



General Assembly

Tenth Emergency Special session

57th plenary meeting

Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Yang (Cameroon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Resumption of the tenth emergency special session

The President: I declare the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly resumed.

Members will recall that, in paragraph 19 of its resolution ES-10/24, of 18 September 2024, the Assembly decided

“to adjourn the tenth emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the President of the General Assembly at its most recent session to resume its meeting upon request from Member States”.

In that regard, I should like to draw the attention of delegations to document A/ES-10/1016, which contains a letter dated 21 November 2024 from the representatives of Lebanon, Cameroon and Uganda, in their respective capacities as Chairs of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Group and the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, requesting the resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

I intend to conduct the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the past practices of its emergency special sessions.

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 13 September 2024 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/ES-10/1010)

The President: Members will also recall that, at its 53rd plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session on 17 September 2024, the General Assembly took note of the information contained in document A/ES-10/1010 concerning Member States that are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room AB-0928 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).



In this connection, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to follow the provisions of resolution 79/3 of 9 October 2024, by which Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia are permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its seventy-ninth session, and to also allow those Member States to vote at the tenth emergency special session?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 5 (continued)

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

The President: For over a year, the people of Gaza and Israel have endured a relentless cycle of death, destruction and displacement. More than 43,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 100,000 injured, most of them civilians, women and children. Approximately 100 hostages remain in captivity. The horror in Gaza must end.

The demands of the international community are clear. They are also evident in draft resolution S/2024/835, considered by the Security Council on 20 November, which received 14 votes in favour, but was ultimately blocked by a veto by a permanent member (see S/PV.9790). Once again, the Security Council is paralysed, unable to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Once again, the General Assembly is called on to take the lead on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be resolved through endless war and occupation. The conflict will end only when Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in their own sovereign and independent States, in peace, security and dignity. It is time for the international community to take concrete and meaningful action. We must strive for a just, comprehensive and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — one grounded in international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

International law, the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions must be respected by all Member States. That is especially true for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which was established and mandated by the General Assembly. The Agency is providing protection, shelter, food, water and medical care to millions of suffering Palestinians; in particular, under the most difficult circumstances, in Gaza. Despite the humanitarian need, the Agency's future in the occupied Palestinian territory is in peril.

I must therefore once again voice my deep alarm at the recent decision taken by the Israeli Parliament to adopt two laws that, if implemented, would prevent the Agency from undertaking its essential work in Gaza and in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. A collapse of UNRWA's operations in the occupied Palestinian territory as a result of those two laws would exacerbate an already catastrophic humanitarian situation. The cessation of the Agency's activities in the occupied Palestinian territory would mean that Palestinian refugees would no longer receive desperately needed and life-saving assistance. That is unacceptable. I urgently call on the Government of Israel to comply with its international and

legal obligations and allow the Agency to continue its vital work — as mandated by the General Assembly — in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

As representatives of the international community, it is our shared duty to uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations: justice, respect for international law and faith in the dignity and worth of every human being. Those principles are the foundations for peace and our work to guarantee lasting security for both the people of Palestine and Israel.

I now give the floor to the observer of the Observer State of Palestine.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine): As I stand here addressing the General Assembly, ethnic cleansing is being carried out in broad daylight in Beit Lahiya and all of northern Gaza. As I stand here, displaced families have been bombed yet again in tents in Al-Mawasi, burned alive while the whole world is watching. Every hour of every day, more Palestinian children, women and men fall victim to the depraved Israeli onslaught — lives lost, families devastated and an entire people brutalized, terrorized and traumatized, with no end in sight. After 424 days, the genocide is still ongoing, with mass killing, mass displacement, mass detention, mass destruction of all requirements of life and mass starvation. The gravest of crimes are being perpetrated with a savagery unseen since the Second World War. It is a cruel war of atrocities against an entire civilian population, breaching every rule and crossing every red line.

