



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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*The Bulletin can be found in the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) on the Internet at:*  
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## **I. UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS, OHCHR CONDEMN ISRAELI DEPORTATION OF FRENCH-PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST**

*On 2 December, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Finnouala Ní Aoláin, issued the following [statement](#). On 19 December, Spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Jeremy Laurence also issued a [statement](#) condemning the deportation.*

### **Special Rapporteurs' statement**

Israel's decision to deport French-Palestinian human rights defender and lawyer Salah Hammouri to France against his will may constitute a war crime under the Geneva Convention, UN experts warned today.

On 30 November 2022, Israel reaffirmed the revocation of his permanent residency in Jerusalem. Israeli authorities said Hammouri would be deported to France on 4 December 2022 on the basis of his alleged "breach of allegiance to the State of Israel", and based on secret evidence.

"Such unilateral, arbitrary measures taken by Israeli authorities in retaliation against Mr. Hammouri as a human rights defender, violate every principle and the very spirit of international law," the experts said. The deportation of protected persons from an occupied territory is prohibited under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, they recalled.

"These measures set an extremely dangerous precedent for all Palestinians in Jerusalem. The international community must not remain silent and quietly watch this umpteenth violation," the experts said.

Mr. Hammouri is a renowned human rights lawyer advocating for prisoners' rights, including torture survivors, with Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, an internationally respected human rights organisation and [UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture](#) grantee. In October 2021, Israel [designated](#) Addameer and other Palestinian civil society organisations as "terrorist" and "unlawful."

As a leading human rights defender, Mr. Hammouri has been the target of harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and other forms of abuse by Israeli authorities for many years.

He was placed in administrative detention on 7 March this year, without charge or trial. Since July, Mr. Hammouri has been detained in a high security prison under degrading conditions, as a form of punishment after he engaged in a hunger strike and appealed to French President Emmanuel Macron to urge Israel to end his detention.

Since Israeli authorities reaffirmed the revocation of his residency in Jerusalem and ordered his deportation, the experts said Mr. Hammouri was at imminent risk of expulsion, on grounds of his alleged involvement in "terrorist activities" and "breach of allegiance" to the State of Israel. The allegations are based on secret information that he cannot challenge.

“It is high time Israel is fully investigated and held accountable for alleged war crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territory. As we repeatedly said, forcibly deporting protected persons from the occupied territory and forcing their allegiance to the occupying power, constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law,” the UN experts said.

The experts urged Israel to retract the revocation of Mr. Hammouri’s permanent residency and release him from detention immediately. They noted the French Government’s efforts to secure Hammouri’s release but stress that more concrete measures must be taken by France and the international community to prevent his forcible deportation.

The experts have repeatedly raised concerns about measures taken against Mr. Hammouri by Israeli authorities in [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#).

### **OHCHR statement**

The UN Human Rights Office condemns Israel’s deportation of Palestinian-French human rights defender Salah Hammouri to France on Sunday, and we are deeply concerned by the chilling message this sends to those working on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Israeli authorities revoked Hammouri’s residency in occupied East Jerusalem on the basis of “breach of allegiance to the State of Israel”. Hammouri, a lawyer with Palestinian human rights organization Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, was arrested by Israeli Security Forces in March and placed under administrative detention without any charge or trial.

International humanitarian law prohibits the deportation of protected persons from occupied territory, and explicitly forbids compelling such persons to swear allegiance to the occupying power. Deporting a protected person from occupied territory is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, constituting a war crime.

Hammouri’s deportation highlights the vulnerable situation of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, as the occupying power has granted them a revokable residency status under Israeli law. It also marks another serious deterioration in the situation for Palestinian human rights defenders. The UN Human Rights Office calls on Israel to reverse the deportation order and to stop using such allegations to halt legitimate human rights work.

## **II. UNICEF LAUNCHES A FUNDING APPEAL FOR ITS WORK IN PALESTINE IN 2023**

*On 5 December, UNICEF issued this [appeal](#) for its humanitarian activities in Palestine in 2023. An excerpt is reproduced below.*

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### **Funding Requirements in 2023**

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$20.3 million to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs in the State of Palestine. This funding will allow UNICEF to prioritize access to mental health and psychosocial support and protection services, including the provision of safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse; procure health and nutrition supplies and water treatment chemicals; provide individual learning materials; and continue to engage children and adolescents in catching up on learning needs. UNICEF will also support households with children directly affected by the escalation of hostilities with multipurpose cash transfers. Ahead of the rainy season, flood preparedness will be further strengthened, as well as UNICEF and its partners' preparedness capacity.

The 2023 appeal is for approximately 49 per cent less than the 2022 appeal. This decrease is due to programmatic shifts adopted by UNICEF, including mainstreaming the COVID-19 response and the Building Back Better initiatives into regular programmes. The funding required for health and nutrition, WASH and education responses decreased by 70 per cent, 60 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively.

Without sufficient and timely funding, the needs of thousands of vulnerable children and their families in the State of Palestine will not be met.

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## **III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

*On 6 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/77/30](#) without a vote. Its text is reproduced below.*

*Recalling its resolution [76/126](#) of 10 December 2021, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,*

*Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,<sup>1</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,*

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<sup>1</sup> [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

*Recalling further* all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup>

*Gravely concerned* at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip where economic recovery and vast infrastructure repair, rehabilitation and development are urgently needed, especially in the aftermath of the conflict of July and August 2014,

*Conscious* of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

*Welcoming*, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

*Aware* that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

*Noting* the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

*Deeply concerned* about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

*Conscious* of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities, and recalling in this regard the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza,

*Expressing grave concern* about the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and the need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip,

*Welcoming* the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done

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<sup>2</sup>See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

*Underlining* the importance of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

*Recalling* the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, and the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010, and the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

*Welcoming* the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and in Jakarta in March 2014, as a forum to mobilize political and economic assistance, including through exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

*Welcoming also* the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in Brussels on 27 May 2015, in New York on 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016, 18 September 2017, 27 September 2018 and 26 September 2019, by videoconference on 2 June 2020 and on 23 February 2021, in Oslo on 17 November 2021, in Brussels on 10 May 2022 and in New York on 22 September 2022,

*Welcoming further* the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

*Welcoming* the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure and the adoption of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016: State-building to Sovereignty, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary by the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held on 22 September 2014,

*Stressing* the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

*Recognizing*, in this regard, the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2016, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

*Welcoming* steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

*Welcoming also* the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations regarding access to the Gaza Strip, and calling for its full implementation and complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for humanitarian and commercial flows and for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

*Stressing* that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

*Stressing also* the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009, including by preventing the illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and by ensuring the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of existing agreements, including the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel,

*Stressing*, in this regard, the importance of the effective exercise by the Palestinian Authority of its full government responsibilities in the Gaza Strip in all fields, including through its presence at the Gaza crossing points,

*Noting* the active participation 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 in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

*Reaffirming* the necessity of achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002, [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003, [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008 and [1860 \(2009\)](#), as well as the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable Palestinian State – living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>6</sup>

*Expressing grave concern* about continuing violence against civilians,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

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<sup>6</sup>[A/77/93-E/2022/67](#).



2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and ongoing efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, including with regard to the emergency humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work 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 and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Welcomes* the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians of 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 27 May and 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016, 18 September 2017, 27 September 2018, 26 September 2019, 2 June 2020, 23 February and 17 November 2021, 10 May and 22 September 2022 and the outcome of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and the generous donor response to support the needs of the Palestinian people, and urges the rapid disbursement of donor pledges;

7. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza to effectively promote economic recovery and reconstruction in a timely and sustainable manner;

8. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden-sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

9. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

12. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socioeconomic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

13. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

14. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

15. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

16. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of existing agreements, including the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

17. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

18. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

19. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,<sup>7</sup> including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

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<sup>7</sup>[A/51/889-S/1997/357](#), annex.

- (a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;
- (b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”, the sub-item entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian people”.

