family and seek psychological counselling and support,” the experts said.

“It is also about time that the pervasive system of arrest and detention put in place by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, which currently holds 4,700 Palestinians including 170 children and 640 in administrative detention, receives international attention as part and parcel of the systemic and widespread oppressive regime Israel has imposed over the Palestinians during 55 years of military occupation.”

The experts have been in contact with the Israeli Government to raise concerns about Ahmad’s case.

V. SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES CONCLUDES MISSION TO THE REGION

On 15 July, the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories issued this [press release](#) following its annual mission to Jordan.

The United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (the “Special Committee”) conducted its annual mission to Amman, Jordan, from 4 to 7 July 2022.

During the four-day mission, the Special Committee* met with high-level Palestinian government officials, UN organisations and representatives of civil society organisations from the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. Furthermore, the Special Committee visited UNRWA headquarters, Marka refugee camp and interacted with the Palestine refugees. The Special Committee sincerely thanks all the persons who took time to provide the Committee with information and to share their views, perspectives and experience with the Committee.

The Committee regrets that Israel did not respond to its request for consultations with Israeli authorities or for access to Israel, the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel's persistent refusal to engage with the UN mechanisms mirrors a lack of accountability for Israeli conduct in the occupied Palestinian territory, which was drawn to the Special Committee's attention throughout the mission. The protracted occupation, and an entrenched culture of impunity, severely undermine the prospect of Palestinians and Israelis enjoying human rights on an equal basis and living side by side in peace and dignity.

The Special Committee's visit took place in the context of increasing settler violence and Israeli security force violence against Palestinians, arbitrary arrests and detention, and restrictions on the freedom of expression and movement, as well as a deepening culture of impunity. The Special Committee was briefed that in the first half of 2022, Israeli forces killed 60 Palestinians in the West Bank in the context of law enforcement operations, compared to 41 in the same period in 2021. Israel continues to hold the bodies of 325 Palestinians, denying families burials and closure. Settler violence has continued to increase at an alarming rate. 575 incidents of settler violence resulting in Palestinian deaths, injury and/or property damage were reported between 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022, compared to 430 in the previous year. Perpetrators are very rarely held accountable. Gross violations of Palestinian human rights, including the right to self-determination, are the result of discriminatory and systematic policies and practices negatively impacting almost every aspect of Palestinian life.

The Special Committee was extensively briefed on the widespread practice of administrative detention of Palestinians. More than 800,000 Palestinians have been subjected to this practice since 1967. Approximately 640 Palestinians, including four children, are currently held under indefinite administrative detention without charge or trial. A lack of respect for fair trial guarantees is a systemic concern in cases involving Palestinians, including the regular admission of secret evidence in trial. The Special Committee was also informed that torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons remain widespread. Some interrogation techniques, which may amount to torture, are allowed by Israel on the basis of "necessity", which is incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture under international law. The Special Committee was also informed that Palestinian detainees are often deprived of adequate health care, as medical clinics within prisons lack appropriate medical equipment and treatment.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, discriminatory planning and zoning laws and military orders are applied to justify aggressive expropriation of land for the purposes of expanding illegal Israeli settlements and military training areas. In Area C, which comprises approximately 62 per cent of land in the West Bank, almost 30 per cent is designated as closed "firing zones" and Palestinian residents in those designated areas are at heightened risk of forced evictions and demolitions of their homes. The Special Committee particularly expresses concern over ongoing demolitions of Palestinian structures and displacement of Palestinian residents in Masafer Yatta, designated as "Firing Zone 918", following a recent Israeli High Court decision permitting forced evictions of the residents to clear the area as a closed military training site. About 1,200 residents of Masafer Yatta face imminent risks of forced evictions and displacement. This constitutes the largest displacement of Palestinians since 1967, and may amount to forcible transfer, which is a grave breach of international humanitarian law.

Illegal Israeli settlements have also continued to expand, resulting in demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures and displacement of the Palestinian residents, notwithstanding UN Security Council resolution 2334 condemning such practices. The Special Committee was informed that Israel has established or allowed the establishment of 279 settlements, outposts or satellite neighbourhoods in the West Bank, facilitating settlement population growth to approximately 700,000. Israeli and international settler organisations actively promote settlements and recruit prospective settlers, and are offered tax incentives. New settlement housing units continue to proliferate, and in May 2022, Israeli authorities advanced plans for the construction of more than 4,000 settlement housing units in Area C. The expansion of settlements has resulted in a commensurate increase in the demolition of Palestinian structures. The Special Committee was briefed that since the beginning of 2022, 387 Palestinian structures, including 68 donor-funded structures, were demolished, displacing 496 Palestinians. Only five percent of construction plans submitted by Palestinians in Area C are reportedly approved by the Israeli authorities. The Special Committee was also informed that in addition to settlement housing units, private land owned by Palestinians is often seized for the purpose of building infrastructure, such as roads, highways and walls, to connect settlements, or creating natural reserves or national parks. As reiterated by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Security Council and other UN bodies, settlement activities are a flagrant violation of international law and must immediately cease.

The Committee dedicated a portion of its visit to UNRWA headquarters and the Marka refugee camp for Gazan refugees. Although UNRWA faces a dire financial situation and an almost USD 120 million programme budget shortfall, the agency continues to deliver above and beyond all expectations and is sustained by a dedicated and committed cadre of staff, many of whom benefited from UNRWA's relief, social, health and education services as children. UNRWA urgently requires predictable and sustainable funding in order to continue to fulfil its critical role for Palestine refugees and regional stability. Health and education services in particular are not sustainable on an ad hoc or emergency funding basis.

