



General Assembly

Tenth Emergency Special session

51st plenary meeting
Monday, 13 May 2024, 10 a.m.
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Official Records

President: Mr. Francis (Trinidad and Tobago)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Muhumuza (Uganda), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 5 (continued)

Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Ms. Pichardo Urbina (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): Nicaragua aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

In the face of the United States' continued exceptionalist and obstructionist policy in the Security Council, which is facilitating Israel's genocide and crimes in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, the international community and the General Assembly felt the need and responsibility to take action and find solutions based on law and justice on behalf of the Palestinian people.

For more than 75 years, the Palestinian people have been subjected to inhuman acts of aggression, serious war crimes and now, for more than 200 consecutive days, an unprecedented genocide that has left more than 35,000 Palestinians killed and more than 78,000 injured. Children, women and men have been killed in their homes and streets, in their flight from north to south, in shelters provided for by the United Nations Relief

and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and in hospitals, schools, mosques and churches. The recent attacks in Rafah further demonstrate — as if we still lacked sufficient evidence — that we are facing a determined decision to make the Palestinian people disappear. The Government and the people of Nicaragua reiterate their firm solidarity with the State of Palestine and strongly condemn the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, Rafah and all the historical and legitimate territories belonging to them, which have been occupied and divided by the Government of Israel, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, international humanitarian law and the Genocide Convention. The attacks and bombings directed against the civilian population must stop immediately. The delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians is imperative and must not be delayed, and the forced displacement of the Palestinian population must stop.

History has been made. The General Assembly began to listen to the clamour of the peoples of the world in support of Palestine and the rejection of a genocide. Such a clamour is felt and heard in the streets, in the protests and in the students who are camping out, driven by the force of struggle and reason. There are millions and millions of people demanding a free Palestine, a ceasefire, respect for life and an end to the genocide and the Israeli occupation of all occupied territories. Friday morning (see A/ES-10/PV.49) represented an important step towards the restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It was clearly demonstrated that only a tiny minority continues to capriciously

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obstruct the realization of the State of Palestine. The world wants peace and a free Palestine. The Security Council must acknowledge and respect resolution ES-10/23, just adopted. It must reconsider that request and accept Palestine as a free and independent State. The United States can no longer refuse to recognize a State of Palestine at the United Nations. It is unjustifiable and inappropriate. The full integration of Palestine into our community of nations is an act of justice and freedom vital to the realization of the State of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to their freedom, self-determination and independence, as well as their right to live in peace within the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as their capital.

An increasing number of countries recognize the State of Palestine. We welcome the recent announcement by the Bahamas and by Trinidad and Tobago of their official recognition of Palestine as a State, raising the number to 144 States as of the past few days. Our region of Latin America and the Caribbean, our zone of peace, has always been steadfast in its anti-colonial struggle and supporting the self-determination of peoples. Of the 33 States in our region, 32 already recognize the State of Palestine. We hope that the final remaining State will announce its recognition of the State of Palestine very soon. The United States and European countries have a moral and historical obligation to recognize and respect the free, independent and sovereign State of Palestine, as well as the Governments and the peoples of the region and the world that demand to live in common peace and security and stability with the Palestinian State as part of the United Nations. They must listen to the voices of all humankind crying out for peace and justice and for a free Palestine. They must stop their unjustifiable policies of denial and exclusion of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Nicaragua will not cease its unconditional support for Palestine. Together with the international community, we will continue every effort and initiative necessary to advance the question of Palestine until the liberation of Palestine is achieved — liberation so that life may prevail, liberation so that peace may prevail.

Mr. Muhamad (Malaysia): My delegation thanks the President of the General Assembly for resuming today's plenary meeting at the joint request of the Group of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of NAM and the OIC (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

More than seven decades after the adoption in 1947 of resolution 181 (II), which partitioned the Palestinians' land into Arab and Jewish States, Palestinians continue to be denied their right to statehood. By contrast, Israel was accepted as a full Member of the United Nations in 1949. Since then, the world has been witnessing turmoil and bloodshed in the land of Palestine. For seven decades, Israel's illegal, brutal and inhumane occupation has dispossessed Palestinians of their lands, properties, rights and dignity. It has taken the lives of countless numbers of innocent men, women and children and continues to do so to this day.

The current hostilities in Gaza are the latest episode in the already long history of Palestinians' struggle under Israeli occupation. After seven months of a relentless Israeli military onslaught, more than 35,000 deaths have been recorded, approximately 70 per cent of whom are women and children — that is nearly 15,000 children and 10,000 women killed. The discovery of mass graves in the compounds of the Al-Shifa and Nasser Hospitals is deeply concerning. The number of deaths among humanitarian workers and media personnel has also reached new records. The level of destruction of civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and United Nations premises, is unprecedented. The unrelenting destruction of Gaza and the catastrophic humanitarian conditions of its inhabitants are downright appalling. Despite the warnings of disastrous humanitarian consequences, Israel remains adamant in mounting a ground military assault on Rafah.

The carnage in Gaza must stop. The international community must demand proper accountability processes, starting with thorough, transparent and independent international investigations into all breaches of international law, including the possible war crimes and acts of genocide in Gaza. The question of Palestine must be resolved once and for all. Israel's occupation must end. Justice must be restored. The self-determination of the Palestinian people must be upheld. The fully sovereign State of Palestine must be recognized. For those of us who still remember the misery of life under occupation or colonization and the bitter struggle of our forefathers for independence and statehood, it is our responsibility to support Palestinian statehood. It is our collective moral duty to do

everything we can to ensure that the State of Palestine takes its rightful place as our equal in this Hall.

The fundamental United Nations founding principle of equality among nations must be extended to the State of Palestine without any discrimination or further delay. Malaysia's support for Palestinian statehood and its membership of the United Nations is long-standing. We hold the view that the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member should have happened when resolution 181 (II) was adopted and Israel was admitted 75 years ago. Resolution ES-10/23, adopted by the Assembly on Friday, represents a significant step forward — a much-needed positive development in the face of the Security Council's continued politicization and paralysis. Its adoption by an overwhelming majority is a clear testament to the enormous support for Palestinian statehood within the international community. Malaysia shares the view that the State of Palestine meets the four criteria for statehood outlined in the 1933 Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States. We also firmly believe that the State of Palestine fulfils the conditions for membership of the United Nations as laid out in Article 4 of the Charter.

Palestine has consistently demonstrated that it is committed to peace, even as Israel persists with its brutal and oppressive occupation, continues to erode Palestine's territorial integrity and attempts to annihilate the Palestinian people. It is also clear to us that Palestine highly values opportunities to participate in United Nations processes and that it is able and willing to carry out the obligations enshrined in the Charter. Palestine has proven itself worthy beyond doubt of membership of the Organization. By contrast, Israel continues to breach international law and defy the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as to vilify and malign the United Nations and its officials. With each passing day, Israel's actions inevitably raise doubts as to whether it actually believes in the United Nations system and values its membership of the Organization. The offensive gimmick of shredding the Charter of the United Nations that we witnessed in the Chamber last Friday is just another example of Israel's utter disrespect for the United Nations. Ironically, it is Israel's credibility that is being shredded into pieces through its contempt for international law and norms. No cheap theatrics will ever deny the resounding support for resolution ES-10/23 and the enduring relevance of the Charter's principles and aspirations.

Assertions that the State of Palestine does not meet the criteria for membership set forth in Article 4 of the United Nations Charter are absurd and quite suspicious. Such allegations are a blatant rejection of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions that have recognized Palestine as a State. To date, 144 States Members of the United Nations have recognized the State of Palestine, while several countries have announced their intention to do so in the very near future. We encourage those that have not officially recognized Palestine to do so without further delay. The question of Palestine has remained an outstanding issue in the Organization for more than seven decades. It is high time that the United Nations deliver on its duty and responsibility and produce a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine. That should start with the recognition of the State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the internationally recognized two-State solution.

We, the independent and sovereign States Members of the United Nations, must not renege on our commitment to upholding the United Nations principle of equality among nations. We must not fail our Palestinian brothers and sisters in their struggle for self-determination. We must not forget that most of us here were once in their shoes. Palestinians too deserve to live in peace, develop and prosper. We shall not — and must not — succumb to the pressure of those who seek to undermine peace in the Middle East. We call on all Member States to be united and support efforts towards lasting peace in the Middle East. The full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations is a critical step towards that end. Malaysia stands ready to be part of and support initiatives aimed at realizing the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to freedom and self-determination.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for resuming the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

My country's delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representative of the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/ES-10/PV.49); the representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/ES-10/PV.50); and the representative of the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of

the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly last Friday of resolution ES-10/23, with a majority of 143 countries voting in favour. The resolution relates to the eligibility of the State of Palestine to obtain full membership in the United Nations. It recommends to the Security Council that it reconsider the issue favourably, including the granting of additional rights and privileges to Palestine with regard to its participation in the Organization. The Kingdom of Bahrain stresses the importance of humanitarian and diplomatic efforts to support the legitimate historical rights of the brotherly Palestinian people to self-determination, freedom, justice, equality, independence and ending the occupation, in accordance with international law. The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms that the international recognition of the Palestinian State and its full membership in the United Nations constitutes one of the legal and political rights among the many legitimate and inalienable historical rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their independent State along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the two-State solution and in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative. It is an essential step towards establishing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Bahrain condemns the Israeli military operations in the city of Rafah, the last safe haven for more than 1 million Palestinians. We condemn Israel's control over the Rafah land crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. We warned against the serious implications of controlling that crossing for the lives of innocent civilians and the exacerbation of the catastrophic humanitarian situation. The Kingdom of Bahrain again calls on the international community and influential parties in the Security Council to immediately and urgently intervene to establish a humanitarian truce in the Gaza Strip and prevent the expansion of military operations, so as to preserve regional security, peace and stability.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain emphasizes the need to continue supporting the Palestinian people so that they can achieve their legitimate national rights. It is important to support all efforts to establish an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, deliver humanitarian aid to civilians and launch a serious

and genuine political process to ensure sustainable and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as to establish an independent Palestinian State along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the two-State solution, the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, with the State of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations.

Mr. Yıldız (Türkiye): I thank you, Mr. President, for resuming the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly at the request of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The General Assembly, as the most representative organ of the United Nations, has expressed the collective stance of the international community by adopting resolution ES-10/23 on Palestine's admission as a Member of the United Nations, with 143 votes in favour. Türkiye is proud to have co-sponsored that historic resolution, whose adoption not only marks a significant milestone in Palestine's pursuit of statehood but also highlights the growing disparity between the Security Council and the collective voice of the international community.