*45th plenary meeting  
6 December 2022*

#### **IV. EU, PALESTINE HOLD BUSINESS FORUM**

*On 7 December, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and representatives from the European Union and European Financial Institutions opened the first-ever EU-Palestine Business Forum. Further information is in the [press release](#).*

Today, the EU Representative along with the Prime Minister of Palestine, the Representatives of the Netherlands, Germany, the Consul General of Italy as well as high ranking officials of European Financial Institutions attended the new EU-Palestine Business Forum, that brought together 200 to 300 business leaders, bankers, investors and government representatives.

The main objective of the Business Forum is to better mobilise private and institutional investors towards the Palestinian economy by means of establishing an avenue for public-private dialogue in the framework of the EU – Palestine Investment Platform. During the event, five financing agreements worth EUR 81.65 million were signed. The event also showcased seven high visibility investments financed by Team Europe and six investment opportunities of the National Investment Roadmap were pitched.

“With the launching of the EU-Palestine Business Forum, we want to consolidate, renew and reinforce our commitment towards making Palestine a more attractive place for local, European and other international investors. I am confident that this Forum will make a strong contribution to improve the investment climate, enhance the Palestinian economy and build a stronger partnership between Europe and Palestine,” said the European Union Representative Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff.

The new Business Forum will help expand the engagement of the private sector in the workings of the Platform, it will offer the business community a forum to engage with policy makers on strategic priorities and policies for investment, to learn about prospective investment opportunities and available financing possibilities.

“Having the Business community included in the EU–Palestine Investment Platform is essential and timely and has been our goal since the beginning. The future of our economy depends on a vibrant private sector and creative partnerships with European and international businesses,” said the Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh.

The Business Form will work to better engage the Palestinian business community with financiers and investors of ‘Team Europe’, which includes the EU, its Member States and European Financial Institutions. It will help creating linkages between investment opportunities promoted by Palestinian partners with financing possibilities from Team Europe, helping boost private and institutional investment flowing into Palestine.

## **V. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS FOUR RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO PALESTINE REFUGEES AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, EXTENDS UNRWA MANDATE TO 2026**

*On 12 December, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions: “Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” ([A/RES/77/122](#)), “Assistance to Palestine Refugees” ([A/RES/77/123](#)), “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” ([A/RES/77/124](#)) and “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan” ([A/RES/77/126](#)). The texts and voting results are replicated below.*

### **77/122. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (157 in favour to 5 against with 4 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolutions [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948, [212 \(III\)](#) of 19 November 1948, [302 \(IV\)](#) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution [76/78](#) of 9 December 2021,*

*Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,*

*Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021,<sup>1</sup>*

*Taking note of the letter dated 15 June 2022 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the Agency addressed to the Commissioner-General,<sup>2</sup>*

*Underlining that, at a time of heightened conflict and instability in the Middle East, the Agency continues to play a vital role in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of, inter alia, essential education, health, relief and social services programmes and emergency assistance to a registered population of more than 5.7 million refugees whose situation is extremely precarious, in mitigating the consequences of alarming trends in the Agency’s areas of operation, including increasing violence, marginalization and poverty and the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and in providing a crucial measure of stability in the region,*

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<sup>1</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 ([A/77/13](#)).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 7–8.

*Recalling* its resolutions [2252 \(ES-V\)](#) of 4 July 1967 and [2341 B \(XXII\)](#) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions, recalling also Security Council resolutions [237 \(1967\)](#) of 14 June 1967 and [259 \(1968\)](#) of 27 September 1968, stressing the necessity of an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calling for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993<sup>3</sup> on the return of displaced persons,

*Deeply concerned* about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency, caused by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as by rising needs and expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the conflicts and rising instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the ability of the Agency to deliver essential services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency, recovery, reconstruction and development programmes in all fields of operation,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,<sup>4</sup> submitted pursuant to resolution [71/93](#) of 6 December 2016, and the request contained therein for broad consultations to explore all ways and means, including through voluntary and assessed contributions, to ensure that the Agency's funding is sufficient, predictable and sustained for the duration of its mandate, and considering the recommendations contained in the report,

*Taking note also* of the report of 31 May 2022 of the Commissioner-General, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General and in follow-up to the update to the special report of 3 August 2015 of the Commissioner-General,<sup>5</sup> submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution [302 \(IV\)](#), regarding the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core Agency programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

*Expressing appreciation* for the efforts of donors and host countries to respond to the Agency's unprecedented financial crisis, including through generous, additional contributions and, where possible, continued increases in voluntary contributions and agreements for multi-year funding, while acknowledging the steadfast support of all other donors to the Agency,

*Welcoming* the contributions made to the Agency's emergency appeals, including for the Gaza Strip and for the Syrian Arab Republic, and calling urgently upon the international community to continue its support, since needs persist and these appeals remain severely underfunded,

*Noting* that contributions have not been predictable enough or sufficient to meet growing needs and remedy the persistent shortfalls, thereby undermining the Agency's operations and efforts to promote human development and meet Palestine refugees' basic needs, and

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<sup>3</sup>[A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup>[A/71/849](#).

<sup>5</sup>[A/70/272](#), annex.

stressing the need for further efforts to comprehensively address the recurrent funding shortfalls affecting the Agency's operations,

*Recognizing* the Agency's extensive efforts to rapidly develop innovative and diversified ways to address its financial shortfall and mobilize resources, including through the expansion of the donor base and partnerships with United Nations entities, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, including through special digital campaigns,

*Commending* the Agency for the measures taken to address the financial crisis, despite difficult operational circumstances, including through the implementation of the medium-term strategy for 2016–2022 and various internal measures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, maximize the use of resources and reduce the funding shortfalls, and expressing profound concern that, despite such measures, the Agency's programme budget, which is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from Member States and intergovernmental organizations, faces persistent shortfalls that continue to threaten the delivery of the Agency's core programmes of assistance to the Palestine refugees,

*Encouraging* the Agency to sustain those reform efforts, while also taking all possible measures to protect and improve the quality of access to and the delivery of core programmes of assistance,

*Recalling* its resolution [65/272](#) of 18 April 2011, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the institutional strengthening of the Agency,

*Stressing* the need to support the Agency's capacity to uphold its mandate and to avert the serious humanitarian, political and security risks that would result from any interruption or suspension of its vital work,

*Recognizing* that the recurring and growing financial shortfalls directly affecting the sustainability of the Agency's operations need to be remedied by examining new funding modalities designed to put the Agency on a stable financial footing to enable it to effectively carry out its core programmes in accordance with its mandate and commensurate with humanitarian needs,

*Welcoming* the affirmation in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016,<sup>6</sup> that, inter alia, the Agency, along with other relevant organizations, requires sufficient funding to be able to carry out its activities effectively and in a predictable manner,

*Bearing in mind* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>7</sup> including the pledge that no one will be left behind, emphasizing that the Sustainable Development Goals apply to all, including refugees, and commending the efforts of the Agency's programmes to promote 10 of the 17 Goals, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,

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<sup>6</sup>Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>7</sup>Resolution [70/1](#).

*Welcoming* the joint efforts of host countries and donors to mobilize support for the Agency, including through extraordinary ministerial meetings, inter alia, the extraordinary ministerial conference held in Rome on 15 March 2018, the ministerial meeting convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2019, the extraordinary virtual ministerial pledging conference convened on 23 June 2020 and the most recent ministerial meeting held on 22 September 2022, hosted by Jordan and Sweden, aimed at urgently addressing the Agency's funding shortfall and the need for predictable multi-year funding, expanding donor support for the Agency and reaffirming support for its mandate,

*Recalling* Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling also* the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolutions [75/125](#) of 11 December 2020 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and [75/127](#) of 11 December 2020 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, calling upon, inter alia, all States to ensure respect for and the protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises,

*Affirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>10</sup> to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

*Aware* of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Gravely concerned* about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the recurrent military operations, continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, evictions, the demolition of homes and livelihood properties causing forced transfers of civilians, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees, with potentially lasting, long-term negative effects, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there,

*Concerned* about plans and measures to interfere with or obstruct the operations of the Agency, including in East Jerusalem, contrary to international law and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and reiterating the need for the

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<sup>8</sup>Resolution [22 A \(I\)](#).