How is that possible? How can the world allow it to go on? The perpetrators are known. Their whereabouts are known. Their crimes are live-streamed. They openly declare their intent to kill, maim, destroy, starve and ethnically cleanse. And yet they continue to sleep comfortably in their beds, while their victims wander the Earth, from one death to another. Nowhere is safe in what has become the most dangerous place in the world. The perpetrators do so confidently, relying on decades of impunity, believing that they will not be stopped and that there will never be a cost for their crimes. That impunity must be brought to an end. The arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court must be a turning point, the beginning of the end for the impunity and a time to start finally holding criminal perpetrators accountable and upholding the rule of law, protecting civilians and achieving justice for victims and stopping ongoing crimes and deterring future crimes.

The full-fledged assault against the Palestinian people has been combined with an all-out assault against all those trying to save human lives and uphold the truth and international law — humanitarians, doctors, nurses, rescue teams, journalists all targeted, with hundreds paying the ultimate price with their lives as they tried to save others. And a primary target of Israeli attacks has been none other than the United Nations, its Secretary-General, its agencies, bodies and peacekeeping forces, its Charter and its resolutions. And the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) — the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza and the lifeline of Palestinian refugees — has been under constant attack from day one. The aim of the occupying Power is clear: to be rid of UNRWA as a way to further harm the refugees the Agency is mandated to assist and protect and to negate their existence and rights.

The Israeli Government has gone rogue. It is inciting action against UNRWA within the United Nations, in the streets of New York and across the world,

displaying billboards on which it portrays UNRWA workers as combatants and peddles a false narrative that is intended to be a green light to its occupation forces to kill, maim, detain and torture UNRWA staff, attack UNRWA buildings and shelters and pressure the international community to abandon UNRWA and the Palestinian refugees to the doomed fate Israel has planned for them. The pictures that they have been circulating, inciting action against UNRWA, should bear the tag line “promoted and financed by the Israeli Government”. We know who the parties guilty of circulating that incitement and false propaganda are. That aggression against a United Nations agency and the licence taken by a State Member of the United Nations to kill United Nations personnel cannot be tolerated and must have consequences, including with regard to its ability to enjoy rights and privileges as a Member of the United Nations. This violent and repugnant defamation campaign against UNRWA and the United Nations as a whole must be stopped, and Israel must be held accountable for its incitement and the crimes it committed against the United Nations.

Israel has breached every single one of the provisional orders of the International Court of Justice aimed at addressing the risk of genocide. Instead, it has persisted and doubled down on the commission of atrocity crimes, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which it perpetrates every second of the day. We call on all States to use any and all leverage that they have to put an end to the massacres. This genocide must be stopped by any means available. Israel wants the Assembly to be outraged by the use of the word “genocide”. We call on the Assembly to be outraged by the commission of acts of genocide against children and youth, against women and men, against the elderly and the disabled; to stop those atrocities against the Palestinian people; and to stop that assault on our collective humanity. There is only one way to stop this genocide, to save lives, to free prisoners and hostages and to preserve the hope of a different future. We all know that. That way is an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire. It is what we have been calling for every day for 14 months. It is what the General Assembly wisely called for more than a year ago in the face of the onslaught, the humanitarian catastrophe and the havoc that Israel was already inflicting on Gaza.

Today we once again call on all States to support a ceasefire, to demand a ceasefire, to do what is necessary to ensure an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire — to silence the guns, to stop the bloodshed and to save human lives. Everything is at stake in Gaza. Those who believe in freedom and shared peace and security must act now. Gaza today is the bleeding heart of Palestine and a painful open wound for the human family. Stop the bleeding and restore life in Gaza so that it can once again be the beating heart of Palestine. Stop the bleeding so that we can restore credibility to our international system, so we can preserve it for future generations, so that our people can live, so that our region can thrive and so that international peace and security can be preserved.

Yesterday, by an overwhelming majority, the General Assembly voted for an end to Israel’s unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and for a high-level international conference to implement the United Nations resolutions pertaining to the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the two-State solution (resolution 79/81). Only the realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and return, and only the achievement of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the 1967 borders,

with East Jerusalem as its capital, can truly transform our region, and peace in our region can help transform the world.