Seven months into the conflict, the dire situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank persists. The Palestinian people are brutally targeted, with total disregard for international law and international humanitarian law. The recent attacks on Rafah, as well as the wider region, are deeply worrisome. The discovery of mass graves in Gaza underscores the severity of the situation. People in Gaza are facing catastrophic levels of hunger. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the backbone of humanitarian operations in Gaza, is under political and physical attack. Disrupting UNRWA's work would not only exacerbate the suffering but also destabilize the entire region. Despite that unprecedented humanitarian tragedy, the inability to halt the bloodshed and man-made famine in Gaza is deplorable and shameful.

Since the conflict's onset, the international community's demands have been clear — an immediate ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian aid and an end to forced displacement. The two resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (resolution ES-10/21 and ES-10/22) and Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), all of which call for a ceasefire, have not been implemented yet. The provisional measures indicated by the International Court of Justice, the Security Council

resolutions on humanitarian aid and fundamental principles of international law are being disregarded.

The gravest violations of the Charter of the United Nations are taking place before our own eyes in Gaza. That has been coupled with the attempts to insult the United Nations and its Charter under this roof. It is our duty as the international community to ensure that that lawlessness and impunity come to an end. We call on the Security Council to take swift action, starting with an immediate ceasefire. The brutality and the bloodshed in Gaza have persisted for too long. That must end now, and its recurrence must be prevented through a durable two-State solution. Only the two-State solution offers the prospect of breaking the cycle of violence.

Türkiye supports the application of Palestine for admission as a full Member of the United Nations. That step will enable Palestinians to achieve their aspirations to statehood, sovereignty and independence, while fostering momentum for a two-State solution, which is the only way to serve true justice. Palestine deserves to be a full Member and to be treated as an equal member of the international community. Security Council resolutions envision a region in which two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders. The longer that vision is deferred, the longer the region will be pushed into vicious cycles of violence and destruction. With the adoption of this resolution, the wider membership has determined that the State of Palestine is qualified for membership in the United Nations and recommended that the Security Council reconsider the matter favourably. The overwhelming majority in the Security Council is already in favour. We urge the Security Council to take concrete steps towards realizing a political solution based on the two-State vision and the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine.

In conclusion, I welcome the Palestinian delegation to participate in the work of the Assembly. I thank all delegations that voted in favour of this resolution.

Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting.

Lebanon aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Lebanon welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of the resolution on the admission of new

Members to the United Nations (resolution ES-10/23). The General Assembly was fair to Palestine, albeit after a long wait, by acknowledging its right to take its rightful place among nations, settling the debate concerning its eligibility for membership in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter. It is now up to the Security Council to heed the clear and unequivocal resolution adopted by the General Assembly and to reconsider positively and without delay Palestine's membership. Seventy-five years of waiting is long enough.

The resolution provides for bolstering the participation of the State of Palestine in the sessions and proceedings of the General Assembly and in international conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly or other United Nations organs. We see in that an affirmation by the General Assembly of Palestine's capacity to positively engage in the United Nations and with Member States, in the context of promoting the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including tolerance, peaceful coexistence and good-neighbourliness, as well as the inclusion of its will in that of the international community to maintain international peace and security.

We reiterate our profound dismay at the Council's failure on 18 April to adopt the draft resolution submitted by Algeria (S/2024/312), which recommends that Palestine be granted full membership in this Organization. We urge the Council to reconsider its position as soon as possible. We believe that the Council's failure to adopt the draft resolution has contributed to prolonging the conflict further.

We cannot but commend the countries that have recently recognized the State of Palestine, joining over more than 140 States that had previously done so. We urge more States to take that noble and principled step, which undoubtedly supports efforts to achieve peace and implement the two-State solution. The establishment of the State of Palestine holds the key to resolving the entire region's crises; it is the path to stability, paving the way for security and stability for all the peoples of the region.

The people of Gaza and southern Lebanon have endured seven long and painful months of bloodshed. We therefore demand an immediate and sustained ceasefire, in order to keep the situation from escalating out of control, contain a regional spillover and prevent further civilian bloodshed that happens on a daily basis.

We reiterate our demand for compliance with General Assembly and Security Council resolutions to mandate demanding the establishment of a ceasefire, the most recent of which is Council resolution 2728 (2024).

Efforts should be focused on ensuring the success of the mediation efforts undertaken by Qatar and Egypt and accepted by Hamas. We call for pressure on Israel to accept that mediation without any delay and to not carry out its incursion into Rafah.

Lebanon reaffirms its full compliance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It is making every political and diplomatic effort to implement it and to restore stability and calm to its southern border, paving the way for residents to return to their villages and homes. We also welcome the efforts of friendly States, foremost among them the United States of America and France, to prevent the war from being expanded and to assist in achieving a peaceful solution.

We once again demand that an earnest effort be made to revive the prospects of a political horizon aimed at a two-State solution; end the Israeli occupation and recognize an independent Palestinian State within the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with the terms of reference; attain a just solution to the refugees issue and other final-status issues, in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted in Beirut in 2002; and bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Malovrh (Slovenia): Since its establishment, the United Nations has served as a platform for dialogue on many of the issues we address. Member States do not agree; we have a diversity of opinions, backgrounds and positions, but that diversity can only be bridged through dialogue. In our view, the self-determination of peoples is one of the cornerstones for achieving a strong multilateral system. The Slovenian people were able to exercise that right in order to freely establish their own sovereign and independent State. Moreover, for Slovenia, becoming a Member of the United Nations signified a major accomplishment in our diplomatic efforts following our declaration of independence. With that memory still fresh, we understand and empathize with Palestine's aspiration to attain the same goal. Only a two-State solution in which two democratic States — Israel and Palestine — live side by side will bring long-lasting peace to the region. Given the situation, we firmly believe in a two-layered approach.

We must urgently address the current catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, and we need to resume the political process towards a two-State solution.

In the Security Council, Slovenia voted in favour of the recommendation for membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations and clearly explained its vote (see S/PV.9609). We trust that this could significantly bolster the peace process, which should address all outstanding issues, support a State of Palestine and guarantee the security of Israel. The United Nations has had an important role in the question of Palestine for decades. We are of the view that the United Nations should play a crucial role in peace processes and that both States should therefore have equal status in the Organization. Each journey is a sequence of steps. Granting Palestine membership in the United Nations could be one of those important steps towards peace. Slovenia therefore supports the Council's continued deliberations on this question and underlines that Palestine's road to admission as a full member of the United Nations must continue fully in line with the Charter of the United Nations.

As this process is taking place, Slovenia supports the enhancement of the rights of Palestine in the United Nations. Amid the diversity of views at the United Nations, we always place the United Nations Charter at the centre of our discussions. In that sense, we welcome that the main sponsors of resolution ES-10/23, which we adopted on Friday, made important necessary changes in order to address the concerns of several Member States during negotiations. While Slovenia looks forward to the moment when the General Assembly welcomes Palestine as a full member of the United Nations, we appreciate the legal clarity provided on this distinction of rights.

Dialogue must prevail over weapons in Gaza. Choosing a peaceful way is not always easy, and we welcome the State of Palestine choosing peace through this resolution. Here, at the United Nations, we recognize their daily choice of peace through meetings, resolutions, various means of settlement of disputes under Article 33 and a commitment to engagement. Our vote was therefore a clear signal of support for continuously choosing dialogue.

Mr. Pieris (Sri Lanka): My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned

Countries. However, I wish to add the following observations in my national capacity.

It has been said that in the heart of adversity, hope emerges as the strongest force for change and that from the seeds of hope, the tree of peace shall grow, sheltering both nations. We must therefore generously nourish that growth. That is my delegation's sincere hope.

Sri Lanka supported the call for the admission of the State of Palestine as a member of the Assembly in an enhanced status. We have consistently maintained the position that a just and lasting solution can only be achieved on the basis of a two-State solution, along the borders of 4 June 1967. A peaceful and stable Middle East fundamentally depends on whether or not a two-State solution becomes a reality. It is sometimes difficult to find an intelligible rationale to the paradox as to how, while ostensibly supporting a two-State solution, the very same Member States oppose the admission of the State of Palestine as a regular member of the United Nations.

The developments since 7 October 2023 have called into question our fundamental humanity as the continued massacre of civilians takes place, with live reports reaching our homes and workplaces on a daily basis. In the President's address to the General Assembly on 8 April (see A/78/PV.66), he very rightly termed the conflict in Gaza as a blight on our common humanity, which, in the words of Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths, is unparalleled in its intensity, brutality and scope. There are several reasons that can be presented in the Assembly to support resolution ES-10/23, which we have endorsed in its present form, that would give Palestine the enhanced status and recognition that would require the stakeholders to grant Palestine this long-eluded standing in the international community.

What can Palestine enjoy more than it does now? It can enjoy enhanced United Nations membership, which will allow Palestine to actively participate in global efforts to maintain peace and security. It will ensure sovereignty and equality. The Assembly will appreciate that enhanced United Nations membership ensures that a country is recognized as a Member State, with recognized rights and responsibilities. It provides access to various resources and assistance programmes offered by the Organization. It strengthens international relations. Think about it — being a member of the United Nations enhances a country's credibility and legitimacy

in the international community. It facilitates enhanced diplomatic relations and opens doors for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, trade and investments. It helps to address global challenges. Enhanced membership will enable Palestine to actively participate in addressing global challenges collectively, such as climate change, poverty, terrorism, human rights violations and public health crises. It will provide a platform for Palestine to collaborate with other countries and work towards finding collective solutions. Finally, it will place a demand on Palestine itself to uphold international law and human rights. Enhanced membership therefore signifies a commitment to upholding international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and would allow Palestine to engage in discussions, negotiations and initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting human rights globally.

The time is therefore ripe for the Assembly to proclaim, with a resounding majority, its desire and will that Palestine be granted the status of enhanced United Nations membership, as envisaged in the resolution that we have now put in place. The Assembly has proclaimed its intentions in the clearest of terms, with an overwhelming decision that affirms its will to grant the State of Palestine the right to enhanced membership. We cannot tarry over the right of the Palestinian people to participate in the work of the Organization on an equal basis with other Member States any longer. To remain in the current state of inertia will surely undermine and put at stake the moral and ethical foundation of the international system based on the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law.

It has been accepted that the State of Palestine has fulfilled the requirements under Article 4. It has accepted the United Nations Charter as a peace-loving State. It is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China, the Group of Asia-Pacific States, as well as other groupings. The delegation of Palestine participates in the proceedings of the Organization day in and day out in the ordinary course of its work. It is not right that a single country or minority group can stand in the way of an overwhelming majority of the international community. Let us therefore today give the people of Palestine the dignity they deserve and at the same time give humankind the hope that something is right in this world. The time to act is now.