<sup>9</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 75, No. 973.



Agency to fully implement its mandate in support of Palestine refugees without interference, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Commending* the health-care staff of the Agency for their dedication in responding to the profound stresses caused to the health system by the high number of Palestinian civilian casualties in the recent period in the Gaza Strip,

*Commending also* the important role played by the Agency throughout its areas of operations to help to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19,

*Expressing grave concern* in this regard about the lasting impact on the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, including high rates of food insecurity, poverty, displacement and the depletion of coping capacities,

*Recalling* the temporary tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in September 2014, and stressing the urgent need for the lifting of all Israeli closures and restrictions on the Gaza Strip,

*Recalling also* its resolution [ES-10/18](#) of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009, as well as the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005,

*Expressing concern* about the continuing classroom shortage, including in the Gaza Strip, and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children,

*Stressing* the urgent need for the provision of the necessary humanitarian assistance and funding support for the advancement of reconstruction and recovery in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the timely facilitation of construction projects, including extensive shelter repair, and the need for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities, and calling upon Israel to ensure the expedited and unimpeded import of all necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip and to reduce the burdensome cost of importation of Agency supplies, while taking note of the continued implementation of the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations,

*Stressing also* that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and must ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

*Affirming* the need to support the Palestinian Government 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,

*Expressing deep concern* at the critical situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and at the impact of the crisis on the Agency's installations and its ability to deliver its services, and regretting profoundly the loss of life and widespread displacement among refugees and the killing of staff members of the Agency in the crisis since 2012,



*Emphasizing* the continuing need for assistance to Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, including in particular Lebanon, where an unprecedented financial crisis is further affecting socioeconomic conditions among the refugees and exacerbating already high unemployment and poverty rates, and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring open borders for Palestine refugees fleeing the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement under international law, and recalling in this regard the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013<sup>11</sup> and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,

*Aware* of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees, and recalling the need for the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict,

*Deploring* the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency, and stressing the need to maintain the neutrality and safeguard the inviolability of United Nations premises, installations and equipment at all times,

*Deploring also* the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference, incursions or misuse, the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property and any disruption caused to Agency operations by such violations,

*Deploring further* all attacks affecting United Nations installations, including Agency schools sheltering displaced civilians, and all other breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, including during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as reported in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry<sup>12</sup> and by the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [S-21/1](#),<sup>13</sup> and stressing the imperative of ensuring accountability,

*Condemning* the killing, injury and detention contrary to international law of Agency staff members,

*Condemning also* the killing, wounding and detention contrary to international law of refugee children and women,

*Affirming* the need for accountability and compensation to victims of violations of international law in accordance with international standards by all sides,

*Deeply concerned* about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

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<sup>11</sup>[S/PRST/2013/15](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* ([S/INF/69](#)).

<sup>12</sup>[S/2015/286](#), annex.

<sup>13</sup>See [A/HRC/29/52](#).

*Recalling* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>14</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the call upon parties to facilitate the activities of the Agency, to guarantee its protection and to refrain from levying taxes and imposing undue financial burdens,

*Aware* of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

*Taking note* of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,<sup>15</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the Agency, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions, instability and crises faced during the past year;
3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for more than seven decades since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight and for the stability of the region, and affirms the necessity for continuing the work of the Agency and its unimpeded operation and provision of services, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;
4. *Commends* the Agency for its extraordinary efforts, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on the ground, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food and medical aid, to refugees and affected civilians during periods of crisis and conflict, and recognizes its exemplary capacity to mobilize in emergency situations while continuously carrying out its core human development programmes;
5. *Endorses* in this regard the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the Agency to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities, while reaffirming the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
6. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purpose;
7. *Expresses its grave concern* about attempts to discredit the Agency despite its proven operational capacity, record of effective provision of humanitarian and development

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<sup>14</sup>[A/69/711-S/2015/1](#), annex.

<sup>15</sup>*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* ([A/49/13](#)), annex I.

assistance and consistent implementation of its mandate in accordance with relevant resolutions and its regulatory framework, even under the most difficult circumstances;

8. *Reaffirms* the Agency's important role in providing humanitarian and development assistance to Palestine refugees, engaging with international human rights mechanisms, as appropriate, and in doing so contributing to the protection and resilience of Palestinian civilians, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population,<sup>16</sup> and contributing to regional stability;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support and cooperation provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East<sup>17</sup> and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;

12. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to all donor countries and organizations that have, inter alia, sustained, accelerated or increased their contributions to the Agency, helping to alleviate its recurrent financial crises, to mitigate imminent risks to its core and emergency programming and to prevent an interruption of essential assistance to Palestine refugees;

13. *Commends* the Agency for its strategic plan and the Commissioner-General for his continuing efforts to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's proposed programme budget for 2023;<sup>18</sup>

14. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its robust internal reform efforts, despite difficult operational circumstances, and recognizes its implementation of maximum efficiency procedures to contain expenditures, reduce operational and administrative costs, reduce its funding shortfalls and maximize the use of resources;

15. *Calls upon* the Agency to further enhance its internal governance and oversight mechanisms to ensure that the Agency's management is delivering on its mandate with transparency and accountability, while preserving the Agency's agility and operational response capacity;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, including the proposal for an increased assessed contribution from the regular budget of the United Nations;

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<sup>16</sup> [A/ES-10/794](#).

<sup>17</sup> [A/77/314](#).

<sup>18</sup> [A/77/6 \(Sect. 26\)](#).

17. *Decides* to consider a gradual increase in the United Nations regular budget allocation to the Agency that would, in addition to covering international staff requirements, in accordance with resolution [3331 B \(XXIX\)](#) of 17 December 1974, be utilizable to support expenses for operational costs related to executive and administrative management functions of the Agency, and invites the Secretary-General, accordingly, to submit proposals for consideration by the relevant committees at its seventy-eighth session;

18. *Appeals* to States and organizations for the maintenance of their voluntary contributions to the Agency, as well as an increase in contributions where possible, in particular to the Agency's programme budget, including in the consideration of their allocation of resources for international human rights, peace and stability, development and humanitarian efforts, to support the Agency's mandate and its ability to meet the rising needs of the Palestine refugees and essential associated costs of operations;

19. *Appeals* to States and organizations not currently contributing to the Agency to urgently consider making voluntary contributions in response to the calls of the Secretary-General for expansion of the Agency's donor base, in order to stabilize funding and ensure greater sharing of the financial burden of supporting the Agency's operations, in accordance with the continuing responsibility of the international community as a whole to assist the Palestine refugees;

20. *Calls for* the provision by donors of early annual voluntary contributions, less earmarking, and multi-year funding, in line with the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing announced at the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, in order to enhance the Agency's ability to plan and implement its operations with a greater degree of assurance regarding resource flows;

21. *Also calls for* the full and timely funding by donors of the Agency's emergency, recovery and reconstruction programmes as set out in its appeals and response plans;

22. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to continue efforts to maintain and increase traditional donor support and to enhance income from non-traditional donors, including through partnerships with public and private entities;

23. *Encourages* the Agency to explore financing avenues in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>19</sup>

24. *Urges* States and organizations to actively pursue partnerships with and innovative support for the Agency, including as recommended in paragraphs 47, 48 and 50 of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>20</sup> including through the establishment of endowments, trust funds or revolving fund mechanisms and assistance to the Agency to access humanitarian, development and peace and security trust funds and grants;

25. *Welcomes* pledges by States and organizations to provide diplomatic and technical support to the Agency, including engagement with international and financial development institutions, including the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and, where

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<sup>19</sup>See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>20</sup>[A/71/849](#).

appropriate, to facilitate support for the establishment of financing mechanisms that can provide assistance to refugees and in fragile contexts, including to meet the needs of the Palestine refugees, and calls for serious follow-up efforts;

26. *Urges* States and organizations to provide contributions to the waqf fund established by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the Islamic Development Bank in support of Palestine refugees through enhanced support to the Agency;

27. *Encourages* further progress with regard to the creation of a World Bank multi-donor trust fund;