Stop the genocide. End this illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime tormenting the Palestinian people. Support humanitarianism, support UNRWA and prevent Israel's attempt to eliminate the Agency and its indispensable life-saving support to millions of Palestinians in Gaza and throughout the region. The General Assembly must uphold its responsibilities under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and uphold the orders indicating provisional measures and the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice. Preserve a world in which the rule of law reigns. Support freedom, which is the key to peace. What we do today will determine what we will all suffer or enjoy tomorrow.

The images of our children burning in tents, with no food in their bellies and no hopes and no horizon for the future, having endured pain and loss for more than a year, should haunt the conscience of the world and prompt action to end this nightmare and to stop it from ever happening again to our people or any other people — never again. We plead with all nations gathered here to extinguish the fire devouring our children. Is that too much to ask? We appeal to them to support the important resolutions before them and for action to implement those resolutions, to create a reality different from the horrific scenario that Israel insists on imposing. We appeal to the General Assembly to rise to its historic responsibility to act.

Mr. Danon (Israel): Every year, we go through the same routine and the same tired resolutions villainizing Israel, laying bare the bias and prejudice of the United Nations for all to see. But let me remind the General Assembly how this all started. Seventy-seven years ago, the Assembly voted on the United Nations partition plan (resolution 181 (II)), at a moment that offered Israelis and Palestinians alike the chance to live side by side in peace. Israel said yes; the Arab world said no. They rejected coexistence, choosing instead to declare war on the newborn Jewish State.

Since that day, the Assembly has maintained a neurotic obsession with what it calls the question of Palestine. Over decades, the United Nations and many of its Member States have encouraged and cultivated Palestinian rejectionism, violence, incitement and a false narrative of victimhood. In 1947, the Palestinians said no. In 1967, they again said no. In 2000, they said no. In 2008, once again, they said no. Time and again, opportunities for peace were met with rejection. Palestinian so-called leaders have chosen conflict every time, and the Assembly rewarded them for it. The Assembly has reinforced the belief that peace can be postponed and that violence is acceptable. Where was the Assembly in 2005, when Israel left Gaza, pulling out entirely and leaving the Palestinians to determine their own future. Where was it in 2006, when Hamas violently seized control of the Gaza Strip, transforming it into the world's largest terrorist base? Where was the Assembly on 7 October 2023, when Hamas mobilized and executed mass murder? And where is it today, as 100 hostages remain in the most horrifying conditions imaginable? 7 October was not just a day of horror, it was a moment that exposed the true face of Hamas and its allies, who are exclusively committed to extermination and cruelty. More than 1,200 people murdered, thousands injured, women raped, children executed, families burned alive in their homes — those atrocities should have shocked the conscience of the world. Yet, to this day, the Assembly remains silent. Over the past week, the Assembly adopted countless resolutions targeting Israel, yet not a single resolution condemning Hamas, not a single word denouncing

the 7 October 2023 massacre and nothing about the hostages still suffering in unimaginable conditions. Shame on the Assembly. Instead of confronting those crimes, the United Nations continues to enable Palestinian rejectionism.

That betrayal of peace has no end that we can foresee, unfortunately, but we see very clearly where it begins. It begins in the classroom. If there is any doubt about the systematic indoctrination of hatred, allow me to share an example of a Palestinian fifth-grade textbook. It was published by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and distributed to schools funded and supported by the United Nations and its Member States. The Members of the United Nations, the righteous nations pointing critical fingers at Israel, paid for this propaganda.

Let me quote: “Dalal Mughrabi, a name etched in glory, led with unmatched bravery”. In her footsteps, this textbook teaches the children to aspire to “heroism and martyrdom”. There is a picture. This is what the Palestinians are teaching 10-year-olds. Palestinian children are being told that the path to greatness lies in murder, that death is preferable to life and that slaughtering innocent civilians is a source of national pride. That is the Palestinian Authority, it is not Hamas, the Assembly should not be mistaken. They are explicitly taught in this very textbook that to die as a terrorist is “far better than a life of comfort and ease”.