Israeli policies and practices also infringe upon the human rights of Palestinians to health, safe drinking water, sanitation, and a healthy environment in a discriminatory manner. The Special Committee was informed that life expectancy of Palestinians is eight years lower than Israelis. For Gazans, barriers restricting access to secondary and tertiary healthcare are extreme. Irrespective of medical need, Gazan men aged 18-40 are much less likely to receive a permit to leave Gaza than any other demographic, reflective of Israel's prioritisation of security policy over the Palestinian right to health. Palestinians only control approximately 20 percent of their water supply, with the remainder purchased from Israel. Public demand consistently exceeds supply, particularly during summer, and over 90 percent of groundwater in Gaza is not suitable for human consumption. In areas south of Hebron in the West Bank, Palestinians reportedly survive on an average of less than 40 litres per person per day, well below WHO minimum guidelines to achieve basic health and sanitation needs. The Committee was also provided with photographic evidence of Israeli commercial, agricultural, industrial and chemical waste disposal on Palestinian agricultural land, with grave implications for the right to a healthy environment, impacting progress towards SDG 6 and SDG 11, whilst the consequences of climate change become increasingly evident.

Discrimination against Palestinians also manifests in the absence of accountability mechanisms. As highlighted by many interlocutors, impunity remains pervasive in the occupied Palestinian territory, as acts of killings, torture, ill-treatment or violence committed against Palestinians by Israeli security forces are rarely investigated or result in prosecution of the perpetrators. A Palestinian victim who wishes to file a complaint and pursue legal action faces a number of insurmountable obstacles, such as prohibitively expensive court fees and access to legal representation. Israel has the capability but lacks the political and organisational will to hold individual members of its security forces to account, even in instances of highly publicised cases, including the possible extra-judicial killings of children. The Special Committee was informed that Palestinian children are routinely intimidated by Israeli security forces on the way to school and face physical access restrictions to their right to education, despite the UN Secretary-General's repeated calls on Israel to better protect schools as places of learning. In the Gaza Strip, civil liability claims by Gazan residents are explicitly excluded from Israeli jurisdiction, by virtue of a 2014 legislative amendment that considers the population of Gaza as residents of an "enemy territory".

In the Gaza Strip, 15 years of the land, sea and air blockade and closures have effectively trapped 2.1 million Palestinians in what Gazan and international civil society organisations describe as an "open-air prison". The blockade and closures, combined with the effects of the May 2021 conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, have continued to stifle the local economy, constricting the livelihoods of the Gazan population. The Committee was briefed that 44.7 percent of working-age Gazans are unemployed, and permits to obtain employment outside Gaza are extremely limited. Livelihoods available to the Gazan population, such as fishery and agriculture, expose Gazans to grave risks of violence and attacks by Israeli security forces. To date, 2022 has seen a spike in the number of arrests of fishermen, harassment, and confiscation or destruction of their boats. While arrested fishermen are usually released within 24 hours, they are often subject to ill-treatment and physical abuse, and not allowed to contact their families. Entry and export of goods are strictly controlled and restricted by Israel. Gazans requiring urgent medical care outside the Gaza Strip are unable to do so without exit permits from Israel. The Special Committee was briefed on several tragic cases of Palestinian infants and children dying of treatable causes whilst waiting for exit permits to seek life-saving specialized treatment in East Jerusalem. The picture emerging from the Gaza Strip is increasingly bleak, with the population deprived of access to adequate health care, employment, basic services such as water and electricity, and freedom of movement. The dire situation in the Gaza Strip is a man-made humanitarian catastrophe, maintained and perpetuated by deliberate policies and practices designed to control a trapped population. The international community must shift its focus from humanitarian emergency to addressing the root cause of the catastrophe, including ending the blockade and border closures.

The Israeli government has also expanded its control of the occupied Syrian Golan in the context of the ongoing crisis in Syria and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Special Committee was informed that the settler population has expanded to just under 30,000 in 35 settlements. On 26 December 2021, then-Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's Cabinet approved an unprecedented plan to build 7,300 residential units in existing illegal settlements for 23,000 new Israeli settlers within the next five years, as well as the establishment of two new illegal settlements. Israel has continued to restrict the movement of the 80 percent of Syrians in the occupied Golan without Israeli identity documents, preventing their movement within Syria, family reunification, and

access to work, education and medical services in Damascus or abroad. Syrians in the occupied Golan are also denied building permits by Israel and have limited access to natural resources (including land and water).

Throughout its visit, the Special Committee was briefed on the continued shrinking of civic space in the occupied Palestinian territory as a function of Israeli security policies. On 22 October 2021, Israel's Ministry of Defense designated six leading Palestinian civil society organisations as "terrorist organisations," allegations that remain unsubstantiated by the information available to the Special Committee. Other civil society organisations invited to brief the Special Committee were unable to attend in person due to movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli government. Multiple civil society organisations and human rights defenders reported being specifically targeted for surveillance. In one of the most explicit examples of suppression of freedom of speech in the occupied Palestinian territory in recent memory, on 11 May 2022, a prominent Palestinian-American journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, was shot dead as she covered an Israeli Defense Force raid in Jenin. Independent investigations carried out by a number of bodies and organisations strongly indicate that Ms. Abu Akleh was most likely to have been killed by well-aimed shots fired by Israeli forces. The killing of Ms. Abu Akleh, known as the "voice of Palestine," is profoundly symbolic. Her death and the desecration of her funeral procession affected every member of Palestinian civic society, particularly the women journalists and human rights defenders that she inspired.