28. *Requests* the Agency to continue to implement efficiency measures through its medium-term strategy and the development of a five-year proposal for stabilizing the Agency's finances, including specific and time-bound measures, and to continue to improve its cost-efficiency and resource mobilization efforts;

29. *Calls upon* the members of the Advisory Commission and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to consider the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General, including to help the Agency to address resource mobilization challenges and to actively assist the Commissioner-General in the efforts to create sustainable, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations;

30. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the support provided to the Agency from the regular budget of the United Nations;

31. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as is practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continuing assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

32. *Encourages* the Agency to provide increased assistance, in accordance with its mandate, to affected Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to those who have fled to neighbouring countries, as detailed in the Syrian regional crisis response plans, and calls upon donors to urgently ensure sustained support to the Agency in this regard in the light of the continuing grave deterioration of the situation and the growing needs of the refugees;

33. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for donor funding to enable the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the provision of the necessary support and financial assistance until the reconstruction of the camp is complete;

34. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue to make progress in addressing the needs, rights and protection of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations, including through the

provision of necessary psychosocial and humanitarian support, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>21</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>22</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;<sup>23</sup>

35. *Also encourages* the Agency to continue to reduce the vulnerability and improve the self-reliance and resilience of Palestine refugees through its programmes;

36. *Recognizes* the acute protection needs of Palestine refugees across the region, and encourages the Agency's efforts to contribute to a coordinated and sustained response in accordance with international law, including the Agency's new protection strategic framework;

37. *Commends* the Agency for its humanitarian and psychosocial support programmes and other initiatives that provide recreational, cultural and educational activities for children in all fields, including in the Gaza Strip, recognizing their positive contribution, calls for full support for such initiatives by donor and host countries, and encourages the building and strengthening of partnerships to facilitate and enhance the provision of these services;

38. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

39. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at all times;

40. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of the delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

41. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease levying taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

42. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding or delaying the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of the remaining damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended and urgently needed civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, noting the alarming figures reflected in the United Nations country team reports of 26 August 2016, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and of July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later";

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<sup>21</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>22</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

43. *Notes with appreciation* the positive contribution of the Agency's microfinance and job creation programmes, encourages efforts to enhance the sustainability and benefits of microfinance services to a greater number of Palestine refugees, especially in view of the high unemployment rates affecting them, and youth in particular, welcomes the Agency's efforts to streamline costs and increase microfinance services through internal reform efforts, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

44. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment their contributions to the programme budget of the Agency, to increase their special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

45. *Calls upon* the Commissioner-General to include, in the annual reporting to the General Assembly, assessments on the progress made to remedy the recurrent funding shortfalls of the Agency and ensure sustained, sufficient and predictable support for the Agency's operations, including through the implementation of the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

*52nd plenary meeting  
12 December 2022*

**77/123. Assistance to Palestine refugees (157 in favour to 1 against with 10 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution [76/77](#) of 9 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolution [302 \(IV\)](#) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

*Recalling further* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Aware* of the fact that, for more than seven decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

*Affirming* the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

*Acknowledging* the essential role that the Agency has played for more than seven decades since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,



*Acknowledging also* the commitment of the Agency to operate in line with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality,

*Taking note* of the report of the Commissioner-General of the Agency covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Commissioner-General of 31 May 2022, submitted pursuant to paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup> and expressing concern regarding the severe financial crisis of the Agency and the negative implications for the continued delivery of core programmes to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation,

*Aware* of the growing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Expressing grave concern* at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

*Expressing grave concern in particular* at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

*Noting* the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization<sup>3</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#), and reaffirms its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2023;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the

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<sup>1</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 ([A/77/13](#)).

<sup>2</sup>[A/71/849](#).

<sup>3</sup>[A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.



well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including with regard to increased expenditures and needs arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

5. *Commends* the Agency for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate;

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Agency until 30 June 2026, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#).

*52nd plenary meeting  
12 December 2022*

**77/124. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues (153 in favour to 6 against with 6 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [194 \(III\)](#) of 11 December 1948 and [36/146 C](#) of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution [76/79](#) of 9 December 2021,<sup>1</sup> as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>3</sup> and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

*Recalling in particular* its resolution [394 \(V\)](#) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

*Noting* the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress

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<sup>1</sup>[A/77/281](#).

<sup>2</sup>[A/77/259](#).

<sup>3</sup>Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

report,<sup>4</sup> and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution [194 \(III\)](#),

*Recalling* that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,<sup>5</sup> to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;

3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status peace negotiations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*52nd plenary meeting  
12 December 2022*

**77/126. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan (141 in favour to 7 against with 21 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the need to respect the obligations arising from the Charter and other instruments and rules of international law,

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<sup>4</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 11, document [A/5700](#).

<sup>5</sup>[A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

*Reaffirming* the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including resolution [76/82](#) of 9 December 2021, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967, [446 \(1979\)](#) of 22 March 1979, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [476 \(1980\)](#) of 30 June 1980, [478 \(1980\)](#) of 20 August 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981, [904 \(1994\)](#) of 18 March 1994 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016, and stressing the need for their implementation,

*Recalling further* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>3</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>4</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>5</sup> and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I<sup>6</sup> to the four Geneva Conventions,<sup>7</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Affirming* that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* 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,<sup>9</sup> and recalling also General Assembly resolutions [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

*Noting* that the International Court of Justice concluded that “the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law”,<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., No. 973.

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

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., advisory opinion, para. 120.

*Taking note* of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,<sup>11</sup> as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Council,

*Recalling* 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,<sup>12</sup>

*Recalling also* the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993<sup>13</sup> and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

*Recalling further* the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>14</sup> and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

*Recalling* its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

*Aware* that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources, the fragmentation of territory and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

*Bearing in mind* the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the ongoing regional and international efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and on the viability and credibility of that solution,

*Condemning* settlement activities by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as violations of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map and as actions in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

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<sup>11</sup> [A/HRC/49/87](#); see also [A/77/356](#).

<sup>12</sup> [A/HRC/22/63](#).

<sup>13</sup> [A/48/486-S/26560](#), annex.

<sup>14</sup> [S/2003/529](#), annex.

*Deploring in particular* Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Deploring* the plans to demolish the Palestinian village of Khan al-Ahmar, in contravention of international law, which would have serious consequences with regard to the displacement of its residents, severely threaten the viability of the two-State solution and undermine the prospect of peace, given the area's sensitive location and importance for preserving the contiguity of the Palestinian territory, and demanding the cessation of such plans,

*Condemning* the demolition by Israel, in contravention of international law, of Palestinian buildings in the neighbourhood of Wadi al-Hummus in the village of Sur Bahir, south of occupied East Jerusalem, and of homes in Masafer Yatta, as well as other coercive measures potentially leading to the forced displacement and affecting over 1,200 Palestinian civilians,

*Taking note* of the Quartet report of 1 July 2016,<sup>15</sup> and stressing its recommendations, as well as its relevant statements in which the Quartet members concluded that, inter alia, the continuing policy of settlement construction and expansion, designation of land for exclusive Israeli use and denial of Palestinian development, including the recent high rate of demolitions, are steadily eroding the two-State solution,

*Deploring* the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern, in particular, about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949 and in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

*Condemning* acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, and recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

*Condemning also* all acts of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands, as well as acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

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<sup>15</sup> [S/2016/595](#), annex.

*Taking note* of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, including pursuant to Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#),<sup>16</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49, and comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions [446 \(1979\)](#), [452 \(1979\)](#) of 20 July 1979, [465 \(1980\)](#), [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#), [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003 and [2334 \(2016\)](#);

4. *Stresses* that a complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;

5. *Also stresses* the urgent need to reverse negative trends on the ground, including the building of settlements and the demolition of Palestinian homes, which are imperilling the viability of the two-State solution and entrenching a situation of unequal rights and discrimination, and are preventing the Palestinian people from exercising their fundamental rights;

6. *Recalls* the affirmation by the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;

7. *Stresses* that the occupation of a territory is to be a temporary, de facto situation, whereby the occupying Power can neither claim possession nor exert its sovereignty over the territory it occupies, recalls in this regard the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and therefore the illegality of the annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes a breach of international law, undermines the viability of the two-State solution and challenges the prospects for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, and expresses its grave concern at recent statements calling for the annexation by Israel of areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

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<sup>16</sup>[A/76/304](#), [A/76/333](#), [A/76/336](#) and [A/77/493](#).