Let me tell the Assembly who the mastermind was, who Dalal Mughrabi was. She was the mastermind of the 1978 Coastal Road massacre, a terrorist attack that left 38 innocent civilians dead, including 13 children. Her group hijacked a bus and murdered its passengers. Yet in textbooks funded by the United Nations, and therefore by many nations in this Hall, she is held up as a national hero, a role model, a symbol for children to imitate. Dalal is among many so-called heroes listed in the textbook for children. They include many murderers and many Hamas terrorists.

This is not education. It is indoctrination. It is a deliberate theft of Palestinian children’s future, robbing them of hope and tying them to a legacy of hatred and despair. Still, the United Nations and its Members continue their obsession with Israel. For almost 80 years, they have perfected their obsession with blaming Israel while they blindly fund hatred and violence. If the Assembly wants more examples, it can simply look to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which uses this textbook in its schools.

UNRWA is a unique agency, created not to solve a problem but to preserve one. Over the years, billions of dollars have been invested in UNRWA. Even before 7 October 2023, UNRWA had failed its mandate, both professionally and morally. While intended to provide social and educational services, it has become one of the largest promoters and participants in violence and hatred. I saw the tweet of the spokesperson of UNRWA from approximately 10 minutes ago. He is worried about his reputation. Well, that is too late. UNRWA’s failure extends into every aspect of its operation. Its schools have been used as weapons stores, its facilities converted into launching pads for rocket attacks, its employees moonlighting as terrorists — we have videos of UNRWA employees invading Israel on 7 October 2023, kidnapping Israelis. And who signed the pay check? The Assembly did — the United Nations.

Time and again we have presented evidence of these abuses, only to be met with silence from the Assembly. That is not just negligence, it is complicity. The role of an aid organization is to ease suffering and build hope, but UNRWA has become

a shield for terror, prolonging the conflict it claims to address. UNRWA operates hand in hand with Hamas and its diplomatic proxy, the Palestinian Authority. Together they entrench hatred, glorify violence and promote conflict.

Consider the Palestinian Authority and the so-called moderate leaders who listen to them. True leadership would make a distinction between itself and Hamas. It would condemn the atrocities of 7 October 2023. I listened to Mr. Mansour. I did not hear him mentioning Hamas. True leadership would lay the groundwork for peace through education. Instead, the PA glorifies terrorists, names schools and streets after murderers and provides a pay-to-slay policy that turns blood into profit, paying terrorists and their families to murder. The more people kill, the more money they get in their bank account.

Just let us imagine what could be achieved if the Assembly took a different path. What if the billions spent on promoting hatred and violence were redirected towards building schools that teach peace, hospitals that heal and infrastructure that connects rather than divides.

Seventy-seven years ago, when the partition plan was proposed, Israel chose peace. The other side chose war. That pattern of rejectionism continues to this day because of the United Nations indulgence of incitement and its refusal to demand accountability. Israel is a nation of peace. We pray three times a day for peace. We have demonstrated our commitment and ability with regard to peace through our treaties with six Arab nations. We used to fight with them. And the Assembly saw the Abraham Accords also. We hope that many other nations — God willing, *be'ezrat hashem, inshallah* — that more countries will join the Abraham Accords very soon.

But if the Assembly truly wants peace, it begins with dismantling this infrastructure of hate and the glorification of terror. The Assembly must stop rewarding murder, dismantle UNRWA and hold the Palestinian leadership accountable. Seventy-seven years is long enough. It is time for the United Nations and its Members to wake up. Members must stop being collaborators in violence and start being partners in peace. Israel will always remain committed to peace, but the Assembly must make no mistake, we are unwavering in our determination to stand firm, to protect our nation, to defeat those who seek to destroy us and to ensure the security and future of our people. Most of all, we will leave no stone unturned, no effort spared, until all of our hostages are freed and returned to their families. That is our promise.