The Special Committee received mounting evidence of Israel's discriminatory and inhumane laws, policies, and practices that violate Palestinians' human dignity in every sense, the essence of human rights to which all Palestinians are entitled. By design, Israel's 55-year occupation of Palestine has been used as a vehicle to serve and protect the interest of a Jewish State and its Jewish people, while subjugating Palestinians. The Special Committee is cognisant that many stakeholders consider that this practice amounts to apartheid. This concern must be given serious consideration by the international community, for it owes obligations *erga omnes* to prevent and end the most serious crimes under international law. The Special Committee urges Member States to take principled steps towards ensuring that Israel's occupation ends and Palestinians' right of self-determination is realised.

The committee will present its next report to the General Assembly in October 2022.

VI. THE UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE ASSESSES THE STATE OF PALESTINE

On [19 and 20 July](#), the UN Committee Against Torture assessed the State of Palestine's implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. On 29 July, the Committee issued the following [findings](#) and adopted the following [concluding observations](#) on the State of Palestine. For further details, please see the [video](#) of the meeting, and a related [press release](#).

...

State of Palestine

The Committee was seriously concerned about the casualties caused by the excessive use of force, particularly the use of lethal weapons by security forces and unidentified armed elements during demonstrations on the postponement of national elections in April 2021 and about Nizar Banat's death in custody in June 2021. It requested that the State of Palestine effectively investigate all allegations relating to the excessive use of force and ensure that all perpetrators are prosecuted and victims are fully compensated. It also recommended that the State party guarantee that all officers can be effectively identified at all times to ensure individual accountability.

Regarding consistent reports that people in custody in facilities run by security forces and intelligence services in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are tortured or ill-treated, particularly during the investigation stage of proceedings, the Committee urged the State party to conduct prompt and effective investigations into complaints involving public officials. It also asked the State party to prosecute torturers and punish them with appropriate penalties.

...

Concluding observations

State of Palestine

On the State of Palestine, the Committee noted that torture was explicitly prohibited under Article 13.1 of the Palestinian Basic Law, and that a comprehensive definition of torture was included on the National Commission against Torture. However, the Committee expressed concern that torture was considered a misdemeanour, and urged the State party to ensure that acts of torture were punishable by appropriate penalties. The Committee also expressed concern that persons in custody, including in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, were subjected to torture or ill-treatment, and that the mechanisms established by the State party to receive and investigate complaints of this nature, failed to protect complainants and witnesses. The Committee recommended that the State party immediately undertake investigations into complaints through an independent mechanism and punish offenders with appropriate penalties.

The Committee further expressed concern about allegations of excessive use of force in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It recommended that the State party ensure that investigations were undertaken into all allegations, that perpetrators were prosecuted, and that victims or their families received full redress. In addition, the Committee expressed concern regarding the continuous use of administrative detention by the State party under the Jordanian Crimes Prevention Act of 1954 in the West Bank. It was also concerned that administrative detention was used against women and girls who were victims of violence. The Committee recommended that the State party amend or repeal the Jordanian Crimes Prevention Act of 1954 to abolish the practice of "protective custody" in cases of gender-based violence and ensure that all detainees were afforded all fundamental procedural safeguards. It also recommended that the State party develop and implement alternatives to administrative detention.

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VII. PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HOLDS VIRTUAL EVENT: “PALESTINIAN YOUTH IN EAST JERUSALEM UNDER OCCUPATION”

On 20 July, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation held an International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem titled “Palestinian Youth in East Jerusalem under Occupation.” Please see the [video](#) and [chair summary](#) of the event, as well as the curtain raiser/ [press release](#) reproduced below.

The [UN Palestinian Rights Committee](#), with support from the OIC, will hold the International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem “Palestinian Youth in East Jerusalem under Occupation” on **20 July 2022 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (New York Time)**, via WebEx. The event will also be livestreamed on UN Web TV.

The panel conversation with civil society representatives will highlight the lived reality of young Palestinians in East Jerusalem under Israeli occupation, discussing ways to support Palestinian youth-based organizations while they grapple with daily challenges.

The event aims at raising awareness with international audiences – Member States, civil society and media – while shedding light on Israel’s system of control curtailing Palestinians’ rights, presence and ability to thrive in the City. The event will also underline Palestinian youth as agents of change and how the international community foster youth-led peace initiatives in East Jerusalem and thus contribute to the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The speakers – **Ms. Nivine Sandouka**, from Hoqoqna (Our Rights); **Ms. Dalia Hatouqa**, a journalist specializing in Israeli/Palestinian affairs, **Mr. Ali Ghaith**, a Palestinian Media,

Communications and Advocacy Consultant and **Ms. Sharon (Shaindy) Ort**, a human rights activist, will also discuss ways to support the socio-economic and cultural resilience of Palestinian Jerusalemites as well as ways to foster youth empowerment and political engagement aimed at achieving justice and peace.

VIII. ECOSOC ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE

At its meeting on 22 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following two draft resolutions: “[Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation](#)” and “[Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women](#)”. The text of the resolutions and the voting results are reproduced below.

E/2022/L.16. Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation (43 in favour, 4 against, 4 abstentions)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [76/82](#) of 9 December 2021 and [76/225](#) of 17 December 2021,

Recalling also its resolution [2021/4](#) of 14 September 2020,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [252 \(1968\)](#) of 21 May 1968, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions [ES-10/13](#) of 21 October 2003, [ES-10/14](#) of 8 December 2003, [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,¹

Reaffirming 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 East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [181 \(II\)](#) of 29 November 1947 and 54 years since the occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1544 \(2004\)](#) of 19 May 2004, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008 and [2334 \(2016\)](#), the principle of land for peace,

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [52/250](#) of 7 July 1998.