8. *Condemns* in this regard settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the annexation of land, whether de facto or through national legislation;

9. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

10. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of all acts of violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites and including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and their agricultural lands;

11. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stresses in this regard the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution [904 \(1994\)](#), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory, recalls in this regard the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population,<sup>17</sup> and welcomes the Secretary-General's observations, including with respect to the expansion of existing protection mechanisms to prevent and deter violations;

12. *Stresses* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to investigate all acts of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties and to ensure accountability for these acts and end prevailing impunity in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities;

14. *Calls for* measures of accountability, consistent with international law, in the light of continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities, which are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-State solution impossible, stressing that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region;

15. *Recalls*, in this regard, the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>18</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, welcomes in this regard initiatives by States parties, both individually and collectively, in accordance with article 1 of the

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<sup>17</sup> [A/ES-10/794](#).

<sup>18</sup> [A/69/711-S/2015/1](#), annex.



Convention, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention and accountability, and calls upon all High Contracting Parties to the Convention to continue, individually and collectively, to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

16. *Also recalls* that the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

17. *Calls upon* all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution [17/4](#) of 16 June 2011,<sup>19</sup> concerning the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>20</sup> and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories”.

*52nd plenary meeting  
12 December 2022*

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<sup>19</sup>See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>20</sup>[A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.



## **VI. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

*On 14 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/77/187](#), and on 15 December it adopted resolution [A/RES/77/208](#). The texts and voting results are replicated below.*

**77/187. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (159 in favour to 8 against with 10 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolution [76/225](#) of 17 December 2021, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/22](#) of 22 July 2022,*

*Recalling also its resolutions [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004 and [59/251](#) of 22 December 2004,*

*Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,*

*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, [465 \(1980\)](#) of 1 March 1980, [497 \(1981\)](#) of 17 December 1981 and [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016,*

*Recalling its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970,*

*Bearing in mind its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,*

*Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>1</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,*

*Recalling, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>3</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,*

*Recalling also 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*

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>2</sup>See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

Territory,<sup>4</sup> and recalling further its resolutions [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/17](#) of 15 December 2006,

*Recalling further* its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Taking note* of the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties, as well as to other international treaties,

*Expressing its concern* about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

*Expressing its grave concern* about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

*Expressing its grave concern also* about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip during the military operations of July and August 2014, which, inter alia, has polluted the environment and which negatively affects the functioning of water and sanitation systems and the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stressing the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water and other vital civilian infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip,

*Expressing its grave concern further* about the negative impact on the environment and on reconstruction and development efforts of unexploded ordnance that remains in the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict in July and August 2014, and commending the efforts of the Mine Action Service of the United Nations for the safe removal of such ordnance,

*Expressing its grave concern* about the chronic energy shortage in the Gaza Strip and its detrimental impact on the operation of water and sanitation facilities, which threaten to further erode groundwater resources, of which only 5 per cent remains potable,

*Recalling* the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and relevant reports by the United Nations country team, including “Gaza in 2020: a liveable place?”, “Gaza: two years after” and “Gaza ten years later”, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

*Deploring* the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

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<sup>4</sup>See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

*Recalling* 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,<sup>5</sup>

*Aware* of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

*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 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973, [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978, [1397 \(2002\)](#) of 12 March 2002 and [2334 \(2016\)](#), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>6</sup> and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>7</sup> as endorsed by the Council in its resolution [1515 \(2003\)](#) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution [1850 \(2008\)](#) of 16 December 2008,

*Stressing also*, in this regard, the need for respect for the obligation upon Israel under the road map to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

*Stressing further* the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* that the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), underlined that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations,

*Recalling also* the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

*Taking note* of the report prepared by 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,<sup>8</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;

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<sup>5</sup>[A/HRC/22/63](#).

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

<sup>7</sup>[S/2003/529](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup>[A/77/90-E/2022/66](#).

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice<sup>9</sup> and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution [ES-10/15](#);

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease immediately and completely all policies and measures aimed at the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to bring a halt to all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including 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 water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, and to cease its demolition and confiscation of Palestinian homes and civilian infrastructure, agricultural lands and water wells, which, inter alia, have a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people, stresses the urgent need to advance reconstruction and development projects in this regard, including in the Gaza Strip, and calls for support for the necessary efforts in this regard, in line with the commitments made at, inter alia, the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014;

8. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles to the implementation of critical environmental projects, including sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip and the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip;

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

9. *Also calls upon* Israel not to impede Palestinian development and export of discovered oil and natural gas reserves;

10. *Calls for* the immediate and safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip and for support for the efforts of the Mine Action Service of the United Nations in this regard, and welcomes the extensive efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service to date;

11. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities and the exploitation of natural resources;

12. *Underscores*, in this regard, the call by the Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and with regard to the impact of such practices on the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>10</sup> and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

*53rd plenary meeting  
14 December 2022*

**77/208. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination (167 in favour to 6 against with 9 abstentions)**

*The General Assembly,*

*Aware* that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the Charter,

*Recalling*, in this regard, its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970, entitled “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”,

*Bearing in mind* the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

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<sup>10</sup>See resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>1</sup>Resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup>Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

Countries and Peoples<sup>3</sup> and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>6</sup>

*Recalling further* 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,<sup>7</sup> and noting in particular the reply of the Court, including on the right of peoples to self-determination, which is a right *erga omnes*,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* the conclusion of the Court, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,<sup>9</sup>

*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 between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>10</sup> and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>11</sup>

*Stressing also* the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard its resolution [58/292](#) of 6 May 2004,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/150](#) of 16 December 2021,

*Recalling also* its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Affirming* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

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<sup>3</sup>Resolution [1514 \(XV\)](#).

<sup>4</sup>[A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>5</sup>Resolution [50/6](#).

<sup>6</sup>Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>7</sup>See [A/ES-10/273](#) and [A/ES-10/273/Corr.1](#).

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, advisory opinion, para. 88.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, para. 122.

<sup>10</sup>[A/56/1026-S/2002/932](#), annex II, resolution 14/221.

<sup>11</sup>[S/2003/529](#), annex.



2. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

*54th plenary meeting  
15 December 2022*

## **VII. UNDP AND UN WOMEN SUPPORT FORUM ON WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN PALESTINE**

*On 14 December, United Nations Development Programme and UN Women in Palestine supported a forum entitled “Stigma and Discrimination experienced by Women with Disabilities.” Further details are in the following [press release](#).*

The Palestinian Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and the Stars of Hope Association, with support from UNDP and UN Women in Palestine through the Sawasya II Joint Programme: Promoting Rule of Law in the State of Palestine, convened a forum entitled “Stigma and Discrimination experienced by Women with Disabilities” as part of the multi-country project “Addressing stigma and discrimination for empowering women and girls with disabilities and protecting them from violence” funded by the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The forum focused on the findings of two unique pieces of research, the first is on addressing stigma and discrimination for empowering women and girls with disabilities and protecting them from violence while the second is on the root causes of discrimination against women with disabilities.

Some of the findings of these research show deeper insights in the root causes of stigma and discrimination women with disabilities face, also includes new data on the levels and forms of stigma and violence, while also reflecting on the women’s low level of knowledge and awareness of their rights. The research also details women’s experiences with exclusion from services and social events, denial or loss of jobs, and the difficulties they face in accessing public space, transport etc. and highlights the impact of the occupation on women with disabilities, in particularly in terms of violent abuse by the Israeli occupying forces. The findings of the research are based on a new tool, developed in partnership with University College London’s Unit for Stigma Research. This tool promises to improve the understanding of the range of stigmatizing experiences faced by women with diverse disabilities and the role of intersecting sources of inequalities and eventually empowerment of women with disabilities and reducing violence. The forum, held at the PRCS in Ramallah, brought together Palestinian government institutions and women-led civil society organizations, and presented the research findings which will feed into strategies and interventions to effectively address stigma and discrimination of women with disabilities by line ministries and civil society organizations.