Mr. Nasir (Indonesia): In the morning of 20 November, before the veto at the Security Council (see S/PV.9790), the death toll in Gaza was 43,253; this morning it reached 44,532. That means that a single raised hand and a failure to stop the war in Gaza cost 1,279 lives. Every second that the war continues, innocent civilians perish — most of them women and children. As of today, the total number of deaths in Gaza has surpassed the population of at least seven United Nations States Members, while the total number of injured has surpassed the population of at least 17 Member States. If actions equivalent to the wiping out of the whole population of a country are not genocide, please tell me what is.

Killing innocent civilians can never be justified. If a group is designated as a terrorist organization for killing approximately 1,200 people in one day, how should a country that has killed 44,532 people and counting be designated? Since

the war in Gaza began, eight draft Security Council resolutions on Palestine have been vetoed. While the Council has adopted four resolutions, none of them have been implemented. If that does not reflect the Council's impotence, tell me what does. Furthermore, since the war on the Palestinians in Gaza started, the General Assembly has met in emergency special session five times, the International Court of Justice has delivered one advisory opinion (see A/78/968) and indicated three provisional measures and the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants.

Yet, despite the clear conscience of the vast majority of nations, a powerful few choose to continue to ignore humanity, ignore the dignity of life and ignore the international rule of law. Double standards have given Israel a license to kill. Double standards are unravelling the multilateral system. Many are now saying that we are entering the age of the collapse of the international rule of law and the collapse of the international order — the very order designed by the powerful countries that are no longer committed to upholding it. We, the majority of nations with consciences, must therefore rise to protect humanity, protect the value of life and end the suffering of innocent civilians in Gaza.

It is no longer enough to call for an immediate, an unconditional and a permanent ceasefire as a way to end the atrocities faced by Palestinians in Gaza. Countries with consciences and capacities must act and take concrete action. Countries with consciences and capacities must halt all transfers of arms to Israel. We must use all the tools available to stop the war on the Palestinian people, including implementing Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) and the International Court of Justice's provisional measures.

Countries with consciences and capacities must help to reverse the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza. We must continue to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and help to stop the attack on it and on other humanitarian workers in Gaza. Indonesia pays tribute to the 333 humanitarian workers who were killed while serving in Gaza, including the 249 UNRWA staff. For the countless Palestinians in Gaza, UNRWA and all the other humanitarian workers are the fragile thread that separates life from death. Countries with consciences and capacities must also stop Israel's attempt to change the narrative of the war in Gaza. Israel's action to eliminate UNRWA is an attempt to eliminate Palestinian refugees and to eliminate Palestinians, plain and simple.

The two-State Solution is the only pathway to bringing peace to Israel and Palestine. We must therefore safeguard the two-State Solution. All States with consciences should therefore give unconditional recognition to the State of Palestine. We must also work for the immediate convening of an international peace conference, as mandated by resolution ES-10/24. That way, we will begin the process of breathing life into the realization of the two-State solution.

Amid the systematic failure and paralysis of the Security Council, the General Assembly must continue to give weight to its role as the voice of global conscience. In that regard, we urge all Member States to support and to vote in favour of the draft resolutions to be presented at this special session. It is time to rise above politics and to be on the side of justice and humanity.

Mr. Albanai (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I deliver this statement on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) — the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and my own country, the State of Kuwait.

Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting at the request of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in accordance with resolution 377 (V), entitled “Uniting for peace”, as the veto was used at the Security Council against a draft resolution (S/2024/835) on the Palestinian question (see S/PV.9790), which is the subject of this emergency special session. We underscore the responsibility that the General Assembly bears under the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Assembly resolutions vis-à-vis the Palestinian question until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement is achieved.

Since the previous convening of the tenth emergency special session, the escalation that has been undermining peace and security in the region has persisted. The countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf condemned the escalation in the Lebanese and Palestinian territories, warning of its grave repercussions and the ensuing threat it poses to international peace and security. We underlined the need to maintain security in the region and to prevent the war from spreading. We called upon the parties concerned to exercise self-restraint, to stop the violence and to prioritize dialogue.

