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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[19 August 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Violation of Palestinians' Right to Development

Since 1948, Occupying Power has occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Throughout a half-century-long administration of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupying Power has developed and implemented countless policies and practices to control and limit human rights, freedoms, and the social and economic development of the protected Palestinian population. This has included the closure of the Gaza Strip, amounting to mass collective punishment of the occupied Palestinian population there, administrative control exceeding the conservationist administrative limitations on the belligerent occupant under international humanitarian law, annexation of Palestinian territory in East Jerusalem, appropriation of land and pillage of natural resources, such as water, oil, and gas through a system of physical and bureaucratic barriers to movement, trade, and social and economic development.

o Occupation and Lack of Development Opportunities

Occupying Powers policies and practices have limited development opportunities for the Palestinian economy as a whole, and in particular, individuals and communities are threatened by the encroaching practices on the ground, including land appropriation, destruction of property, willful killing, denial of freedom of movement, the forced displacement of the population and the transfer in of the settler population.

o Controlling the Palestinian Economy

Longstanding Occupying Power restrictions on imports, exports, and movement of goods and people continue to disrupt labour and trade flows and the territory's industrial capacity and constrain private sector development. The 12 years of naval, air, and land siege of the Gaza Strip has multiple effects on people's lives and the right to development. As noted by the Special Rapporteur, "the right to development requires...the substantive realization of equality of opportunity for everyone in their access to basic resources and their socio-economic rights."

o Demolishing the Structures of Development

House demolitions are a policy tool used to maintain and expand illegal Occupying Power's settlements and the Annexation Wall. Palestinian houses continue to be demolished on the basis that they have been built without the necessary Occupying Power's building permit, which is nearly impossible to obtain. In recent years, there have been several cases of the demolitions by the military forces of the Occupying Power of structures build in cooperation with international development and humanitarian actors as a result of the humanitarian and development cooperation projects in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Conclusion

The HRC must obligate the Occupying Power to protect the State of Palestine's population in the occupied territory, natural resources, private and public land, water sources, minerals, and energy sources. Critically, a treaty on the right to development must recognize the rights of peoples under colonial rule and belligerent occupation to develop their natural and national resources. The treaty on the right to development must include the obligations of corporations to respect the right to development of the protected occupied population. Accordingly, the treaty should address corporations' obligations to conduct enhanced due diligence in areas under active conflict or belligerent occupation. In this respect, the actual consent of the occupied population, including political and civil society representatives, should be obtained before any development of the natural and national resources of the occupied territory.