During the forum, the Deputy for Social Welfare and Protection at the Ministry of Social Development, Kholoud Abdul Khaleq, commented, “we decided to organize a forum that sheds light every year on a specific topic within the full set of rights, as this allows us to monitor challenges and consider how to develop tools. This forum “Addressing stigma and discrimination

for empowering women and girls with disabilities and protecting them from violence” supported by the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with all local, governmental, and international institutions aims primarily to support persons with disabilities. She added, “The State of Palestine ratified the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and we submitted the first report to the United Nations. Under this convention we prepared a draft law that is consistent with international rights; it is what our people deserve. This draft is with the Cabinet and is awaiting subsequent drafts and implementation or law endorsement.” Finally, we hope that we will have an important theme for the forum every year that builds on the achievements and we look forward to more success.

Speaking on behalf of UNDP and UN Women in Palestine, the Sawasya II Joint Programme Manager, D. Christopher Decker, said “Today we listen to the findings of unique research. As Sawasya we are eager to support our national partners in translating the new data available on the levels and forms of stigma and violence into advocacy, strengthening policies, services for prevention of violence against women with disabilities and interventions aiming for changed attitudes and behavior of rights holders and duty bearers.”

On her part the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Stars of Hope Association, Ms. Safiya Al Ali stated that the association worked in the past to institutionalize work on the Inclusion and Disability Program, which aims to understand the repercussions and to monitor the changes on this portfolio, “The association strengthened its interventions through the partnership with UN Women, UNDP, and the Ministry of Social Development within the scope of the Sawasya program. This partnership basis itself on many effective and qualitative interventions, including the localization of a tool for measuring societal stigma against women with disabilities, which the association participated in its localization. Additionally, the partnership led to working on a study on the root causes of societal stigma towards women with disabilities, which was presented as a solid foundation from which priorities and interventions are set in a purposeful manner. We hope that within the parameters of this study and its results that work will be done to adopt these results and build outputs and recommendations to contribute to changing the reality of women with disabilities and access to decision-making policies that empower action toward combating and eliminating this stigma.”

It is worth mentioning that women with diverse disabilities have been closely involved in the work in the four countries including Palestine, Moldova, Pakistan, and Samoa. These countries act as pilot sites in seeking to develop a comprehensive understanding of stigmatising experiences of women and girls with disabilities and how to tackle them effectively.



## VIII. UN SPECIAL RAPORTEURS CONDEMN RECORD YEAR OF ISRAELI VIOLENCE IN OCCUPIED WEST BANK

*On 15 December, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Morris Tiball-Binz, and Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and association, Clément Voule, issued a statement reflected in the following [press release](#).*

UN experts condemned the rampant Israeli settler violence and excessive use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank this year that have made 2022 the deadliest in this area of the occupied Palestinian territory since the United Nations started systematically documenting fatalities in 2005.

150 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank by Israeli forces so far this year, including 33 children. In addition, a boy was killed by either Israeli forces or Israeli settlers who were firing side-by-side. At least two Palestinians were killed by settlers. 10 Israelis, including five settlers, one settlement guard and four Israeli forces have been killed by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in 2022.

“We remind Israel that pending the dismantlement of its unlawful occupation, Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory must be treated as protected persons, not enemies or terrorists,” the experts said, demanding Israel ensure the protection, security and welfare of the Palestinian people living under its occupation, in accordance with its obligations under international law.

“Armed and masked Israeli settlers are attacking Palestinians in their homes, attacking children on their way to school, destroying property and burning olive groves, and terrorising entire communities with complete impunity,” said the experts. 2022 is the sixth year of consecutive annual increase in the number of Israeli settler attacks in the occupied West Bank, despite a 2016 UN Security Council [resolution](#) specifically intended to halt settlement activity.

“Disturbing evidence of Israeli forces frequently facilitating, supporting and participating in settler attacks, makes it difficult to discern between Israeli settler and State violence,” said the experts. “The impunity of one is reinforced by the impunity of the other.”

International human rights law only permits the use of firearms by State security forces against individuals posing an imminent threat to life or serious injury. Use of lethal force as a first rather than a last resort by Israeli forces, against Palestinians who do not present an imminent threat to life or of serious injury, may amount to extrajudicial execution – a violation of the right to life – and wilful killing prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention and Rome Statute.

Israeli forces should reconcile their rules of engagement with international law and address impunity within their ranks by investigating all deaths at the hands of Israeli forces and settlers, the experts said.

“Illegal settlement poses a corrosive threat to Israeli society as a whole, and unless Israeli forces abandon this dominant settler mindset and rightfully treat Palestinians in the occupied territory as protected persons, Israel’s deplorable record in the occupied West Bank will likely

deteriorate further in 2023,” they said. “No peaceful settlement can be pursued under Israel’s repressive occupation: a reality that should be a wake-up call for all decision-makers.”

## **IX. UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT VISITS ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

*On 16 December, Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, completed a five-day mission to the region. Further details are included in the [press release](#) below.*

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict (CAAC), Ms. Virginia Gamba, completed a 5-days mission to Israel and the State of Palestine. The visit follows up on the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his [latest Annual Report on CAAC of June 2022 \(paragraphs 302 and 303\)](#) requesting the parties to engage with the UN Special Representative to end and prevent grave violations against children and adopt clear and time-bound commitments.

During her visit, Virginia Gamba engaged with all parties to the conflict in the Israel and State of Palestine mentioned in the Annual Report in meetings held at Gaza, Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Tel Aviv. She discussed all grave violations against children with the parties as well as possible measures to urgently strengthen the protection of children in Israel, the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

“Children in the State of Palestine and Israel are disproportionately affected by the armed conflict and endure several violations of their rights. Killing and maiming, denial of humanitarian access, recruitment and use, and attacks against schools and hospitals all leave deep scars on children that experience the violence of the armed conflict. The tragic death of 15-year-old Jana Zakarneh, for example, should remind us of the urgency to better protect children and keep them safe. We need to do more for those children and provide them with protection as well as safe spaces for their well-being and education rights, which should be a priority,” said Virginia Gamba.

She added that lasting peace was the primary tool to protect children from the harms of conflict and called on all parties to urgently put in place measures to prevent violations and improve the protection of all Palestinian and Israeli children.

## **X. SPECIAL COORDINATOR BRIEFS SECURITY COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2334**

*On 19 December, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process Tor Wennesland provided the following [briefing](#) (S/PV.9224) to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016). The Council had before it the twenty-fourth quarterly report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/945).*

I devote my regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East to the twenty-fourth report on the implementation of resolution [2334](#) (2016). The Secretary-General's written report, which members have already received, covers the period between 21 September to 7 December 2022.

Before turning to developments subsequent to the written report, I would like to reiterate my deep concern over the high levels of violence we have witnessed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel over the past several months. Clashes, protests attacks, Israeli security operations, including in Area A, and settler-related violence have continued. To date in 2022, over 150 Palestinians and more than 20 Israelis have been killed in the West Bank and Israel, the highest numbers of fatalities in years.

Regrettably, in the period following the submission of the written report, violence has continued throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. Since 8 December, six Palestinians, including two children, have been killed by Israeli security forces. Of those, four were killed during search-and-arrest operations in Jenin, one during an exchange of fire following an alleged shooting attack near Ofra settlement and one was killed in the context of alleged stone-throwing.

I will now turn to several observations concerning the implementation of the provisions of resolution [2334](#) (2016) during the reporting period.

Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remains deeply concerning. Settlements constitute a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law.

They undermine the prospect of achieving a two-State solution by systematically eroding the possibility of establishing a contiguous, independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State.