After weeks of escalation of the Israeli aggression against brotherly Lebanon, which left thousands dead and wounded, an agreement was reached last week on an immediate ceasefire. The countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf welcome the agreement, and we express our appreciation to the United States of America and the French Republic for their efforts that allowed it to be reached. We hope that the agreement will be implemented in order to stop the bloodshed, so that peace and security can be achieved, respecting the sovereignty, independence and integrity of Lebanon and the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). We also hope that the agreement will be followed by an agreement that stops the war in the Gaza Strip and the attacks in the West Bank and puts an end to the human suffering.

The human suffering in the Gaza Strip has reached an unprecedented level, which can be seen in the number of victims and displaced persons, the complete destruction of buildings and basic infrastructure, and the levels of hunger and food insecurity, especially in the north of the Gaza Strip.

All border crossings must be immediately and unconditionally opened, and the delivery of all humanitarian aid, medical supplies and basic necessities to the people of the Gaza Strip must be guaranteed, in line with the occupying Power’s obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

The GCC States affirm their support for the brotherly Palestinian people and reiterate their condemnation of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We call for the implementation of resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023) and 2735 (2024), calling for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of the hostages, a prisoner exchange, the return of civilians to their homes, the safe and effective distribution of humanitarian aid at scale and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Strip. In that regard, we express our support for the efforts aimed at

achieving those objectives and our appreciation for the tireless efforts undertaken by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar and the United States to reach an agreement.

The GCC States express their solidarity with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and pay tribute to the great sacrifices made by the Agency, which forms the backbone of the humanitarian response to the current situation in the Gaza Strip. Millions of Palestinian refugees depend on the basic services provided by the Agency, which was established by the General Assembly as part of the collective responsibility to address the refugee issue until a just settlement had been reached.

The declaration adopted at the forty-fifth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Kuwait City on 1 December, last Sunday, reaffirmed the firm position of the GCC States towards the Palestinian cause. It is time to end the occupation; it is time to support the sovereignty of the Palestinian people over all the Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967; it is time to establish an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the resolutions of international legitimacy; and it is time to achieve all the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people. In that regard, we call for the implementation of the two most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth emergency special session: resolution ES-10/23 on the eligibility of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations and resolution ES-10/24 on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We stress the importance of the efforts of the ministerial committee headed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, formed at the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Israeli Aggression against the Palestinian People, and the efforts of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution to establish the Palestinian State. In that context, the GCC countries welcome resolution 79/81, adopted yesterday, which calls for the convening of a high-level international conference to settle the Palestinian issue and implement the two-State solution. The conference will be held next June, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of France will be co-facilitators.

In conclusion, the States members of the GCC support the draft resolution before the General Assembly at this emergency special session and call on all other Member States to vote in favour of it.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of member States belonging to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in my capacity as the Chair of the Group.

Allow me to begin by commending you, Mr. President, for the resumption of the tenth emergency special session.

The previous editions have succeeded in addressing the dire humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. They have also led to the important outcomes marked by the adoption of landmark resolutions since October 2023. Those resolutions which, among other issues, call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and

throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, support for the Palestinian bid for full United Nations membership and the endorsement of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (see A/78/968), and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, underscore the indispensable role of the General Assembly in upholding international peace and security.

However, it is with deep regret that, despite the hopeful expectation following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2728 (2024) on 25 March, which called for a ceasefire in Gaza, the humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory has only intensified. The death toll, which has primarily affected women and children, has tragically reached more than 44,000 people. Furthermore, more than 105,000 individuals have been injured, and 1.9 million people have been displaced as a result of the widespread destruction of homes, hospitals and cultural heritage sites.

In addition, to the dire humanitarian consequences, we have continued to witness the dramatic escalation of the war in Gaza and Palestine and its spillover to other parts of the Middle East region. Israel's attacks on Lebanon have intensified in the past month, with the unfortunate loss of thousands of lives and the destruction of homes, while the violation of the sovereignty of other countries of the region has continued unabated. Given that dangerous state of affairs, the continued inability of the global community to bring about an immediate end to the humanitarian disaster in the region has continued to shock human conscience all over the world.