Ms. Chan Valverde (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): The question of Palestine has been on our Organization's agenda since 1947. In 2011, the

General Assembly granted Palestine non-member observer status in the United Nations, following the Security Council's rejection of its application for full membership. Thirteen years later, Palestine has renewed that application.

Costa Rica recognized the State of Palestine in 2007 and voted in favour of resolution ES-10/23. My country, which recognized the State of Israel immediately after its proclamation in 1948 and established diplomatic relations with it in 1954, also voted in favour of the admission of Israel to our Organization as a full Member on 11 May 1949 (see A/PV.208).

Since 1945, 142 States have joined the United Nations, all of which sought to join because of the pledge in the Charter of the United Nations to represent "we the peoples". Currently, 144 countries recognize Palestine as a State. The majority of those countries, including many of those that have not yet formally recognized Palestine as such, call for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the implementation of the two-State solution, in line with resolution 242 (1967).

The two-State solution is the way to meet the long-term security needs of both countries and the legitimate aspirations of their peoples to live in peace, prosperity and security. It is inconsistent to advocate for the two-State solution while denying full State recognition for one of those States. Only by ensuring the equal rights and equal recognition of the legitimate aspirations of the parties can we advance a just and equitable solution for both countries and, above all, for both peoples. Both must be able to fulfil their right to be self-governed and to be recognized.

Costa Rica voted in favour of resolution ES-10/23 to add its voice to that urgent call. We are confident that the Security Council will do the right thing. It is time to welcome with open arms into our Organization the 194th Member State — the State of Palestine — in accordance with our founding principles. Achieving equal international recognition for both States in our Organization would bring us closer to the possibility of realizing peace, security and reconciliation in the Middle East and give greater hope to the entire world.

Ms. Brattested (Norway): Norway strongly supports the Palestinian peoples' rights and aspirations for statehood, in accordance with international law. Palestinian statehood is a condition for the realization of the two-State solution, in line with the United

Nations partition plan of 1947. It is Norway's long-held conviction that a Palestinian State must comprise the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza, and be based on the 1967 borders.

Norway has been clear that it is ready to support an application for full membership in the United Nations for Palestine when the issue is brought before the General Assembly. We believe that such a membership would increase the possibility to achieve a political settlement beneficial to both Israelis and Palestinians. We underline that the formal procedure of admission to full membership in the United Nations, according to the Charter of the United Nations, will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

By co-sponsoring and voting in favour of the resolution on the membership of the State of Palestine (resolution ES-10/23), we have reaffirmed our full support for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and underscored the importance of a much-needed settlement to the conflict. We recall the commitments made by the State of Palestine in that regard, including in its application for United Nations membership. Although our affirmative vote in favour of the resolution does not prejudice our bilateral recognition of Palestine, an issue which we are actively considering, it is testimony to Norway's strong and unequivocal commitment to the two-State solution. That entails a sovereign, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side by side with the State of Israel in peace, within secure and recognized borders.

After more than seven months of war, all eyes are now on Rafah. Norway remains deeply concerned about the recent escalation of hostilities in Rafah, which suggests that a larger military operation may be imminent. We call on the Israeli authorities to halt the operation. The more than 1 million people who have sought refuge in Rafah have already fled multiple times from famine, death and horror. They are now being told to move again, but no place in Gaza is safe. We stress the urgent need to ensure safe, rapid, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all people in need in all of Gaza and that all available crossings into Gaza remain open so that essential supplies, including aid and fuel, can enter Gaza.

We mourn with the Palestinians that have fallen victim to this war and their families, who are desperately searching for safety and an end to the war. We mourn

with the Israeli victims and hostages and their families. This war must stop. There is a desperate need for a ceasefire and the immediate release of all remaining hostages. And we must embark on a path to a political solution. Only a negotiated solution between the parties can bring lasting peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis, as well as the wider region. We appeal to both sides to build on Friday's decision (see A/ES-10/PV.49) in a constructive manner and to urgently resume comprehensive and good-faith negotiations.

Mrs. Narváez Ojeda (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the convening of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly to discuss resolution ES-10/23, submitted by the United Arab Emirates on behalf of the Group of Arab States, which determines that the State of Palestine meets the requirements for membership in the United Nations, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, and should therefore be admitted as a Member of the United Nations.

Chile aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

Chile reaffirms its support for the State of Palestine to be admitted as a full Member of the United Nations. That is why we co-sponsored the aforementioned resolution. Since 7 October 2023, most Members of the Organization and its officials have reiterated that failure to make progress towards a two-State solution only adds to the volatility and risk facing millions of people throughout the region, who continue to live under the constant threat of violence. The admission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations must therefore be treated as an urgent matter.

We wish again to extend Chile's condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims who have perished in the conflict gripping the Gaza Strip. We are particularly alive to the plight of the innocent women and children in this catastrophe. We underscore that violence is not resolved by more violence. We express our deepest solidarity with the wounded. We reaffirm our full support for the tireless and courageous efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), on the ground. It is with profound regret that we mourn the deaths of UNRWA staff members in the war. In that connection,

we condemn Thursday's attack on the Agency's headquarters in East Jerusalem.

We stress that the protection of human life must be our overriding priority and that the protection of civilians is a fundamental duty that requires respecting the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law. There can be no doubt that this respect was violated by the terrorist acts that Hamas perpetrated on 7 October 2023 and the State of Israel's indiscriminate response towards the population of the Gaza Strip, which has also affected the West Bank. Chile has unequivocally condemned the actions of Hamas, as it does all terrorist acts, acts of violence and hostilities directed at the civilian population. By the same token, we demand that all hostages held by Hamas be immediately and unconditionally released, that their well-being be ensured and that they be treated in accordance with international law.

We are concerned about the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip because it has deprived its population of basic necessities, including food, water, medicine and fuel, leading to widespread hunger and disease. We condemn Israel's military offensive against the city of Rafah. The consequences of the military operation could be disastrous in a number of respects and will only delay peace. We add our voice to concerns, given the history, about the discovery of mass graves in and around Nasser Hospital and Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, where hundreds of bodies, including those of women, children and elderly people, were buried. In that connection, we commend the 15 members of the Security Council who were able to reach a consensus on Friday, 10 May, in a press statement (see SC/15692). Chile insistently calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, a greater flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and guarantees of full, immediate, safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access, meaning that all obstacles to such assistance must be removed and all available land routes into the Gaza Strip must be made available.

We note that the repercussions and ramifications of the conflict on the rest of the region have aroused grave concern about the continuation of violence. All those acts have been condemned by the majority of the international community. We therefore echo the calls made by the Secretary-General and the leadership of various United Nations agencies for a de-escalation of tensions. We commend the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Ms. Sigrid

Kaag, for her efforts' and it is our hope that she will be afforded every facility necessary to accomplishing her task. We encourage all parties involved and the international community to continue striving to end the war, which will be possible only through diplomacy and dialogue.

We acknowledge friendly countries' efforts and accomplishments with a view to reducing tensions. We highlight the three resolutions adopted in the Security Council aimed at achieving a ceasefire, defusing tensions and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid — resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023), adopted last year, and resolution 2728 (2024) of 25 March, in particular. We recall that all Council resolutions are binding and must be complied with and respected.

Chile advocates a two-State solution and the right of Israel and Palestine to live in harmony within secure and recognized international borders and with full respect for the human rights of all their populations. We issue an urgent appeal for full and prompt compliance with the relevant resolutions, which support the right of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign State, such as resolution 181 (II) and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 2334 (2016), which reaffirm that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a violation of international law. Chile has consistently reaffirmed that a priority of its foreign policy is to contribute to achieving a peaceful solution in the Middle East and has constantly stated its support for a just and lasting solution in line with United Nations resolutions.

We underline that all parties must comply with the provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice. We recall that Chile and Mexico filed a brief on the situation in Palestine before the International Criminal Court with the aim of bolstering the investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel. Chile takes the view that the elucidation of facts and responsibilities, and accountability, are essential to ending impunity and preventing the future commission of international crimes.

Mr. Gómez Hernández (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): This debate is taking place against the backdrop of an extremely grave situation in Gaza in which a military offensive in Rafah would exacerbate the devastating

humanitarian crisis and lead to even greater regional instability, which must be averted.

Accordingly, Spain continues to demand an agreement for an immediate ceasefire so as to enable the unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid at scale into Gaza and the immediate release of all Israeli hostages. Upon securing a ceasefire, we must work to consolidate it and begin post-crisis management. It will be essential to support the Palestinian Authority, which must assume the reins of government in Gaza and the West Bank. We condemn the attack on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East premises in Jerusalem last week and recall the obligation, under international humanitarian law, to protect humanitarian workers.

The national aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians and their desire to live in peace and security are legitimate demands that must be met. The absence of a satisfactory solution lies at the root of this protracted cycle of violence. Spain welcomes the adoption of resolution ES-10/23 on Friday — a resolution that my country supported and co-sponsored. The resolution makes it possible to strengthen the modalities of Palestinian participation in the Assembly and marks the beginnings of a process of crystallization of the two-State solution. The recognition of Palestine as a nation forms an integral part of that solution. That is why Spain has taken the decision to recognize Palestine as a State in the near future, joining the ranks of more than 140 countries that represent a growing consensus in the international community. Through those decisions, we will afford Palestinian Government greater legitimacy and banish extremism from public life. A Palestinian State is the best guarantee of security for Israel and the region.

Furthermore, we are seeking to bring balance to the debate between the parties in the negotiations that will take place in order to bring to fruition the peace process launched at the Madrid Conference more than 30 years ago. Lastly, through recognition, we are seeking to reinforce the coherence of, and compliance with, international law. We do not apply double standards.

In order to advance towards the materialization of the two-State solution, Spain has proposed a peace conference with the parties and the international community. That proposal has already been endorsed by the European Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation — more than

80 of the States Members of the General Assembly. We therefore reiterate the call for the Organization to endorse that proposal and lead the process.

Mrs. González López (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Twenty-six years have passed since this tenth emergency special session was first convened in April 1997 (see A/ES-10/PV.1). Today the Assembly is once again deliberating on the situation in the Middle East, in a context in which millions of people have fled their homes in search of refuge. Tens of thousands, mostly women and children, have lost their lives, and the humanitarian crisis, far from improving, is deepening by the day. My country joins those voicing their concerns about the hardships experienced by the people of Gaza, who cannot meet their most basic needs such as food, water or medical supplies. The lives of thousands of innocent people are directly affected.

Addressing, seriously and decisively, the full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations is an imperative under the current conditions. El Salvador has recognized and has maintained relations with Palestine for more than a decade and is appalled by the terrible suffering of its people. My country has therefore not hesitated to give its full backing to the resolution adopted at this emergency special session (resolution ES-10/23). Admitting the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations is a crucial step towards achieving a just and lasting solution to the conflict and stability in the Middle East. It is a reaffirmation of the commitment of the States Members of the United Nations to uphold their own purposes and principles, ensuring full respect for the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to live in peace.