While the reporting period saw no advancements of housing units in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the total number of settlement housing units advanced in 2022 remains high, albeit slightly lower than in 2021. Overall, during the year, in Area C some 4,800 units were advanced, as compared with 5,400 in 2021, while tenders dropped from 1,800 in 2021 to 150 in 2022. Moreover, in occupied East Jerusalem, the number of housing units advanced more than tripled from the previous year — from 900 units in 2021 to 3,100 units in 2022, with tenders doubling from 200 to 400. I call on the Government of Israel to cease the advancement of all settlement activities immediately.

I am also deeply concerned by the continued demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures. I am alarmed in particular by the demolition of a donor-funded school in Masafer Yatta and the stated intention of Israeli authorities to demolish additional structures in the herding communities of that area, which would have a significant humanitarian toll if implemented. I call upon the

Government of Israel to end the demolition of Palestinian-owned property, prevent the possible displacement and eviction of Palestinians, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and approve plans that would enable Palestinians to build legally and address their development needs.

I am gravely concerned by the sharp increase in violence against civilians on both sides, which exacerbates mistrust and undermines a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

I am particularly appalled that children continue to be victims of violence. The year 2022 has tragically witnessed the killing of 44 Palestinian children and one Israeli child. Those include the killing by Israeli security forces of a 16-year-old boy in the context of alleged stone-throwing in the Aboud community, near Ramallah, on 8 December, and of a 15-year-old Palestinian girl in the context of a search-and-arrest operation in Jenin on 11 December that involved an exchange of fire between Israeli security forces and Palestinians. According to an initial Israel Defense Forces investigation, the girl was shot unintentionally and was not involved in hostilities. Children must never be the target of violence, used or put in harm's way. Also disturbing are the continued killings of Palestinians by Israeli security forces in incidents in which they did not appear to present an imminent threat to life. I reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

The increase in the number of Israelis killed or injured by Palestinians, including in bombings and shooting attacks, is also alarming. The violence must stop, and all perpetrators must be held accountable. I condemn all acts of terrorism, which must be rejected and condemned by all. I call on political, religious and community leaders on all sides to help to calm the situation, avoid spreading inflammatory rhetoric and speak up against those seeking to incite and escalate the situation.

I am increasingly concerned by the fragility of the current political and security dynamics, particularly in the occupied West Bank, including in Jerusalem. The deepening occupation, the increase in violence, including terrorism, and the absence of a political horizon have empowered extremists and are eroding hope among Palestinians and Israelis alike that a resolution of the conflict is achievable.

Simultaneously, the Palestinian Authority is facing mounting economic and institutional challenges, compounded by the constraints of the occupation, the absence of serious reforms and unclear prospects for donor support.

In Gaza, the situation remains fragile, and the risk of escalation persists. Efforts by the United Nations and regional and international partners, including Egypt and Qatar, to improve Palestinian lives, as well as measures by Israel to ease some movement and access restrictions and facilitate more economic activity, have enabled the ceasefire to hold. There are currently more than 18,000 permits for Palestinian residents of Gaza to work or do business in Israel, the highest number since 2007. The volume of goods exiting Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel increased by nearly 50 per cent in 2022. While progress has been made, restrictions and delays continue to negatively affect humanitarian and development efforts, as well as important sectors of the economy. More needs to be done to alleviate the humanitarian situation and enable the economy to grow.

Ultimately, solving Gaza's challenges will require political solutions, including a return of the legitimate Palestinian Government to the Strip, a full lifting of Israeli closures, in line with resolution [1860](#) (2009), and an end to the militant build-up.

As commodity prices spike, humanitarian needs and costs are rising across the occupied Palestinian territories. The World Food Programme (WFP) in particular is facing a significant decline in bilateral financial support, putting at risk its ability to maintain critical food and cash assistance to more than 400,000 of the most vulnerable food-insecure people across the occupied Palestinian territories. The WFP needs \$35 million over the next six months to be able to continue its ongoing support.

I also remain seriously concerned about the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which is putting at risk the delivery of essential services to Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the region. As the West Bank has witnessed the highest level of violence in years, UNRWA remains one of the most significant stabilizing elements in the lives of thousands of Palestinians. I reiterate my urgent call to provide UNRWA with the funds needed to fully deliver on its General Assembly mandate.

As I told the Council in my briefing last month (see [S/PV.9203](#)), seeking to freeze this conflict or manage it in perpetuity are not viable options. There is no substitute for a legitimate political process that will resolve the core issues driving the conflict. In line with the recommendation that I made to the Council in November, I urge the parties, along with States of the region and the broader international community, to take concrete steps that will change the negative trajectory on the ground and have an immediate impact on Palestinian and Israeli lives, while ensuring that those steps are anchored in a political framework that moves the parties forward towards the establishment of two States.

The United Nations remains actively engaged in advancing those efforts with all relevant parties and is committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict and end the occupation. The United Nations is committed to achieving a two-State solution, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements.

## **XI. OCHA REPORTS ON THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF 20 YEARS OF THE BARRIER**

*On 30 December, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued a [factsheet](#) highlighting the effects of the barrier in the West Bank over the past 20 years. An excerpt is reproduced below.*

...

1. The vast majority of the Barrier's route is located within the West Bank, separating Palestinian communities and farming land in the 'Seam Zone' from the rest of the West Bank and contributing to the fragmentation of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The inclusion of Israeli settlements is the most important factor behind the decision by the Israeli government to deviate the Barrier's route away from the Green Line and into the West Bank.

2. In its 2004 Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established that the sections of the Barrier which run inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated permit and gate regime, violate Israel's obligations under international law. The ICJ called on the Israeli authorities to cease the construction of the Barrier, dismantle the sections already completed, and repeal all legislative measures related to the Barrier.

3. The Barrier blocks Palestinians living in the 'Seam Zone' from accessing their places of work and essential services in the rest of the West Bank. To continue living in their own homes and to maintain family and social relations with the rest of the West Bank they must obtain permits or 'prior coordination', and pass through Barrier checkpoints. Access of service providers to these communities, including ambulances and fire brigades, is likewise impaired.

4. Agriculture-based livelihoods of thousands of families have been undermined due to the gate-and-permit regime, which hinders farmers from accessing their farming and grazing lands in the 'Seam Zone'. Permit applications are regularly rejected on grounds that farmers failed to prove their 'connection to the land' to the satisfaction of the Israeli authorities, as well as citing security concerns. The almost permanent closure of all agricultural gates, with limited exceptions, has forced permit-holders to stop cultivation or to shift from labour-intensive to rain-fed and lower-value crops.

5. Between 2014 and 2021, the number of permits requested by landowners and agricultural workers dropped by 77 per cent. This drop is largely attributed to the high rejection rates of permit applications, cumbersome application procedures, the issuance of permits for short periods, and limited gate opening times amongst other factors. The limitations in accessing land has resulted in a 60 per cent reduction in yield in land beyond the barrier.

6. The Barrier has transformed the geography, economy and social life of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, as well as the lives of those residing in the wider metropolitan area. Neighbourhoods, suburbs and families have been divided from each other and separated from the urban centre, and rural communities have been separated from their land.

...

## **XII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION, REQUESTS ICJ ADVISORY OPINION ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION**

*On 30 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution [A/RES/77/247](#) by 87 votes for, 26 against, with 53 abstentions. The text of the resolution is replicated below.*

### **77/247. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>3</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>4</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,*

*Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution [75/98](#) of 10 December 2020, as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,*

*Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and stressing the need for their implementation,*

*Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories<sup>5</sup> and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Special Committee,<sup>6</sup>*

*Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,<sup>7</sup> as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,*

*Taking note also of the report of the independent international commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [S-30/1](#),<sup>8</sup>*

*Stressing 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,*

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<sup>1</sup>Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup>See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>5</sup>[A/77/501](#).

<sup>6</sup>[A/76/333](#).

<sup>7</sup>[A/HRC/49/87](#).

<sup>8</sup>[A/77/328](#).



*Taking note* of the recent report by 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 the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,<sup>9</sup>

*Deeply regretting* that 55 years have passed since the onset of the Israeli occupation, and stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

*Aware* of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling in this regard its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970,

*Recalling* 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,<sup>10</sup> and recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions,

*Noting in particular* the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

*Taking note* of its resolution [67/19](#) of 29 November 2012,

*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Reaffirming also* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>11</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

*Reaffirming further* the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention<sup>12</sup> under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

*Recalling* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and on 17 December 2014<sup>13</sup> by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied

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<sup>9</sup>[A/77/90-E/2022/66](#).