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

¹ [A/77/90-E/2022/66](#).

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

³ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

the Arab Peace Initiative⁶ and the Quartet road map,⁷ as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all

⁶ [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution [14/221](#).

⁷ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,⁸

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,⁹ and General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#), and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further

⁸ [A/HRC/22/63](#).

⁹ See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled “Gaza: two years after”, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;¹⁰

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

¹⁰ See [A/49/180-S/1994/727](#), annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and negatively impacts the environment, as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and international law,

including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of prisoners and detainees, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and deplores the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calls for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order to ensure dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

19. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [425 \(1978\)](#), [1397 \(2002\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#), [1544 \(2004\)](#), [1850 \(2008\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

22. *Decides* to include the item entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” in the agenda of its 2023 session.

E/2022/L.16. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (40 in favour, 6 against 4 abstentions)

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Recalling its relevant resolutions and all other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, including its call upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, and its emphasis on the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity,

Recalling further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,²

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women³ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

¹ See [A/77/90-E/2022/66](#).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ General Assembly resolution [48/104](#).

Reaffirming the obligations of States and all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and the need to end all violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights,

Reaffirming also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁴ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁵ the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,⁶ and the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session,⁷ and reaffirming its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Reaffirming further the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, stressing the importance of women’s equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and welcoming in this regard the global call by international women leaders made on 1 July 2020,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, and its impact on women and girls,

Expressing grave concern also at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women, peaceful demonstrators and journalists, and emphasizing that civilian populations must be protected by all parties in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning, in this regard, the killing of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, and stressing the need to promptly ensure accountability,

Stressing the need for the protection of civil society actors to allow them to conduct their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment from any party, and rejecting any attacks against civil society,

Stressing also the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Deeply concerned about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce

⁴ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 7 (E/2020/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties, and stressing the need to implement fully obligations under those instruments that protect the rights of women and girls, including during and post-conflict,

Noting also the importance of giving high priority to the swift adoption of the Family Protection Law to ensure that women and girls are protected from gender-based violence, including domestic violence,

Underlining the limitations on Palestinian jurisdiction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which undermine the ability of the Palestinian Government to protect Palestinian women and girls in certain areas,

Noting the importance of the agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in facilitating the advancement and empowerment of women in development in line with General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women and girls with regard to the fulfilment of their rights, and their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society;

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all measures contrary to international law, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and stresses that Palestinian civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by the conflict;

3. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994;

4. *Calls upon* the parties to comply fully with their obligations, including as States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking fully into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Acknowledges* the contribution of national coalitions and committees in advancing women's rights, including those pertaining to resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the Convention and combating violence against women;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Palestinian Government of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) as well as of initiatives at the legislative, administrative and security levels to advance women's rights, notably in relation to family law and combating violence against women;

7. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families, including those living under Israeli occupation, and recognizes the importance of integrating gender considerations across humanitarian programming by seeking to ensure the provision of access to protection and the full range of medical, legal and livelihood and psychosocial services, including services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, without discrimination, and through ensuring that women and women's groups can participate equally and meaningfully and are supported in being leaders in humanitarian action;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and deteriorating socioeconomic and psychosocial conditions in the Gaza Strip;

9. *Recalls* the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, and stresses that the situation of the Palestine refugees, including women and girls, continues to be a matter of grave concern and that they continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs, pending a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948;

10. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and urges in this regard the intensification and acceleration of renewed international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative,⁹ the Quartet road map¹⁰ and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

11. *Stresses* the importance of efforts to increase the role of Palestinian women in decision-making and of their full, equal and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and encourages Member States and observer States as well as the United Nations system to

⁸ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

⁹ [A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

¹⁰ [S/2003/529](#), annex.

ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of Palestinian women at all levels by, inter alia, promoting women's capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political, economic and humanitarian decision-making and by improving the gender balance in senior civilian government positions and in security functions, while recognizing the need to protect women participating in public spaces from threats and reprisals;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to include information on the gender-specific impact of the occupation and the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to the Economic and Social Council at its 2023 session.

IX. UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On 26 July, the Security Council met to discuss the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question. Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Lynn Hastings provided a [briefing](#), and Vice-Chair of the Palestinian Rights Committee Arrmanatha C. Nasir also made a [statement](#). Both are reproduced below. A verbatim record of the meeting is available [here](#).

Special Coordinator Statement

I am pleased to deliver this briefing on behalf of Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland, covering the reporting period of 27 June – 21 July.

While the specific developments of the conflict fluctuate, the structural reality has not changed.

We continue to witness concerning levels of violence against civilians, which exacerbates mistrust and undermines a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

For years, illegal settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has been steadily shrinking the land available to Palestinians for development and livelihoods, limiting their movement and access, and eroding the prospects for establishing a viable Palestinian State.

Three hundred and ninety-nine demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures and evictions this year in Area C have left over 400 Palestinians displaced.

There is a growing sense of hopelessness among many Palestinians who see their prospects for statehood, sovereignty and a peaceful future slipping away.

Internally, they also see a crumbling and constrained Palestinian economy, lack of progress in advancing intra-Palestinian unity and governance reform, and the urgent need for renewed legitimacy to national institutions, including through a democratically elected Parliament and Government in Palestine.

Many Israelis also understand the perils of continuing along the current path. They see endless cycles of violence, the constant risk of escalation and the absence of prospects to end the conflict.