As we have recently expressed, we regret that the Security Council has been dealing with this issue for more than seven decades, and that acting on behalf of the entire United Nations membership, and having held hundreds of formal meetings, it has not been able to provide a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. We therefore call on the Security Council to recognize the need for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, and to make the two-State solution a reality.

El Salvador's position has been coherent and consistent over the years. We will always advocate a peaceful and definitive solution to the conflict in the Middle East, based on the existence of two-States and

recognizing the express will of the binding resolutions of the Security Council, and those of the General Assembly. Let me reaffirm that admitting the State of Palestine as a full Member of the Organization is today more important than ever.

El Salvador reiterates its support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. We urge the Security Council to reconsider favourably this issue of utmost global concern, and to reaffirm its commitment to the right to peace, justice, equality and human rights for all peoples. While the resolution does not grant Palestine full membership in the Organization, we believe that it will strengthen customary practice and facilitate its participation in different multilateral forums. That context will allow the State of Palestine to progressively exercise its legitimate right to play a more effective and equal role in the United Nations.

El Salvador stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and reiterates its commitment to peace, security and justice in the region, with full respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

I conclude by reaffirming my country's commitment to working in partnership with all Member States to reach a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict. We are confident that the General Assembly, through the emergency special session, will continue in its determination to bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Ms. Sulaiman (Brunei Darussalam): At the outset, Brunei Darussalam aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by the representative of Mauritania on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the joint statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

I thank the President for convening this tenth emergency special session, in the light of the recent failure of the Security Council to consider favourably United Nations membership for the State of Palestine (see S/PV.9609). Brunei Darussalam has consistently advocated for the rights of the Palestinian people and has stood in solidarity with them, recognizing their inalienable right to self-determination and statehood. We stand firm in our support for the State of Palestine to be accorded permanent membership in the United Nations.

We deeply regret that the use of the veto has hampered the adoption of a very important draft resolution (S/2024/312) — one that would have allowed the State of Palestine to be granted full membership in the United Nations, as we believe that it would represent a significant stride towards attaining enduring peace in the Middle East.

Brunei Darussalam fully supports resolution ES-10/23, which was submitted at this resumed emergency special session, and welcomes the adoption of this historic resolution. We must exhaust all efforts to ensure the admission of the State of Palestine as a full-fledged member of the United Nations.

Brunei Darussalam unequivocally condemns the occupying Power's military operation in Rafah and subsequent takeover of the Rafah crossing, a vital passage for the delivery of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. That unacceptable move by the occupying Power represents a dangerous escalation that has killed more innocent civilians, including women and children, and ignores international calls to protect the safety and lives of millions of Palestinians seeking refuge in the area.

The situation in Palestine is already a humanitarian crisis of profound proportions, perpetuated by the occupying Power's continued disregard for international law with impunity. There must be a halt to all the violence, injustice and oppression by the occupying Power against the Palestinians.

It is also important to ensure that the root causes of the conflict are resolved to prevent further destabilization and escalation of violence in the region, with the aim to bring about a permanent solution to the conflict. To that end, we urge the international community to remain resolute in its commitment to the two-State solution, towards achieving an independent State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Al Busaidi (Oman) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman, I would like to thank the President for convening this meeting, following the failure of the Security Council to grant the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations (see S/PV.9609).

In that context, the Sultanate of Oman welcomes the overwhelming majority vote in the General Assembly in favour of resolution ES-10/23, supporting the right

of the State of Palestine to full membership in the United Nations. The global majority has appealed to the Security Council to recognize the State of Palestine, which will pave the way for a two-State solution and the establishment of a just peace in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

My country's delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of sisterly United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/ES-10/PV.49); the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50), all of which stressed the international community's support for the legitimate request of the State of Palestine to obtain full membership in the United Nations, like all other countries in the world.

Furthermore, regarding the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Sultanate of Oman is gravely concerned about the continued military escalation carried out by the Israeli occupation forces and the war crimes and genocide perpetrated against unarmed civilians in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. We warn of the consequences of military operations carried out by the Israeli occupation forces in the city of Rafah, which portends serious catastrophic repercussions that could lead to the expansion of conflict and tensions in the region. The Sultanate of Oman therefore urges the international community to immediately intervene to end the war and Israel's ongoing brutal violations of international law and international humanitarian law and to hold Israel fully responsible for those violations, including war crimes, starvation and forced displacement, all of which constitute crimes against humanity.

The Sultanate of Oman underscores that ending the conflict in the Middle East region can only be achieved by establishing a Palestinian State and granting it full and undiminished membership in the United Nations. That has become a strategic necessity to move forward and a global demand supported by the international community. We call on the Security Council to reconsider the issue of granting full membership to the State of Palestine in the United Nations. Rejecting that request would not serve security and peace in the Middle East or the world and would undermine the credibility of the Council for applying double standards to the Palestinian question.

In conclusion, the Sultanate of Oman reaffirms its support for peace efforts and the two-State solution, with the safe coexistence of the two States. We categorically reject all plans that do not endorse a just and comprehensive peace and a lasting solution to the Palestinian question. My country will continue to support the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people and their right to full membership in the United Nations.

Ms. Jerboui (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for responding positively to the request of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to resume the tenth emergency special session.

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the General Assembly's adoption on Friday of resolution ES-10/23, which supports the State of Palestine obtaining full membership in the United Nations and calls on the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's application for admission and more rights within the United Nations. The Kingdom of Morocco was one of the first States to sponsor and support the resolution. The resolution is an important step, as granting Palestine full membership in the United Nations has gained primacy within the framework of the internationally agreed two-State solution. The Kingdom of Morocco, under His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chair of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, reiterates our firm, historical position on the just Palestinian question and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to establish an independent Palestinian State along the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip for the past seven months is indescribable and threatens regional peace and security, with global repercussions. The Israeli military's actions in the Gaza Strip gravely contravene the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, with unprecedented casualties and the targeting of health, education and other civilian facilities, in violation of international laws and humanitarian values. The Kingdom of Morocco urgently reiterates the need for an immediate, sustainable and comprehensive ceasefire and for the sufficient, safe, sustainable and unhindered flow of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, to which the Kingdom of Morocco has contributed continuously

and significantly since the outbreak of the current crisis, per the high instructions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chair of the Al-Quds Committee. The Kingdom of Morocco also stresses the need to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law, as well as the release of prisoners and detainees and the establishment of a political horizon for the Palestinian question.

The Kingdom of Morocco stresses that we must not accept the threat of the military operations expanding to include all areas of the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, which would have devastating humanitarian consequences. The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its total rejection of all forms of forced displacement, collective punishment and reprisals, and calls for an end to the unilateral Israeli measures against the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. Jerusalem must remain a land of encounter, a symbol of peaceful coexistence for the followers of the three monotheistic religions and a centre for the values of mutual respect and dialogue.

In conclusion, I would like to recall the words of His Majesty King Mohammed VI during the fifteenth summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Gambia in 2024:

"I call on the countries that influence the settlement process of this conflict to live up to their historic responsibility, uphold reason and logic and work hard to put an end to this catastrophic situation. I call on them to extricate the region out of the cycle of violence, reject the policy of exclusion and the imposition of a *fait accompli* and to establish conditions conducive to relaunching a genuine peace process that can lead to the internationally agreed upon two-State solution."

Mrs. Segobin Maulloo (Mauritius): Mauritius welcomes the adoption of resolution ES-10/23, declaring that Palestine is qualified for full membership and should therefore be admitted to the United Nations. The resounding support garnered from the General Assembly on this historic resolution is a meaningful achievement. We have witnessed the triumph of solidarity and justice towards Palestine and the Palestinian people, as the international community affirms the rightful place of Palestine among the family of nations. The result achieved is more than timely, and it is the logical consequence of the adoption in 2012

of resolution 67/19, granting the status of non-member observer to Palestine, which Mauritius supported.

Mauritius has consistently stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people, affirming their legitimate right to self-determination and aspirations for the establishment of a sovereign, viable and secure State of Palestine through peaceful means. We are convinced that the admission of Palestine as a full-fledged Member of the Organization would be a major step towards the recognition and implementation of the two-State solution, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions and international law. Mauritius has consistently supported the application made by Palestine for membership in the United Nations, including its admission as a member of UNESCO in 2011. Since 2012, we have actively advocated for Palestine's full membership in the United Nations through various resolutions. We hold the view that the United Nations and the international community bear a solemn responsibility to uphold the dignity of the Palestinian people and safeguard their fundamental rights, including the right to statehood and security. Furthermore, Mauritius believes that Palestine fulfils all necessary criteria to be acknowledged as a sovereign State. Its accession therefore would be in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mauritius joins the call on the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's application for membership. The dire humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza underscores the urgent need for action on the part of the Organization. We firmly believe that granting full membership status to Palestine will pave the way for peace facilitated under the auspices of the United Nations and the international community.

Palestine has for far too long been denied the right to be fully part of the Organization. We believe that this resolution will pave the way for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Aaron (Dominica): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). On this historic occasion, CARICOM affirmed its collective support for this important resolution (resolution ES-10/23). We did so because CARICOM recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to their own State, and because we believe that such a State is entitled to take its rightful place here in the United Nations. This position is

in keeping with relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our great distress over the ongoing violence and deteriorating situation in Gaza, which has resulted in the tragic loss of civilian lives, including the deaths of women and children, on an unprecedented scale and widespread displacement and suffering. We are particularly concerned about the escalating situation in Rafah and urge maximum restraint to avoid a catastrophe of unprecedented proportion.

CARICOM reiterates its strong condemnation of the attacks by Hamas and the taking of hostages on 7 October 2023, as well as Israel's actions that violate international humanitarian law and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Mrs. Nabeta (Uganda), Vice-President, took the Chair.

In that regard, CARICOM urges an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and safe and unimpeded access for the delivery of adequate and sustained humanitarian assistance. We strongly advocate full compliance with the rule of law and therefore call for the unconditional release of all hostages. We further call for the release of all those illegally detained.

CARICOM reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a holistic road map towards a two-State solution, in keeping with Security Council resolution 242 (1967), as the only viable path to peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The Community therefore calls for a renewed commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through meaningful dialogue and negotiations and calls on the international community to play a constructive role in facilitating a lasting solution to the conflict and achieving a durable peace that guarantees the human rights, dignity and security of both sides.