In the light of those developments and the growing threat to global peace and security caused by the protracted conflict in the Middle East, this session provides yet another opportunity to build on the glimmers of hope resulting from the recently adopted resolutions of the General Assembly. The Palestinian people, who have long suffered the illegal occupation of their homeland and have endured displacement and the destruction of their homes, schools and religious sites, need this organ to take urgent action to stop the ongoing carnage in the region.

In the same vein, the international community has also expressed, through the Assembly, its political will to halt the armed hostilities and aggression in the Middle East. Our Group, the OIC, welcomes the arrangement for a cessation of hostilities that came into effect on 27 November 2024, bringing an end to Israel's aggression against Lebanon. In that regard, our Group calls on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territories and calls for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) in a manner that ensures sustainable stability along the border. It also calls for respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

In the face of the inability to bring about an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the recent development, which threatens the continued presence of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is of great concern. That unfortunate development is capable of hampering the proper functioning of the United Nations and its agencies in accordance with the mandate under the Charter of the United Nations.

In that regard, we should recall the relevant United Nations resolutions and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July 2024 (see

A/78/968), which reaffirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and Israel's duty to cease impeding that right. The advisory opinion also reiterates Israel's obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. It is important to note that Israel's measures, including legislation that interferes with United Nations operations in the region, in particular those of UNRWA, are in violation of international law. Our Group stresses UNRWA's vital role in providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, especially in Gaza, at this time of humanitarian catastrophe, and the need for the United Nations and its agencies to operate without obstruction. Hindering UNRWA's ability to provide essential services exacerbates the humanitarian crisis, leading to further displacement and loss of life.

The task before this session is to proceed from the expression of the Assembly's political will, as evident in its past resolutions, to adopt concrete measures, safeguard UNRWA's mandate and accord the Agency the necessary support for all its operations, including in the occupied Palestinian territory, while also taking concrete measures to end Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine. In that regard, our Group calls for the immediate implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on the cessation of hostilities in Gaza, the unhindered delivery of humanitarian supplies and the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Our Group also reaffirms the call made by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for Member States to exert diplomatic, political and legal pressure and to take all the necessary steps to halt Israel's crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing in the occupied Palestinian territory and Gaza. Our Group highlights the urgency of maintaining humanitarian assistance in the occupied Palestinian territory and calls on Israel to respect its international obligations and refrain from action that obstructs the operations of the United Nations and international organizations, as well as the urgency of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and facilities.

Furthermore, our Group reaffirms the resolution adopted by the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh on 11 November 2024, which commends the States that recognize the State of Palestine and calls on other States to follow the same path. The resolution also calls, inter alia, for the mobilization of international support to suspend Israel's participation in the General Assembly. That is plausible on the basis of Israel's violations of the Charter of the United Nations, its threat to international peace and security and its failure to fulfil its membership in the United Nations and based on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July 2024. The resolution also welcomes the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, in coordination with Arab and Islamic States and in cooperation with the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway. In that context, our Group welcomes the convening of the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza on 2 December. That conference also comes within the framework of efforts aimed at alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and addressing their humanitarian needs.

Our Group reiterates its call on all peace-loving States to support and join that process. Doing so is necessary in order to consolidate on the gains already achieved in the previous iteration of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, towards the implementation of the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of Israel's occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory.

In view of that, our Group commends the two draft resolutions to be considered by this session, including the overwhelming support that they have garnered from members of the Assembly. It is important to emphasize that the Assembly's anticipated positive action will support the global consensus on the need to protect the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people and the pre-eminent role of the United Nations in maintaining world peace, security and stability.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer.

Mrs. Samson (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

We thank you, President, for convening this debate following the veto cast in the Security Council on 20 November 2024 (see S/PV.9790). We also thank the 10 elected members of the Security Council for their efforts in trying to submit a draft resolution that received the support of 14 Council members (S/2024/835). For the EU, ending civilian suffering and preventing further loss of life in Gaza is an absolute priority, and it is a collective responsibility of the international community. In order for that to happen, we need an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the unconditional release of all hostages, the urgent improvement of access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale throughout Gaza and an enduring end to hostilities, in line with Security Council resolution 2735 (2024). All those elements are present in the draft resolution submitted in the Security Council.