Against this worrying backdrop, U.S. President Biden's visit to the region earlier this month signaled renewed consensus for a two-State solution based on the 1967 lines. During the visit, for the first time in years, Israeli, Palestinian and American leaders also reiterated their support for a two-State solution as essential for the future of Palestinians and Israelis alike. In addition to meeting with Prime Minister Lapid and President Abbas, President Biden made a noteworthy visit to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. We must build on these reaffirmed

Daily violence continued throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the reporting period.

Three Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank during search and arrest operations and 287 Palestinians, including 28 children, were injured by Israeli security forces (ISF) during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, and other incidents in the West Bank. Israeli settlers or other civilians perpetrated 27 attacks against Palestinians resulting in 12 injuries and/or damage to Palestinian property, including 1000 olive trees.

In all, eighteen Israeli civilians, including two women, and seven Israeli security personnel were injured by Palestinians in shooting and stabbing attacks, clashes, and the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails, and other incidents. In total, Palestinians perpetrated 50 attacks against Israeli civilians, 39 of which were stone-throwing incidents, resulting in injuries and/or damage to Israeli property.

On 29 June, ISF shot and killed a 25-year-old Palestinian in the context of clashes following an arrest operation conducted in Jenin in the West Bank. According to ISF, the man had thrown explosive devices towards Israeli soldiers. Palestinian Islamic Jihad later claimed the man as a member.

On 2 and 6 July, ISF fatally shot two Palestinians in the village of Jab'a, near Jenin. On 2 July, according to video and eyewitnesses, a 17-year-old was shot from some 30 meters as he was turning away after having thrown stones towards the soldiers. ISF said they fired after the boy had thrown a Molotov cocktail. On 6 July, a Palestinian man was shot and killed as he left his house during a nearby ISF arrest operation. ISF said the man had been shot after trying to run away.

On 5 July, an Israeli man was seriously injured after being stabbed on a pedestrian bridge in Bnei Brak in central Israel. On 6 July, ISF announced they had arrested a Palestinian man suspected of carrying out the attack.

On 19 July, an Israeli was stabbed and moderately injured by a Palestinian on a bus in Jerusalem. The assailant was subsequently shot and injured by an Israeli civilian.

On 2 July, the Palestinian Authority transferred the bullet that killed Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh to U.S. authorities to undergo forensic testing. On 4 July, following an analysis overseen by the U.S. Security Coordinator, the U.S. announced that the examiners “could not reach a definitive conclusion regarding the origin of the bullet” due to its damaged condition. The U.S. also said that, after viewing the results of both Israeli and Palestinian investigations into Aqleh’s death, it had concluded that “gunfire from Israel Defence Forces positions was likely responsible,” and that it “found no reason to believe that this was intentional.” Mister President,

Settler-related violence continued during the reporting period, with particularly concerning incidents in the West Bank community of Ras al-Tin.

On the night of 6 July, individuals believed to be Israeli settlers set fire to four points around the community, damaging several structures, including tents. The attack comes on the heels of additional settler attacks against the community in recent weeks, during which two residents were injured.

I reiterate that perpetrators of all acts of violence must be held accountable and brought swiftly to justice.

I also reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

On 20 and 21 July, thousands of Israelis participated in a widely publicized campaign by a settler organization to establish settlement outposts across the West Bank. In advance of the campaign, Israeli Defense Minister Gantz issued a statement that such efforts “are illegal activities that the security services are preparing to thwart.” The Israel Defense Forces and Israeli police also issued similar statements. On 21 July, ISF removed the seven makeshift encampments that had been set up and evacuated the Israeli civilians from the area.

I welcome the statements and actions by the Government of Israel to prevent the establishment of new outposts. I reiterate that all settlements are illegal under international law and remain a substantial obstacle to peace.

During the reporting period, Israeli authorities demolished, seized or forced owners to demolish 77 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C and five in East Jerusalem, displacing 61 Palestinians, including 31 children. The demolitions were carried out due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

In the wake of the 4 May ruling by the Israeli High Court of Justice allowing the eviction of the communities in Masafer Yatta in the southern West Bank to proceed due to their presence in an Israeli-declared “firing zone”, Israeli forces continued to adopt restrictive measures negatively affecting Palestinian communities and humanitarian actors providing support. Such measures include ongoing military training, related movement restrictions, arrests, including those involving use of force, as well as restrictions on the access of staff of international organizations and Palestinian NGOs to the area.

I remain deeply concerned by the potential implications of the High Court's ruling and the humanitarian toll on the communities in question if the eviction orders are carried out.

In a positive development, on 12 July, Israeli authorities announced that they would advance six plans for Palestinian construction in Area C. I urge Israel to further advance such plans and to issue building permits for all previously approved plans for Palestinians in Area C and in East Jerusalem.

On 21 July, Israel's Supreme Court partially accepted the appeal of a Palestinian family under threat of eviction in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, freezing the eviction order until proceedings are completed in a lower court.

I call on Israeli authorities to end the displacement and eviction of Palestinians in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law and to approve additional plans that would enable Palestinians to build legally and address their development needs.

On 30 June, the Israeli Knesset voted to dissolve itself and call for new parliamentary elections, scheduled now for 1 November. Due to the coalition agreements, on 1 July, Yair Lapid became Israel's Prime Minister and will head the interim Government through the upcoming elections and government formation process. I congratulate Prime Minister Lapid, and the Special Coordinator looks forward to continuing to work with him to advance steps towards a two-State solution and a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Between 13-15 July, U.S. President Biden visited Israel and the OPT, meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. During the visit, the President announced a series of "initiatives to support the Palestinian people." These include: a new multi-year contribution of USD 100 million to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network (EJHN), subject to congressional approval; USD 201 million in funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); an additional USD 15 million in humanitarian assistance for Palestinians aimed at addressing food insecurity; and two new grants under the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA).