Mr. Zuhuree (Maldives): I thank the President for resuming the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

The United Nations was founded on the principles of supporting the right of all peoples to determine their own political, economic and social destinies. The General Assembly remains the only dedicated space where we, the peoples of the United Nations, can convene to advocate for justice, human rights, dignity, peace and freedom.

We all agree that peace is long overdue. We have made calls for a ceasefire and de-escalation. We have desperately pleaded for the protection of Palestinian civilians and their legal and humanitarian rights. The difficult point of contention within this Hall has been on the question of how to bring about a just and lasting peace. The goal must be to take action for peace.

The Maldives commends the United Arab Emirates for taking the initiative to put forward resolution ES-10/23, determining that Palestine is ready to be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. As a proud co-sponsor of the resolution, we are moved by the overwhelming support extended by Member States to the Palestinian cause by voting in favour of the resolution. Our collective call sends a strong message to the Security Council to reconsider the application of Palestine for full United Nations membership favourably.

The Maldives commends the tireless efforts on the ground in Gaza, at the United Nations and across the world to stop the suffering borne by the Palestinian people. The Maldives recognizes the relentless determination of organizations such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Palestine. They are the heroes that have allowed us to hold on to hope against all odds. In the face of the immense humanitarian tragedy taking place in Palestine, the Maldives reiterates its call on all Member States to act with urgency.

Israel's impunity must end. Israel's rejection of the ceasefire last Monday demonstrates that its intention has always been to implement a land grab, enforce apartheid policies and commit genocide. The systematic, deliberate and brutal attacks against the Palestinian people did not begin on 7 October 2023. Israel has inflicted collective punishment, mass destruction, forced displacement and unimaginable trauma on the Palestinian people for more than seven decades. Israel's ongoing operation in Rafah is the latest and most terrible of its acts of aggression. There are more than 1 million Palestinians in Rafah who have been driven into the city to seek shelter. Many of them are children and many of them are sick, injured, malnourished, traumatized and living with disabilities because of Israel's actions.

Israel's supporters must do more than make hollow statements in order to hold it accountable. The Maldives calls on Israel's supporters to stop supplying Israel with weapons and to make Israel comply with

its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

We can bring a comprehensive solution to the conflict in the Middle East only through the recognition of Palestine. The Maldives remains resolute in supporting the Palestinian people and their inalienable right to self-determination. The Maldives further reiterates its call for the establishment of a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with the pre-1967 borders.

The Maldives once again implores the Security Council to favourably reconsider the admission of the State of Palestine to membership in the United Nations, as urged by the resolution adopted on Friday in the General Assembly.

Mr. Dang (Viet Nam): I wish to thank the President of the General Assembly for resuming the tenth emergency special session.

Viet Nam aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

More than seven months into the Gaza conflict, peace prospects remain elusive. Fears of an escalation into a regional war are growing amid a direct confrontation between the region's major military Powers. There is no sign of diminished violence or an end to civilian deaths. Viet Nam is deeply concerned about the increased hostilities and tensions. The impending ground offensive on Rafah, in particular, would take an unimaginable toll on civilians — especially on women and children — and further aggravate the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Viet Nam strongly condemns all forms of indiscriminate violence targeting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure.

We firmly oppose all acts in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any State. In that regard, Viet Nam urges all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, engage in dialogue and strictly abide by international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

We renew our call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and violence and for the unconditional release of all hostages. We urge that all measures be taken to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance. We reaffirm Viet Nam's continued support for the central role played by the United Nations Relief

and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in that regard.

Viet Nam supports all ongoing diplomatic efforts towards an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza in order to put a stop to civilian casualties and suffering. In the long run, a lasting, just and peaceful resolution of the Gaza conflict and the Middle East peace process can be achieved only through the two-State solution, in conformity with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

We are disappointed that, last month, the Security Council once again failed to reach agreement on the overdue admission of Palestine as a State Member of the United Nations (see S/PV.9609). That goes against the will of the Palestinian people and of the majority of the international community, as artificial and politically motivated obstacles continue to hinder Palestine's legitimate quest for full membership.

Viet Nam stands with the Palestinian people in their plight, as they look to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, and we support Palestine's prompt admission as a member of the United Nations. Our long-standing solidarity and unwavering support for the Palestinian people are deeply rooted in our long and common struggle for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, freedom and the pursuit of happiness of our peoples.

Viet Nam's own path to United Nations membership was a long and arduous one. It fell victim to a Security Council veto on numerous occasions. However, the many barriers and obstacles did not stop the irreversible course of history and could not prevent peace-loving Viet Nam from being admitted to the United Nations eventually, in 1977. We witnessed history on Friday (see A/ES-10/PV.49) as the State of Palestine inched closer to full membership, with the adoption of resolution ES-10/23, which allows Palestine greater engagement in the work of the United Nations. Viet Nam co-sponsored and voted in favour of that monumental resolution, together with a large majority of this organ.

The legitimate aspirations of millions of Palestinian people for peace, development and equality must not be denied. Palestine's admission to the United Nations as a full Member would be the most conducive to the two-State solution, as it lays the groundwork for meaningful negotiations between the parties on an equal footing. It would be an important step towards

achieving sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond.

Ms. Muñoz Ponce (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I wish to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting to address one of the most important and priority issues at the United Nations in order to finally provide a light at the end of the tunnel for the Palestinian people. I also thank the representative of the United Arab Emirates for submitting the resolution on the admission of new members to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of Arab States (resolution ES-10/23).

We align ourselves with the statements delivered on Friday by the representatives of the Republic of Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

Words and speeches are insufficient in the face of the violence, bloodshed and atrocious attacks against the Palestinian people, which have reached absolutely inhumane levels and are causing unimaginable suffering among children, women, the elderly — innocent people who want nothing more than to live in peace and freedom.

Since 7 October 2023, Israel, the occupying Power, has not ceased for one second its intense bombardments and attacks against the Palestinian territories. As reported, to date, more than 34,000 people have been killed and 1.7 million people — approximately 75 per cent of the population — have been displaced throughout the Gaza Strip because there is no longer any safe place for them.

On 15 May, Palestinians commemorate the Nakba, which reminds us of what took place 76 years ago, when the world watched, arms folded, as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee or were driven from their homes. Today it appears we face an imminent Israeli military offensive in Rafah, despite calls from the international community to prevent further genocidal action in Gaza. In addition, the flow of humanitarian aid has been completely blocked.

I take this opportunity to share with the Assembly that, last week, my country delivered more than 90 tons of humanitarian aid to the Egyptian Red Crescent, in the port of Alexandria, for its distribution in the Gaza

Strip. Those supplies primarily include medicine and basic foods, among other products, and we ask that their distribution not be impeded.

The United Nations has a historic debt to the Palestinian people. More than seven decades ago, it promised to establish two States. Regrettably, today all resolutions related to Israel have been implemented and, as a result of various circumstances, that has not been the case with those related to Palestine. It is now time for the United Nations and the international community to ensure compliance with all relevant resolutions on the issue, without any further delays or obstacles imposed by Israel and its protector. That is why my country welcomes the commitment and the decision by all States that voted in favour of resolution ES-10/23 on the admission of new Members to the United Nations. As Bolivia has done in the past, we co-sponsored and voted in favour of the resolution, which reflects our firm commitment to and support for the admission of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations.

The inclusion of Palestine is not just an act of justice and recognition, but rather a small step towards peace and stability in the region. Palestine has proven its commitment to the founding principles and values of the United Nations, and it meets the prerogatives of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, Article 4, for its admission as a full Member of the United Nations.

Moreover, today 143 States Members of the United Nations recognize Palestine as a sovereign and independent State that exercises its rights and shoulders its responsibilities. Furthermore, the admission of Palestine as a Member of the United Nations is an essential step towards building a more just and equitable world order, where all nations are treated with equal respect and dignity.

The majority adoption of resolution ES-10/23 is proof of majority consensus. Therefore, the Security Council must immediately reconsider the issue favourably, taking on board the decision of the International Court of Justice of 28 May 1948 and in strict compliance with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Not a single step backwards — today Palestine needs solidarity and international cooperation. We must now provide Palestinians with certainty. Palestine will be a free, sovereign and independent State, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Soberón Guzmán (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We support the resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly. Cuba co-sponsored and supported resolution ES-10/23, which was recently adopted by the General Assembly to advance the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations.

Without further delay, we must reverse the historic injustice, which has denied the Palestinian people the right to participate on an equal footing in the United Nations. It is shameful and unacceptable that the Government of the United States, self-proclaimed international model of democracy, is once again abusing its anti-democratic veto power to continue its complicit support for Israel and blocking the clear majority opinion of the international community. The Security Council was designed to act on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, not to protect the hegemonic interests of the United States or the excesses of Israel. If the international community allows this unsustainable situation to continue, it will remain hostage to an arbitrary exercise, such as the power of the veto, which stops it from acting as it should.

The admission of Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations is urgently needed and is an essential step in moving towards a comprehensive, fair and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The solution inevitably calls for the Palestinian people to genuinely exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and to build their own independent and sovereign State within the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as capital. There is no other way that would be effective in ending the spiral of violence once and for all, saving human lives and charting a viable path towards peace.

One hundred and forty-four countries already recognize the State of Palestine, and the number will continue to rise. The State of Palestine is an active member of the international community and of multilateral forums and is subject to the rights and obligations included in various international instruments. Resolution ES-10/23 provides justice because it recognizes that Palestine meets the conditions for its admission as a Member of the United Nations.

Cuba again calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the illegally occupied Palestinian territories. We call for an end to violence and warmongering.

Humanitarian aid must be provided urgently in sufficient amounts for the Palestinian people. We must put an end to the forced displacement of the Palestinian people from the land that rightfully belongs to them.

Mr. Muhumuza (Uganda), Vice-President, took the Chair.

We strongly condemn the killing of civilians, in particular women, children and humanitarian workers from the United Nations system. The indiscriminate shelling of the people in Gaza and the destruction of housing, hospitals and civilian infrastructure, as well as the denial of basic services for the people, have further worsened the precarious humanitarian situation caused by the blockade on the Gaza Strip and flagrantly violate international humanitarian law. Nothing can justify such actions, which constitute collective punishment, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Those who are opposed to an urgent end to the violence in Gaza for various reasons must bear responsibility for the serious consequences that this entails. Each minute of inaction will cost more innocent lives. History will not forgive those who are indifferent, and Cuba will not be among them.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause. Cuba will continue to contribute to the best of its ability to legitimate international efforts to put an end to the brutality suffered by the brotherly Palestinian people.

Mr. Al-Fatlawi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to express my deep gratitude to the President for facilitating and resuming this meeting of the tenth emergency special session, which reflects our legitimate demands and vision to the international community regarding the Palestinian question.