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

<sup>11</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup>[A/69/711-S/2015/1](#), annex.

Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Reaffirming* that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

*Stressing* the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,<sup>14</sup>

*Stressing also* the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

*Gravely concerned* by the tensions and violence in the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and including with regard to the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life,

*Reaffirming* that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

*Reaffirming also* the obligation to respect the historic status quo, the special significance of the holy sites, and the importance of the City of Jerusalem for the three monotheistic religions,

*Recognizing* that security measures alone cannot remedy the escalating tensions, instability and violence, and calling for full respect for 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* about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators, as well as journalists, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel; the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been imprisoned for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in

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<sup>14</sup>[S/2003/529](#), annex.

departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; the forced displacement of civilians, including attempts at forced transfers of Bedouin communities; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and demanding the cessation of all such unlawful actions,

*Gravely concerned* by the ongoing demolition by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian homes, as well as of structures, including schools, provided as international humanitarian aid, in particular in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, including if carried out as an act of collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law, which has escalated at unprecedented rates, and by the revocation of residence permits and eviction of Palestinian residents of the City of Jerusalem,

*Deploing* the continuing and negative consequences of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip and the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians in the recent period, including among children, and any violations of international law, and calling for full respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and for the principles of legality, distinction, precaution and proportionality,

*Gravely concerned* about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and deepen poverty and despair among the Palestinian civilian population, and about the short- and long-term detrimental impacts of this situation and the widespread destruction and continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation,

*Recalling with grave concern* the United Nations country team report of August 2012, entitled “Gaza in 2020: a liveable place?”,

*Recalling* the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,<sup>15</sup>

*Stressing* the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution [ES-10/18](#) of 16 January 2009,

*Stressing also* that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides, and regretting the lack of progress made in this regard,

*Gravely concerned* by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the successive military operations in the Gaza Strip,<sup>16</sup> and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all

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<sup>15</sup>[S/PRST/2014/13](#); see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* ([S/INF/69](#)).

<sup>16</sup>See [A/63/855-S/2009/250](#); [S/2015/286](#), annex; [A/HRC/12/48](#); and [A/HRC/29/52](#).

parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

*Stressing* the need for protection of human rights defenders engaged in the promotion of human rights issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment,

*Expressing deep concern* about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, including through hundreds of obstacles to movement, checkpoints and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, and the follow-up and access to donor-funded projects of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, consequently violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and negatively impacting their socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, which remains dire in the Gaza Strip, and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, and calling for the full lifting of restrictions,

*Expressing grave concern* that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, as well as elected representatives, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, the extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for prisoners who are ill, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits, that impair their well-being, and expressing grave concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment and all reports of torture of any Palestinian prisoners,

*Expressing deep concern* about the hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners in protest of the harsh conditions of their imprisonment and detention by the occupying Power, while taking note of agreements reached on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for their full and immediate implementation,

*Recalling* the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)<sup>17</sup> and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),<sup>18</sup> and calling for respect for those Rules,

*Recalling also* the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

*Deploring* the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calling 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,

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<sup>17</sup>Resolution [70/175](#), annex.

<sup>18</sup>Resolution [65/229](#), annex.

*Stressing* the need for the prevention of all acts of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers and groups of armed settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, and deploring the violation of the human rights of Palestinians in this regard, including acts of violence leading to death and injury among civilians,

*Convinced* of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, in this regard recalling the importance of the mandate and the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, and regretting the unilateral decision by the Government of Israel not to renew its mandate,

*Stressing* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror,

*Stressing also* that the protection of civilians is a critical component in ensuring peace and security, as well as the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, consistent with the provisions and obligations of international humanitarian law,

*Stressing further* the need to respect the right of peaceful assembly,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population<sup>19</sup> and the observations made therein on ways and means for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation,

*Noting* the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, and noting also the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence,

*Urging* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and to take every possible step to defuse tensions and promote conditions conducive to the credibility and success of the peace negotiations,

*Emphasizing* the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity, and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully

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<sup>19</sup>[A/ES-10/794](#).

with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all measures contrary to international law, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, the forced displacement of civilians, including attempts at forced transfers of Bedouin communities, the transfer of its own population into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, including home demolitions, including if carried out as collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law, and any obstruction of humanitarian assistance, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

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. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population, notably the observations made therein, including the possible expansion of existing protection mechanisms to prevent and deter violations, and calls for continued efforts within the United Nations human rights framework regarding the legal protection and safety of the Palestinian civilian population;

5. *Calls for* full cooperation by Israel with the relevant special rapporteurs and other relevant mechanisms and inquiries of the Human Rights Council, including the facilitation of entry to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, for monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation therein according to their respective mandates;

6. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and the prospects for achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and calls for the full respect and implementation of all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions in this regard, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016;

7. *Calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, including those on hunger strike, also calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and further calls for respect for the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for



the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);

8. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially any use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians in violation of international law, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including against journalists, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among children and women;

9. *Also condemns* all acts of violence by militants and armed groups, including the firing of rockets, against Israeli civilian areas, resulting in loss of life and injury;

10. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1860 \(2009\)](#);

11. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions [ES-10/15](#) of 20 July 2004 and [ES-10/13](#) of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparations for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

12. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

13. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and in this regard to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue and massive reconstruction needs and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip, while noting the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard;

14. *Stresses* the urgent need to address the continuing health crisis in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the provision of adequate infrastructure, medical supplies and equipment, alongside expertise, to deal with the increasing caseload of injuries requiring complex treatment in the context of the protests in the Gaza Strip;



15. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

16. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination, as a matter of urgency, in the light of the passage of more than 55 years of the Israeli occupation and the continued denial and violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people;

17. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and urges in this regard the implementation of the agreement signed in Cairo on 12 October 2017,<sup>20</sup> which would be an important step towards achieving Palestinian unity and lead to the effective functioning of the Palestinian Government, including in the Gaza Strip, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with the Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles;

18. *Decides*, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, to render an advisory opinion on the following questions, considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and the advisory opinion of the Court of 9 July 2004:

(a) What are the legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures?

(b) How do the policies and practices of Israel referred to in paragraph 18 (a) above affect the legal status of the occupation, and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the United Nations from this status?

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories.

*56th (resumed) plenary meeting  
30 December 2022*

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<sup>20</sup>[S/2017/899](#), annex.

### **XIII. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WELCOMES REQUEST FOR ICJ ADVISORY OPINION**

*On 31 December, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, issued the following [press release](#).*

The UN Independent International [Commission of Inquiry](#) on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, welcomes General Assembly resolution 77/400 deciding to request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) relating to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

The resolution, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, asks the ICJ – pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court – to render its opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel’s ongoing violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of discriminatory legislation and measures.

The resolution further asks the Court how Israel’s policies and practices referenced affect the legal status of the occupation and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the UN.

In its [report](#) to the General Assembly, presented on 27 October, 2022 the Commission found there are reasonable grounds to conclude that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is now unlawful under international law owing to its permanence and to ongoing actions undertaken by Israel to annex parts of the land de facto and de jure.

The Commission recommended that the General Assembly urgently request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the continued refusal on the part of Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, amounting to de facto annexation, of policies employed to achieve this, and of the refusal on the part of Israel to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and on the obligations of third States and the UN to ensure respect for international law.

The Commission found in its first report that the continued occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory and discrimination against Palestinians were the key root causes of the recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in the region. The Commission’s second report to the General Assembly, based on its conclusion about the illegality of such an occupation, made the core recommendation for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

The Commission considers that a definitive clarification of the legal consequences of Israel’s refusal to end the occupation, and what the obligation of third parties to ensure respect for international law are, will be crucial to member States and the UN in considering what further measures should be adopted to ensure full compliance with international law.