On 16 July, in the context of President Biden's meeting with regional leaders in Saudi Arabia, the United States announced that Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also each pledged an additional USD 25 million to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network.

The Biden Administration's announcement that Israel has agreed to allow the Allenby Bridge between the West Bank and Jordan to operate 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by the end of September will go some way to reduce the long wait thousands undergo at the crossing. The U.S. also said Israel had agreed to accelerate the transition to 4G technology in the West Bank, and then in Gaza, and to convene the long-dormant Joint Economic Committee with the Palestinian Authority.

I welcome the crucial U.S. and regional support pledged to East Jerusalem hospitals, vital Palestinian institutions that provide health care to patients from across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Support for structural reform of the health sector is still needed for sustainable operations of the heavily indebted hospital Network. I also welcome and look forward to the

implementation of the important commitments made by Israel to improve movement and access for Palestinians at Allenby Bridge and the transition to 4G technology to support economic growth.

In advance of President Biden's visit, on 7 July, President Abbas and Defense Minister Gantz met in Ramallah, and on 8 July Israeli President Herzog and Prime Minister Lapid spoke with President Abbas by phone. The continuing high-level contacts between Israeli and Palestinian officials are encouraging, and I urge leaders on all sides to expand this engagement to encompass underlying political issues.

In addition, on 12 July, Israeli authorities announced the approval of registration of 5,500 previously unregistered Palestinians, and the expansion of a crossing in the northern West Bank to include vehicular traffic between Israel and Jenin for the use of Israeli Arabs.

On 21 July, President Abbas visited France and met with President Emmanuel Macron. At a joint press conference following the meeting, President Macron affirmed his willingness to help mobilize the international community in efforts to support the resumption of a political dialogue towards "a just and lasting peace."

Statements issued by ten European Foreign Ministries announced their governments had reviewed the 21 October designation of six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations. The statements highlighted that no substantial information had been received that would justify a review of the Member States' policies and in the absence of such evidence, the Member States confirmed that they will continue their cooperation and strong support for civil society in the OPT. Going forward, the Ministry of Defence has requested the three lawyers representing the six NGOs to seek approval before continuing to do so.

On several occasions in July, Palestinian legal associations organized demonstrations in Ramallah, attended by hundreds of participants, to protest the Palestinian Authority's practice of issuing and amending laws by presidential decree. Protestors called for the election of a new Legislative Council and the resumption of regular legislative procedures.

Turning to Gaza, the situation remains fragile, as efforts by the UN and other partners continue to deliver vital humanitarian and development assistance, as well as further ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods into and out of the Strip.

On 16 July, following a period of relative calm, militants in Gaza launched four rockets towards Israel. According to Israeli authorities, one rocket was intercepted by the Iron Dome system, while the others landed in open areas in Israel. No injuries were reported. In retaliation, IDF conducted airstrikes against what it said were Hamas targets in the Strip, with no injuries reported.

On 19 July, Israeli authorities announced that they had found a bullet in Netiv HaAsara, in southern Israel, which they determined had been fired earlier that day from the Gaza Strip, damaging an industrial building. Subsequently, the IDF launched missiles at what it said were Hamas targets in the Strip, again with no injuries reported.

Reconstruction and repair of damages incurred during the 2021 escalation continues to require additional funding and the timely disbursement of pledged funding. A funding gap remains of at

least USD 45 million for the reconstruction of totally damaged housing units and USD 9 million for repairs of damaged housing.

On 3 July, on the occasion of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, Israeli authorities announced that 400 permits would be issued for men above the age of 55 and women above the age of 50 to visit Jerusalem from Gaza. These are the first such permits to be issued since 2017. In addition, Israeli authorities announced that some 500 permits would be issued for Gaza residents to visit first-degree relatives in the West Bank and Israel over the holiday.

In June, some 72,000 crossings of people holding Israeli-issued permits through the Israeli-controlled Erez crossing were recorded. This is the highest number of crossings in one month since the tightening of the Israeli closures following Hamas's takeover of the Strip in 2007.

June also witnessed an increase of imports into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and Gaza, with a 12 per cent increase in the number of trucks compared to May. The number of trucks entering Gaza through the informal Salah ad-Din crossing between Gaza and Egypt, increased by 45 per cent compared to May 2022.

Across the OPT, soaring commodity prices continue to negatively impact Palestinian lives. The UNRWA Gaza Emergency Food Programme requires an additional USD 72 million by September to meet food assistance needs for 1.1 million Palestine refugees in the fourth quarter. World Food Programme needs an additional USD 24 million to continue providing assistance until the end of the year, to compensate for the decrease in purchasing power. In this context, I welcome recent announcements by the U.S. and the EU confirming their 2022 contributions to UNRWA, which will allow the Agency to maintain education, primary health care and other critical services to Palestine refugees during the summer months. I encourage additional contributions from Member States to ensure that needs on the ground can be met.

Turning to the region, while the ceasefire between Israel and Syria continues to be generally maintained, the situation remains volatile with continued violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement by the parties.

The latest reported incident was brought to this Council and the Secretary-General through identical letters of the 22nd July from the Permanent Representative of Syria concerning the situation between Israel and Syria. It is important that the parties respect their obligations under the terms of the Agreement and prevent an escalation of the situation between them.

In Lebanon, following the parliamentary elections of 15 May, efforts to form a new government continue. It is of the utmost importance that a new government be formed as soon as possible and that progress is made on reforms needed to address the country's multiple crises.