We deeply deplore the fact that the Security Council failed to adopt draft resolution S/2024/312 granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations. That illustrates the continued and undeterred Israeli violations of international law and international humanitarian law. That also distances the Palestinian people from obtaining their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination, which they have awaited in the occupied territory of Palestine for more than 75 years, while facing the most discriminatory and coercive measures against them.

The international community has insisted on ending the Israeli occupation's attacks on civilians in

the Gaza Strip. Those attacks have claimed the lives of more than 32,000 martyrs, injured 77,000 others and displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes. Despite the will of the international community and world public opinion in support of the rights of the Palestinian people to live in freedom and dignity, the Palestinian question is going through a critical stage. Some ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the Israeli occupation forces continue to commit their horrific crimes in full view of the international community.

We look forward to seeing the State of Palestine and its patient people attain full membership in the United Nations alongside other benevolent and peace-loving peoples. Granting Palestine full membership in the United Nations will give it the opportunity to fully and effectively contribute to the international system and to promote international legitimacy, thereby constituting an important step towards stabilizing the region. Obstructing the right of the Palestinian people to have their State recognized is not in line with the legal and historical responsibility of the international community to end the occupation and reach a final and just solution to the Palestinian question, which is suffering under the weight of the occupation. Palestine and its people have endured years of conflict and suffering, and the Palestinian people deserve to live in a stable and prosperous State that can be added value to international and regional relations.

As we believe in justice and peace, we emphasize our support for a comprehensive and objective vision of the Palestinian question and for supporting the rights of the Palestinian people. We categorically reject the hostile policies and measures against them, and we stress the need to intensify efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution, achieving a ceasefire, ending the aggression that has persisted in the Gaza Strip for more than seven months and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid to civilians. Moreover, we reject all attempts by Israel to eliminate the Palestinian question altogether.

Iraq reiterates its support for diplomatic efforts aimed at accession by the State of Palestine to the United Nations and granting it full membership, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Iraq supports the Palestinian people in what they decide to do to achieve their aspirations, exercise their right to self-determination and establish their free State on the land of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all Member States that voted in favour of supporting the Palestinian people in their quest for justice, self-determination and international recognition. Supporting that step constitutes a legal and humanitarian duty, reflects the global will to achieve justice and fairness in upholding legitimate demands and rights and represents an affirmation of commitment to the values of justice and equality.

In conclusion, Iraq has always supported and championed the just Palestinian question in all international forums and, as such, was eager to co-sponsor the resolution acknowledging its legitimacy (resolution ES-10/23). Iraq would like to underscore its position of disassociation from and reservation on certain phrases and terms contained in the resolution, as they are not in line with Iraqi national laws.

Mrs. Frazier (Malta): Malta voted in favour of and welcomes the adoption of the resolution adopted last Friday (resolution ES-10/23). That is a positive and hopeful development that enhances the status of and provides additional rights and privileges, as outlined in the resolution, to the Observer State of Palestine. The General Assembly has spoken loudly and clearly. It has determined that Palestine qualifies for membership in the United Nations. It has similarly recommended that the Security Council reconsider that matter favourably. As an elected member of the Security Council, we will heed that message.

Malta underscores that the two-State solution remains the only realistic foundation for sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. Membership in the United Nations, together with discussions between the parties, is an important step in that regard. A vote in favour of that resolution is consistent with the political horizon that enjoys the support of the international community.

The war in Gaza has raged on for seven months. The atrocious terror attacks of 7 October 2023 must not be forgotten, and those responsible must be held accountable. We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages. We also unequivocally condemn Hamas's rocket attacks at civilian population centres. However, the subsequent Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza has decimated entire families and communities, killing more than 34,000, the majority of whom are women and children, with thousands more wounded or missing. Equally

concerning are the renewed fighting in the north of Gaza, the effective dismantling of the healthcare system and the ever-looming threat of famine.

Regrettably, the conflict is now expanding into Rafah, and that will have unimaginable and unbearable humanitarian consequences. Malta firmly rejects any such offensive. To address that continuously deteriorating situation and to provide the space for the necessary scale-up in the delivery of humanitarian aid, Malta reiterates its call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We call for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023) and 2728 (2024), and we reiterate that the orders of the International Court of Justice of 26 January and 28 March indicating provisional measures must be complied with. Moreover, the General Assembly's calls for respect of international law, including international humanitarian law, cannot continue falling on deaf ears.

On the humanitarian front, Israel must take all the necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, the unhindered provision at scale of basic services and humanitarian aid. We also stress the need for the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings to remain open and for their functionality to be expanded. All crossing points that can be used to deliver aid must be opened immediately.

Both parties must take the deal that is on the table. Doing so will lead to the safe release of the hostages and an end to the carnage in Gaza. For the sake of Israelis and Palestinians alike, the parties to the conflict must muster the political will to accept the ceasefire agreement. Only that will create the necessary space for the advancement of a political horizon and the realization of a two-State solution along the pre-1967 borders, while addressing the legitimate aspirations of both sides, with Jerusalem as the future capital of two States, living side by side in peace and security, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the internationally agreed parameters.

Mr. Muhith (Bangladesh): I thank the President of the General Assembly for the resumption of this plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Mauritania, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

Once again, we are meeting in the General Assembly, where a majority of the Members of the United Nations have been reiterating their urgent demand to stop the atrocities and genocide in Gaza in the occupied Palestinian territory by bringing an end to Israeli occupation and apartheid. The Assembly voted for an immediate ceasefire (resolution ES-10/22) and the Security Council, too, adopted a resolution for an immediate ceasefire (resolution 2728 (2024)), yet we have been compelled to witness the Israeli atrocities continuing unabated at an unprecedented level of ferocity, resulting in mounting deaths of innocent Palestinians, 70 per cent of whom are women and children.

For decades, a member of the United Nations has been allowed to commit the crime of genocide and atrocity crimes. For decades, breaches and violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, have continued. Countless United Nations resolutions failed to bring an end to the genocide and war crimes. The continued failure to ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and to establish an independent, viable and sovereign State of Palestine has resulted in eroding trust in the United Nations. We must reverse that by doing the right thing: applying international law and international humanitarian law, impartially and without any bias across the globe.

It is the seventy-sixth year following the Nakba — the historical injustice visited upon the Palestinians just after the establishment of the United Nations. One of the objectives of the establishment of the Organization was to create conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law could be maintained. Unfortunately, we are still struggling in this organ to ensure the rightful place of the State of Palestine in this community of nations.

In that context, the General Assembly adopted the historic resolution last Friday by a wide margin, granting new rights and privileges to Palestine, and called on the Security Council to reconsider Palestine's request to become the 194th member of the United Nations. The vote indeed reflected the wide global support for its full membership in the United Nations, with an overwhelming majority of countries expressing deep concern at the escalating death toll in Gaza and fears of an Israeli offensive in Rafah, where about 1.3 million Palestinians have sought refuge. Such an

offensive could once again cause widespread death and destruction, along with unspeakable misery for the Palestinians. We note with serious disappointment that the Council has been dysfunctional and paralysed, on repeated occasions, on the issue of Palestinian rights for statehood.

Today my delegation reiterates its steadfast position that Palestine's full membership in the United Nations may be instrumental to paving the way for a solution to the decades-long injustice and atrocities committed against the Palestinians. In the past seven months, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed and thousands injured. Thousands of bodies are buried under rubble and, despite efforts by the international community, there is no sign of a solution. We all know how ceasefire initiatives have been thwarted. We condemn an Israeli military attack in Rafah, where 1.5 million Palestinians have been sheltering, the majority in makeshift tents after fleeing from northern Gaza. The insistence of the occupying Power on its invading Rafah, irrespective of a truce deal, is totally acceptable.

Before concluding, I thank all the Member States who voted in favour of resolution ES-10/23. We now call upon the Security Council, loudly and clearly, to reconsider and vote in favour of the General Assembly's recommendation, in strict conformity with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. García Toma (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Pessimists say that it is useless to exalt reason when those who will decide want to be wrong. Looking to traditional wisdom, one might say: blessed are those who set aside their predilections and prejudices to look at things with wisdom and resolve them with a vocation for justice. With that beatitude in mind, the Government of Peru reiterates its deep concern over the severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, where more than a million people, mainly women and children, have been displaced, in a despicable manner, in search of an uncertain refuge. That situation has been compounded by the recent start of military operations by Israel in the city of Rafah. Peru urges the rescinding of evacuation orders and opposes any forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population because it is contrary to international humanitarian law. Likewise, we make a determined plea — one that we understand to be shared by a concerned global community — for the members of the Security Council to fully comply, within the framework of law and in good faith, with their duties under the Charter and to

agree on immediate actions for the protection of the civilian population.

Peru strongly and categorically renews, reaffirms and confirms its condemnation of the deranged terrorist attacks of Hamas. Those attacks must be condemned unequivocally and cannot be justified. Likewise, my country shares the international concern regarding the escalation of violence throughout the Middle East, which endangers international peace and security. Disputes should and must be resolved by peaceful means. There is no other way, nor is any other option acceptable. In turn, the right to self-defence must be exercised within the framework of respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, taking into consideration the principles of distinction and proportionality, and without the civilian population being affected in any way.

The current situation makes it imperative to genuinely reaffirm our commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and it is inexcusable not to do so. Peace and security, human rights and development are intertwined pillars. As Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed has pointed out, we cannot achieve sustainable development or protect human rights if the foundations of international law are undermined at all times. Peru therefore reaffirms that the resolutions of the Security Council and the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice, whose Statute is an integral part of the Charter, are binding. Full, faithful, effective and immediate compliance is therefore necessary.

Only under the cover of peace and security can we speak of development. Only under the auspices of peace and security can we speak of a sustainable future. The current international situation requires that the multilateral system offer guarantees of functioning without parenthesis or gaps and that it work for the peoples, without distinction, in their complete diversity. The system must work for present and future generations. Today more than ever, Peru renews its firm commitment to multilateralism and its resolute defence of the United Nations system. However, that system must adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter that inspired the adherence of so many nations. The system cannot tolerate violations of international humanitarian law for any reason. In that context, the gross and patent inaction of the Security Council jeopardizes the future of the Organization.

Peru reiterates the need for an immediate ceasefire, the prompt and unconditional release of all hostages and the guarantee of full, rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian aid for the civilian population in Gaza. Only thus can we avert an even more catastrophic situation. Furthermore, the Government of Peru is committed to the search for peace and, consistent with its principled position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we support initiatives aimed at finding a long-term political solution based on the existence of two States, Palestine and Israel.