I also underscore the risks to stability posed by incidents such as the launching of three unarmed drones from Lebanon towards the Karish offshore natural gas field by Hezbollah on 2 July. I urge all parties to exercise restraint and avoid provocative actions that could lead to escalation.

On 15 and 16 July, President Biden visited Saudi Arabia, where he met with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Egypt, Iraq and Jordan. Following the summit, the U.S. and the GCC

issued a joint statement reaffirming their “joint commitment to preserve regional security and stability, [and] support diplomacy with the aim of regional de-escalation.”

Immediate steps to reverse negative trends and to support the Palestinian people are essential. The violence must stop. The tensions that have been mounting, particularly in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, amidst continued settlement activity and settler-related violence, must be addressed.

However, there is no substitute for a legitimate political process that will resolve the core issues driving the conflict.

As the history of this conflict has so painfully demonstrated, if left unaddressed, the factors contributing to this corrosive situation will only deteriorate further. We must focus on reaching the ultimate goal: two States, living side-by-side in peace and security, in line with UN resolutions, previous agreements and international law.

The United Nations remains committed to supporting Israelis and Palestinians to move towards a just and lasting peace and we will continue to work with the parties and with regional and international partners to achieve this objective.

CEIRPP Vice Chair Statement

On behalf of the Committee, I congratulate Brazil for its capable presidency of the Security Council in July, and also thank UN Deputy Special Coordinator, Lynn Hastings for her briefing.

Israel’s continued settlement expansion and land confiscation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, has grave political repercussions. They constitute grave breaches of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and undermine the contiguity and viability of the Palestinian state and the prospects for realizing the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders that the Security Council, General Assembly and international community as a whole have long endorsed and called for.

The Committee expresses its concern over ongoing developments in Masafer Yatta in the south of the occupied West Bank after the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the area is to be appropriated by the Israeli military. This action risks forcibly displacing over 1,200 Palestinians, including a large number of women and at least 580 children, the largest forcible expulsion of Palestinians since 1967. As referenced by UNSCO, and as reported in the end-of-mission Statement by the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices of 15 July 2022, the implementation of this decision will test the international community’s resolve and the Security Council’s ability to take decisive action to uphold international law, the Charter and to protect Palestinian civilians living under occupation and their homes and livelihoods.

The Committee calls on the Security Council to clearly and firmly reiterate its demands that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end all settlement expansions, demolitions, confiscations of Palestinian property and the forcible removal of civilians in compliance with international law and UN resolutions, including SC Res 2334 (2016).

The Committee is alarmed by the increasing violence and casualties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, over the past months as reported by Special Coordinator Wennesland. We condemn the indiscriminate killing and excessive use of lethal force against civilians, particularly children, which have become all too frequent and for which no one is held accountable.

Protection of civilians is central to the United Nations and the Security Council's work and must be a prioritized in the absence of a just solution.

Recent findings in the report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict highlighted the dramatic increase in grave violations inflicted on Palestinian children. These findings must serve as a stark reminder to the Security Council to act. The Committee urges Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and exercise measures to protect Palestinian children caught in the midst of this ongoing tragic conflict.

We applaud and join the multiple calls for action to also protect human rights defenders and press freedom. The Committee welcomes the UN Human Rights Office preliminary investigation regarding the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and urges Israel to bring those responsible to justice. The Committee also commends the nine member states of the European Union that have pledged to continue working with the six Palestinian civil society groups - that Israel labeled as terrorist organizations in October 2021 - in the absence of any substantial information to support that allegation. These organizations, some of whom are Committee partners, play crucial roles in promoting democracy and building a robust Palestinian civil society and must continue to be supported.

Through its multi-faceted work, UNRWA plays a crucial role in providing essential services to the Palestinian people. The Committee lauds the commitments made by Member States at the recent UN Pledging Conference and joins the Secretary-General in urging Member States to put the Agency on a sustainable financial foundation. By contributing to UNRWA, we contribute to the welfare and dignity of Palestine refugees and to Middle East peace and stability.

We commend the June 2022 findings of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. We concur with the assessment that the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and all its facets, including annexation, the Gaza blockade and policies based on discrimination and segregation are the primary root causes of the recurrent tension, instability and conflict in the region. The

Committee pledges to continue its advocacy with Member States and United Nations officials toward resuming negotiations aimed at addressing these root causes, resolving the core issues and achieving a just and lasting peace. Only a comprehensive political process addressing the unfulfilled promises to the Palestinian people and leading to the realization of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and return, will result in an end of the conflict.

In line with its mandate, the Committee will continue its advocacy work, organize public events and draw attention to the plight of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights including in relation to East Jerusalem.

The only way to resolve the question of Palestine is through a two-State solution, based on the 1967 borders, and with two States – Israel and Palestine – living side-by-side in peace and security, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine. We urge the Security Council to act without delay to contribute to the achievement of that solution.

X. UNRWA LAUNCHES STRATEGY ON ICT FOR EDUCATION

On 26 July, UNRWA launched an [Information and Communication Technology for Education Strategy](#) to help its students, teachers, and education staff better engage with digital technology. The executive summary is replicated below.

This UNRWA Strategy on Information and Communication Technologies for Education (ICT4E) offers a vision of how the UNRWA Education Programme, serving over 540,000 school students, 8,000 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students, around 2,000 teacher training students and close to 20,000 staff in Gaza, West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, will engage with technology in the years to come. This will support quality education that is relevant, effective, efficient and supports student and teacher wellbeing and inclusion. The strategy covers a three-year period (January 2022 to December 2024) but its impact will continue beyond this timespan. It seeks to address how technology can serve three main educational functions: (i) student learning, as well as wellbeing, (ii) teaching, and student support, including staff wellbeing, and (iii) management and administration. These functions are supported by four, fully interdependent, enablers: devices, internet connectivity, software and digital resources, and capacities. While the functions are ends in themselves, the enablers are there to make them possible.

While technology can play a significant role in supporting the continuity of education during emergencies such as COVID-19 and conflicts, for the UNRWA Education programme, this is not its only or even its main function. The main purpose of this strategy is to increase the use of technology to support the quality and inclusiveness of education, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and to ensure that no one is left behind. For UNRWA, as per the Agency's Strategic Blueprint underpinning the 2023 – 2028 medium-term strategy, quality education encompasses: relevance, i.e. ensuring that education serves the development needs of the community; effectiveness, i.e. ensuring that educational goals, such as access and learning, are achieved; efficiency, i.e. limiting or even eliminating wastage; and wellbeing and inclusion, both as intrinsic values and principles supporting learning.

Technology can help place a student at the centre of their education. It makes it easier for students to take charge of their learning, by enabling a more personalised, adaptive and asynchronous approach. If students have the skills to use it safely and effectively, technology enables them to see beyond their classroom walls to the broader world, offering a richer, more interactive learning experience and preparing them as global citizens to address societal challenges and uphold human rights and democratic values.

The chapter on student learning and wellbeing lays out the ambitions of the Agency to make devices and internet connectivity for learning available to students across the Agency's five Fields of operation. This will enable students to have access to learning resources such as educational

games, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), well-designed online tutorials and personalised/adaptive applications. Such resources may benefit from Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure students have content available that is sufficiently challenging and scaffolded by prerequisite concepts. These materials will be channelled to the learners through the existing Digital Learning Platform (DLP) and, later, an interactive Learning Management System (LMS). The mentioned resources will help develop students' Media and Information Literacy (MIL), including digital literacy and online safety, as well as their general educational achievement, including during emergencies.

The chapter on teaching, student support and staff wellbeing describes how the UNRWA Education Programme will make devices available for its teachers, improve school internet access and ensure staff are appropriately trained to benefit from and take advantage of technologies for teaching. Several resources for teachers will be integrated into the above-mentioned LMS to ensure continued and enhanced affordances for teaching and student support. Teacher capacities will be further developed through the existing training courses – i.e. the Newly Appointed Teacher programme (NAT) and the School Based Teacher Development programmes (SBTD) I and SBTD II – as well as further specialised training based on UNESCO's ICT Teacher Competency Framework. Moreover, a Digital Pedagogy Handbook will be developed to give teacher concrete, modular ideas for using technology in support of teaching.

The chapter on management and administration explains the Agency's intentions to harness technological resources for improved management of the UNRWA Education Programme. This focuses, first and foremost, on Agency's Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the TVET electronic student registration system (e-SRS), and their integration with the mentioned LMS. In terms of capacity-building, the chapter lays out the requirements for facilitating a change in culture to embrace the benefits of technology for UNRWA Education services and, hence, harness its potential.

XI. UN HELPS LAUNCH YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL IN PALESTINE

On 28 July, the UN, with support from the EU and Denmark, launched a Youth Advisory Panel of 18 young Palestinians from across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza. Further information is in the [press release](#) reproduced below.

Today, the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) was launched in Bethlehem with the support of the European Union, Denmark and the United Nations. The YAP is a group of 18 young Palestinians from across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza with different backgrounds. They were selected by a committee which included members of the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority's Higher Council for Youth and Sport based not only on their experience but because of their dedication to ensuring daily challenges of young Palestinians are considered by partners in the international community and Palestinian society.

Sixty per cent of the Palestinian population is under the age of 24. Their civic participation, engagement in socio-political activities and leadership across local communities is needed to build a future generation which will enjoy sustainable humanitarian development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. One of the most pressing concerns is unemployment among Palestinian

youth which stands at 41 per cent with the highest rate of 68.9 per cent among youth in Gaza. Furthermore, despite Palestine having one of the highest enrolment rates in the region for students in elementary education (99 per cent), enrolment rates for secondary education indicate that around 20 per cent of all students drop out before the age of 15, and around 22 percent of boys and 30 percent of girls with disability have never enrolled in school.

The members of the YAP will undergo training to promote their active engagement which will in turn allow them to express the needs, concerns and perspectives of youth more broadly. Through them, young people will have more opportunities to be part of decision-making processes, including those of the EU, UN and other member states, that will affect their futures and those of all Palestinians.

Lynn Hastings, Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, during the event highlighted “The Youth Advisory Panel is a great example of our efforts to ensure that Palestinian youth interests and views are meaningfully taken into consideration by key decision-makers”.

Ketil Karlsen, Denmark’s Representative, emphasized that “Palestinian youth deserves better. Having more opportunities and a greater voice. We believe that youth can be vital agents of change on important matters, like innovation, climate change, and politics in general. Denmark is working with youth and for youth as part of its long-term strategy in Palestine. We are proud to support the Youth Advisory Panel and look forward to working closely with all the members.”

“Congratulations to our partners and the young people for the official launch of the Youth Advisory Board (YAP) in Palestine. This is quite an achievement, particularly in a young society where youth under 29 comprise 30% of the population. We are confident that this board will make their voices heard, representing Palestinian young people across the occupied Palestinian territories, and will definitely work their way to be part of the decision-making process. Since the beginning of this year, the EU has been advocating 2022 as the European year of youth. This is celebrated across the world, and with our closest neighbours also here in Palestine. We continue to be deeply committed to working together with our international and local Palestinian partners to contribute to youth empowerment in all sectors,” said the EU Deputy Representative Maria Velasco.