Just as in 1949, when Peru voted in favour of resolution 273 (III), by which Israel was admitted as a Member of the United Nations, Peru will support the admission of Palestine when it submits its application to the United Nations. We therefore urge the Security Council to reconsider favourably the State of Palestine's application to be admitted as a full Member of the United Nations. In that regard, the resolution we adopted on Friday (resolution ES-10/23) is a step in that direction, which is why Peru co-sponsored it and voted in full conscience in favour of it. Let the words everyone has expressed in this Hall not be in vain but light the way to understanding and peace.

Mr. Kanu (Sierra Leone): When Sierra Leone explained its position on the vote on draft resolution S/2024/312 — which would have recommended the granting of full membership status for the State of Palestine at the United Nations — in the Security Council on 18 April (see S/PV.9609), we paraphrased Martin Luther King Jr. in stating that the State of Palestine's membership may have been delayed, as often happens in episodes of injustice, but as the arc of the moral universe may be long but bends towards justice, Palestine's membership in the United Nations cannot be denied. The convening of the General Assembly on this issue lends credence to the bending of the arc of the moral universe towards justice. We therefore thank the President of the General Assembly for convening the resumed tenth emergency special session at the request of the Chairs of the Group of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, pursuant to resolution ES-10/22.

Our debate is being held in the context of the ongoing hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the failure of the Security Council to recommend the admission of the State of Palestine as a Member of the United Nations, owing to the non-concurring vote of one permanent member of the Council. The 12 members of

the Security Council that voted in favour of the draft resolution represented about 7.6 billion people of the world's population.

We take the opportunity in this representative Assembly to restate our position, which is that we consider the State of Palestine's request for membership as legitimate and believe that it could create a pathway to a political horizon founded on the principles of the two-State solution and based on the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted on the question of Palestine, beginning with resolution 181 (II), which recommends an independent Jewish State and an independent Arab State, and in line with Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations.

The recognition over the years of the State of Palestine by 139 Member States and the Holy See also speaks to that legitimacy. We restate that our support for Palestine's application for United Nations membership is in line with the requirements of Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, the applicable rules of procedure of both the General Assembly and the Security Council and the guidance provided by the International Court of Justice on its advisory opinion on the conditions of admission of a State to membership in the United Nations, issued on 28 May 1948.

As we also address this question in the context of the ongoing occupation of the State of Palestine, we are also of the view that, at this stage of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip, and in engaging to resolve the three quarters of a century of conflict and struggle for self-determination, it is important for the State of Palestine to be able to engage on an equal level with its neighbour, the State of Israel, honouring the principle of the sovereign equality of States of the Charter of the United Nations.

In recognizing the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and the failure of the Security Council to recommend the admission of the State of Palestine as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations, we welcome the adoption of resolution ES-10/23, outlining additional rights and privileges of participation of the State of Palestine, commencing during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to its existing rights and privileges. Sierra Leone co-sponsored and accordingly voted in favour of the resolution.

We wish to highlight in particular operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, which recommends that

the Security Council reconsider the matter favourably. In our view, that would be in line with Article 10 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that:

“The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter ... and ... may make recommendations to Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council”.

It is also in keeping with previous practice of the General Assembly.

In addition to what we have accomplished here today through the provisions of resolution ES-10/23, more concerted efforts need to be made to achieve sustainable and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, address the plight of the Palestinian people, ensure security and stability for the citizens of Israel and Palestine, end the occupation and institute governance reforms that will strengthen the Palestinian Authority's effectiveness and control over the Palestinian territory.

Regarding the ongoing hostilities in the Gaza Strip and other parts of the occupied Palestinian territory, Sierra Leone would like to emphasize the following points.

First, we are deeply concerned about the reports of the commencement of a military operation in Rafah. Such an operation is no longer a threat but a reality backed by evacuation orders, the closure of border crossings and intensified bombings and incursions. We join the Secretary-General in noting the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any military operation in Rafah and in calling on the parties to come to an agreement.

Secondly, we continue to express our strong support for the ongoing diplomatic efforts, and we were encouraged by the positive signs of progress over recent days for a negotiated deal that could lead to a ceasefire and an exchange of hostages and prisoners. We urge the parties to the conflict to use this opportunity to engage in good faith to immediately halt the humanitarian catastrophe and for an agreement for a permanent ceasefire.

Thirdly, we are appalled by the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The World Food Programme has already indicated that unless there is an immediate unfettered flow of humanitarian aid into the entire Gaza Strip, there will be full-blown famine in the north of Gaza, with a spillover risk in the south. We

therefore condemn the attacks on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, including the reported arson attack on its East Jerusalem headquarters.

Fourthly and finally, we reiterate the call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and for the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023) and 2728 (2024), and those of the General Assembly, as well as the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice, to be fully respected by the parties and implemented.

Mrs. Kuzee (Namibia): My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50), and I would like to make the following additional remarks in my national capacity.

The significance of the vote taken by the General Assembly to adopt resolution ES-10/23 resonates deeply with the Republic of Namibia. In November 1988, Namibia formally recognized the State of Palestine. Our joint history, however, predates that formal recognition, as we together have shared bitter struggles in our common endeavour to shake off the shackles of colonialism and injustice and to be recognized as free and independent nations whose peoples have the right to determine their futures. We place a high premium on the recognition of the State of Palestine as a sovereign and independent State, as we regard recognition as a meaningful step to support the process of achieving peace in the Middle East.

As the most representative global institution, the General Assembly has unanimously shown the desire of the majority of the world's countries to see Palestine take its rightful place among the family of nations. The General Assembly, with its broad-based representativeness, has sound reasoning for requesting the Security Council to reconsider any decisions or resolutions it fails to adopt, especially when such decisions or resolutions are, in fact, supported by the majority of the Council's membership, whereas the unilateral use of the veto impedes the will of the majority.

I speak today before an Assembly that has repeatedly affirmed the inalienable right of Palestine to self-determination. I address an Assembly that has consistently called for full implementation of

resolutions pertaining to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Today I specifically recall paragraph 3 of resolution 37/43, which,

“[r]eaffirms the inalienable right of the Namibian people, the Palestinian people and all peoples under foreign and colonial domination to self-determination, national independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty without outside interference”.

Despite its adoption in 1982, together with several resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine, there is a continued attempt to circumvent the realization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Indeed, as shared by Minister Riyadh Mansour, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, on Friday, 10 May 2024, the fate of the Palestinian people is not occupation, colonialism and death (see A/ES-10/PV.49).

Even in the face of continued grave injustices, the moral standard for the Organization is the Charter of the United Nations, which remains our North Star. The Charter continues to be the glue that binds us, and it is within the ambit of the Charter that we find the grounds for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people. Settlement, expansion, annexation, occupation and attacks on civilian populations and infrastructure remain flagrant violations of international law. Namibia will therefore continue to support efforts geared towards peacebuilding and laying the ground for confidence-building as a commitment towards a two-State solution. That is because we firmly believe that the absence thereof creates an environment conducive to war festering.

Our reference point for injustice in the Palestinian case is 15 May 1948, when the Nakba commenced. Seventy-six years later, that historical injustice is marked by tragedy upon tragedy. The consideration of Palestine's admission must remind us of our collective obligation to bring an end to illegal occupation and the wrongful acts that emanate from its continuation. The Assembly bears a special responsibility for the decolonization of Palestine, and it remains the primary responsibility of the United Nations to ensure the dismantling of the illegal occupation, forced displacement and continued humanitarian catastrophes in the State of Palestine.

The adoption of resolution ES-10/23 by a majority vote in the Assembly reaffirms the commitment of States

to the letter and spirit of the Charter, whose provisions assert the duty of States to promote through joint and separate action the realization of the principles of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples. Namibia continues to make an appeal for the Palestinian people to be allowed their right to determine the destiny of their territory. Prolonged occupation does not, by any means, legitimate certain actions, nor serve as tacit acceptance of internationally wrongful acts.

Namibia's own quest for freedom and independence was not a selfish quest to only bring about a new beginning for our people. It was a quest supported by large tracts of the international community. Bolstered by Member States' solidarity, we valiantly demonstrated that illegal occupation can be fought and self-determination can be attained. It is for that reason that Namibia remains anchored in its principled commitment to ensuring the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, who have consistently pursued liberty, justice and freedom by legitimate means.

Mr. De La Gasca (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Three weeks ago, on 18 April, Ecuador's vote in the Security Council (see S/PV.9609) again demonstrated its commitment to the people of Palestine and reaffirmed my country's recognition, 14 years ago, of the State of Palestine. Ecuador has historically supported the Palestinian people's legitimate right to a State free from foreign occupation and has supported the processes entailing its self-determination and full independence in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

On 24 December 2010, Ecuador recognized Palestine as a free and independent State, within 1967 borders. Subsequently, in 2012, Ecuador co-sponsored and voted for resolution 67/19, whereby the General Assembly granted Palestine the status of Observer State. Since 2014, Ecuador and Palestine have maintained embassies in each other's capitals.

It is my country's hope that conditions will soon be ripe for the Security Council to unanimously recommend the admission of Palestine, and then the General Assembly will finally admit — also unanimously — the State of Palestine as a full-fledged member of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The international community, including my country, supports a peaceful, negotiated, definitive and just solution to the Palestinian question,

with the existence of two States — Palestine and Israel. The admission of Palestine as a member of the Organization is consonant with the desired two-State solution and will be a significant step in finally making it a reality.

Mr. Mao (Cambodia): My delegation stands firmly behind the General Assembly — the most representative body of the United Nations — in its exercise of its duty to maintain global peace and security and to ensure that all nations and peoples can equally exercise their legitimate rights to self-determination.

With a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza and a humanitarian ceasefire urgently needed, my delegation joins others in supporting and echoing the Secretary-General's appeal to all the parties concerned to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law and remain engaged in constructive dialogue in order to stop the ongoing bloodshed and prevent a further escalation into a regional war. Cambodia calls for sincere and renewed efforts to resolve the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict through diplomacy and peaceful means, starting with a permanent ceasefire agreement, in order to bring lasting peace to the region.

It is high time that the international community supported the State of Palestine in its quest for self-determination, national independence and sovereignty. As a co-sponsor, Cambodia welcomes the adoption, on Friday, of draft resolution ES-10/23, on the admission of new members to the United Nations, which is crucial to enabling the full representation of the Palestinian people on the global stage.

Cambodia has consistently supported the creation of an independent state of Palestine on the basis of 1967 borders and a two-State solution, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In that spirit, Cambodia supports the right of the State of Palestine to become a full Member of the United Nations. We believe that engendering effective implementation of a two-State solution would allow the people of Palestine and Israel to live side by side in peace and good neighbourliness. Cambodia sees no other way on this issue.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to emphasize the significance of upholding the principles of equal mutual respect and tolerance as the bedrock of peaceful coexistence, peace and progress in the entire region.

Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett (Guyana): Guyana aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Mauritania and Uganda on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50), respectively. I take this opportunity to offer further reflections in my national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to express Guyana's appreciation to the States Members of the General Assembly for their overwhelming support of resolution ES-10/23, adopted last Friday, for enhancing the participation of the State of Palestine in the work of the General Assembly. We had hoped that the General Assembly would have adopted a resolution admitting Palestine into membership of the United Nations, and regret that the requisite political will garnered in the Security Council to make that possible was stymied by the use of the veto (see S/PV.9609).

However, there is good reason to be hopeful. The resolution adopted last week was supported by 143 countries — more than the number required for membership. That sends a clear message to the world that the General Assembly has determined that the State of Palestine qualifies for membership of the United Nations, pursuant to Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the General Assembly is ready to welcome Palestine as an equal member.

Guyana hopes that the recommendation for the Security Council to favourably reconsider the application will be acted upon with the urgency it deserves. As a member of the Council, Guyana would again vote in favour of a draft resolution recommending Palestine's admission to the United Nations. Collectively, our strident efforts must continue until we correct this 75-year-old injustice against the Palestinian people.

The current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be a cause for our collective concern. When examined through the lenses of the three United Nations pillars of human rights, sustainable development and peace and security, an extremely worrisome trend becomes clear. It is a trend of attempted domination and control of one people by another, in contradiction of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and against the dictates of international law. Consequently, the Palestinians live a consistent experience in which their human rights are trampled with no redress, their sustainable development is on

hold, and peace and security appear to be a chimera, as they live in the constant shadows of war and violence.

Let us be clear, that situation existed decades before 7 October 2023. Indeed, according to the United Nations, 2023 was well on track to be the deadliest year for Palestinians before that fateful day. But as we contemplate the war that began with the horrific attacks on Israel on 7 October, those truths are borne out with unfortunate precision. The dimensions of the man-made humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza are an ample demonstration of how the Palestinians' human rights have been consistently and deliberately violated. Their right to life has been disregarded. Nearly 35,000 of them — the great majority being women and children — have been killed in this senseless war. Over 70,000 more have been maimed. Their right to dignity and respect in death has been disregarded. Consider that hundreds of them have been buried in mass graves with hands bound behind their backs — some stripped naked, some visibly tortured. We call for a full and independent international investigation into those heinous incidents. Their right to food continues to be disregarded. There are 1.1 million Palestinians facing catastrophic hunger, and there is a full-blown man-made famine in the north of the country. To compound that, the few entry points for vital aid to enter Gaza have been shut off by Israel, while it pummels the Palestinian people with bombs and bullets.

Guyana condemns, in the strongest terms, the ongoing hostilities in Rafah and the threats of further intensification. The dehumanizing of the Palestinian people appears to be systematic, so human rights become moot to the occupying Power. We demand unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to reach the Palestinian people and condemn the decision of the Israeli Government to close several entry points, including the Rafah crossing, into the Gaza Strip.

When we consider the global quest for sustainable development, the Palestinian people have been undoubtedly left behind and even further so under current circumstances. The recent assessment by the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia projects gross domestic product loss for Palestine at 29 per cent for this year, if the war continues. Poverty rates are projected to reach 50 per cent, and human development is projected to be set back by at least 17 years. Guyana believes that those are conservative estimates.

Even if the war were to end today, mammoth efforts would be required to establish peace and security for the Palestinian people. On a practical level, for example, the amount of unexploded ordnance, including 1,000-pound bombs, estimated to be present in the Gaza Strip, will continue to pose significant danger to Palestinians. In fact, the Mine Action Service of the United Nations has estimated that those ordnances would take at least 14 years to be cleared.

Practical considerations aside, how can we guarantee the security of Palestinians in a context of impunity? How can they be assured of protection when the occupying Power decimates their homes and their livelihoods, and starves them without consequences? As the United Nations, we cannot allow that impunity to continue. That brings me to three fundamental issues that the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, must address, and that are all linked to accountability.

First, we must consider how to ensure redress for Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people in this latest cycle of violence. The legal tools and frameworks exist. We only need to use them.

Secondly, we must consider the responsibility of the occupying Power — Israel — in the reconstruction of Gaza.

Thirdly, we must consider how the prolongation of the conflict and the impunity with which the atrocities against the Palestinian people have been carried out have injured the image of the United Nations, and we must take steps to correct that.

The war in Gaza must end now. There must be an immediate ceasefire. Hostages in Gaza and Palestinians illegally detained in Israel must be released now. That is the collective call of the international community. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be resolved now. That is also our collective call. However, Israel cannot be given the prerogative of deciding the terms of the resolution of the conflict. The Palestinian people must exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

Finally, Guyana urges the General Assembly to redouble its efforts to safeguard and protect the human rights of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, to ensure that they are not left behind in the global quest for sustainable development and to ensure that they can live in peace and security alongside the State of Israel, as envisaged in the two-State solution. That is the only

viable formula for peace — the two-State solution, with a free State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders. The time is to implement it is now.

Mrs. Asaju (Nigeria): My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Uganda and Mauritania on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, respectively (see A/ES-10/PV.50). We would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

At the outset, my delegation would like to commend the President on the resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, on the situation in Palestine and the Gaza Strip, to discuss the important issue bordering on freedom, self-determination, peace and security. My delegation welcomes the adoption of the resolution entitled "Admission of new Members to the United Nations" (resolution ES-10/23), last Friday by an overwhelming majority of Member States, which shows the inalienable right of the State of Palestine to statehood, freedom and self-determination. Nigeria supports the process for the attainment of Palestinian statehood and its admission to full membership in the United Nations.

It is rather disheartening that, despite the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions of October and December 2023 (resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22), as well as Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), of March 2024, on a ceasefire in Gaza, the dire humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and particularly in the Gaza strip and other areas, has taken on a very critical dimension, which the entire world cannot continue to ignore. The daily increase in displaced persons and shortage of humanitarian supplies due to impeded access have had a great impact on the people, have exacerbated the humanitarian catastrophe in the region and have increased civilian casualties. My delegation is deeply concerned about the systemic and continued loss of civilian lives, mostly defenceless women and children, caught up in the war, and hundreds of others still facing hunger, starvation, forced displacement and the destruction of infrastructure. The world must make concerted decisions to achieve a lasting solution, based on the international principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions.

The Charter is crystal clear on the promotion and protection of international law, international

humanitarian law and international human rights law. The situation in Gaza requires our urgent action. We therefore call for a comprehensive ceasefire and quick de-escalation of hostilities, which is the minimum requirement for humanitarian operations to be successful in the Gaza Strip. The seemingly permanent cycle of violence needs to be broken. It is very unfortunate that the draft resolution (S/2024/312) calling for the admission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations was defeated by a veto cast by a permanent member of the Security Council. It is imperative to note that the denial of the right to Palestinian statehood will indefinitely prolong the conflict, and a one-State solution with a huge Palestinian population within that State without any real sense of freedom, rights and dignity is inconceivable. The only way to address the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians is through the two-State formula. In that regard, Nigeria calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities, as enshrined in the Charter, in finding a lasting solution to the recurrent crisis between the States of Israel and Palestine by implementing the two-State formula. It is incumbent upon the members of the Security Council to take concrete and bold steps to ensure the protection and well-being of the Palestinian people, while taking firm action to prevent further destruction and halting the violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including the decision of the International Court of Justice on Gaza.

We would like to commend the continuous humanitarian support services rendered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. We therefore urge Member States, United Nations agencies, the international community and organizations to provide the Agency with sufficient and predictable funding to enable it to continue its vital role, which is not only limited to providing humanitarian and basic services to Palestinian refugees, but also enhancing stability in the region.

In conclusion, we call on the General Assembly and the Security Council to act swiftly in collaboration with Member States and the international community to uphold the human dignity of the Palestinian people to achieve freedom, self-determination and independence, as well as attain full membership of the United Nation, with full privileges and rights under the sovereign State of Palestine.

Mr. Da Cruz (Angola): My delegation aligns itself with this statement delivered by the representative of

Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/ES-10/PV.50).

Angola co-sponsored and voted on Friday, 10 May, in favour of the resolution entitled “Admission of new Members to the United Nations” (resolution ES-10/23) to expand the rights and privileges of Palestine, as a non-member Observer State of the United Nations, including the right to be seated among Member States in alphabetical order and its full and effective participation in United Nations conferences and meetings convened by the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations. The vote reflected the overwhelming support for full membership of Palestine in the United Nations. Angola reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to an independent State, and calls on the Security Council to reconsider in a favourable manner the issue of admitting Palestine as a full United Nations Member.

The resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, on illegal Israel actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, is taking place within a challenging and complex international context, in which we have witnessed an increase in violence in the Middle East since the attack on 7 October 2023 and a humanitarian catastrophe that is resulting in the loss of lives of innocent civilians, including women and children, every day. We once again condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation or actors. Although Israel has the right to defend itself and protect its citizens, its disproportionate reaction in the Gaza Strip has already caused more than 35,000 deaths, 78,000 injuries and the internal displacement of 1.7 million of its inhabitants, which is 75 per cent of the total population. Those numbers are rapidly rising, as Israel moves forward with its plans for a ground invasion of Rafah.

History will condemn us in the future if we maintain complicit silence today and do nothing to end the massacre of civilians in the Gaza Strip. The humanitarian situation requires a collective, united and immediate response from the international community. Angola demands the immediate end of Israel’s military intervention, the establishment of a lasting ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages and unrestricted access to medical and pharmaceutical assistance in accordance with the principles of human rights law and international humanitarian law.

For His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola,

“The United Nations, namely the Security Council, must take concrete steps to implement its own resolutions, which reflect the expressed will of the overwhelming majority of its Member States, by creating an independent and sovereign State of Palestine”.

In his opinion,

“[That is] the only way to put a definitive end to this old and very violent conflict, placing the two peoples, Jewish and Palestinian, and the two States of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and harmony, cooperating in a normal way, as is supposed to happen between neighbouring countries that share common borders”.

The crisis in the Gaza Strip is at serious risk of spilling over and turning into a regional conflict, with unpredictable consequences and dangerous implications for international peace and security. All parties must exercise restraint, respect the norms of

international law and recognize that the only way to achieve lasting peace in Palestine is through dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The role of the United Nations remains fundamental in the search for universal solutions based on the principles of its Charter, which mandates the United Nations and its Member States to maintain international peace and security, uphold international law and collaborate on resolving international problems and improving respect for human rights. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is yet another test on multilateralism as a mechanism for resolving the intricate international challenges we face today and demonstrates the urgent need to reform the United Nations system — especially its Security Council — to make it more effective, representative and inclusive.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting. We shall hear the remaining speakers this afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Hall.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.