The EU once again unequivocally condemns Hamas's brutal terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023. The EU also deplores the unacceptable number of civilian casualties, especially among women and children, in Gaza and the West Bank, and the catastrophic levels of hunger and the imminent risk of famine caused by the insufficient entry of aid into Gaza following Israel's response to those attacks. We also recall the need to fully implement the orders of the International Court of Justice. We call on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, put an end to all hostilities immediately and fully abide by international law, including international humanitarian law.

Allow me to reiterate the essential role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides crucial services to millions of people in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and across the region, including Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. We condemn any attempt to abrogate the 1967 agreement between Israel and UNRWA or to otherwise attempt to obstruct its capacity to execute its mandate. It is essential that UNRWA be able to continue carrying out its crucial work, in line with its mandate adopted by the General Assembly in 1949 and renewed since. The EU, together with its member States, is the largest contributor to UNRWA, and the EU is committed to continuing its support of the Agency, both politically and financially. We closely monitor and evaluate the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Review Group. As long as there is no sustainable solution to the conflict, the mandate of UNRWA will remain vital.

Finally, the EU reiterates its unwavering commitment to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-State solution, on the basis of the relevant

Security Council resolutions; its commitment to implementing Security Council resolution 2334 (2016); and its support for the Palestinian Authority to help address its most pressing needs and promote its reform agenda. The European Union will actively support and engage with international partners on concrete, irreversible steps towards a two-State solution, including through the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and the holding of an international peace conference as soon as possible. The European Union stresses that a credible pathway to Palestinian statehood is a crucial component of that political process.

Mr. Kwoba (Uganda): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 121 member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

The General Assembly will recall the resumption of the tenth emergency special session on 10 December 2023 (see A/ES-10/PV.45), and the subsequent adoption by the General Assembly of resolution ES-10/22, entitled “Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations”. There has been no reprieve to the grave situation in Gaza, and the conflict has intensified, worsening the humanitarian situation not only in Gaza but also in the Palestinian territory. NAM reaffirms its long-standing, common and principled position on the question of Palestine and is deeply concerned about the implications of the conflict in Gaza for the region.

Action must be taken immediately to de-escalate this volatile situation. That must include a halt to all unilateral and unlawful measures by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. Actions that violate Security Council resolutions, including violations of the historic and legal status quo of Jerusalem and its holy sites, are provocative, dangerous and destroy the prospects for peace. NAM condemns in the strongest terms all forms of violence, particularly Israel’s military attacks and Israel’s collective punishment against the Palestinian people, as a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, inter alia, the killing and injury of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, many of whom are women, children, humanitarian workers and journalists. NAM demands an immediate and complete cessation of all forms of hostilities, violent repression and illegal Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian people and other nations in the region.

The Non-Aligned Movement demands an immediate and permanent ceasefire and expresses support for all ongoing diplomatic efforts to reach an agreement for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Accordingly, NAM calls for the release of hostages, the exchange of Palestinian prisoners, the return of Palestinian civilians to their homes and neighbourhoods in all areas of Gaza and the safe and effective distribution of sufficient humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip to all Palestinian civilians who need it, including those with medical needs. NAM members also express concern at the reports of forced starvation and forced displacement of the civilian population throughout Gaza.

The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the arrangement for a cessation of hostilities that came into effect on 27 November 2024, bringing an end to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. In that regard, NAM calls on Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese occupied territories and calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in a manner that ensures sustainable stability along the border. It also calls for respect for Lebanon’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

NAM calls on the Security Council to urgently recommend the admission of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations as a commitment to lasting peace in the Middle East.

NAM member States once again reiterate their call for the continued provision of the necessary humanitarian and socioeconomic assistance to the Palestinian people, including the Palestinian refugees. The Movement reaffirms the continued indispensability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), along with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, in alleviating their plight and urges the international community to provide the Agency with sufficient and predictable funding. NAM rejects any attempts by Israel to legislate against the continuity of UNRWA, as that poses a threat to its significant contribution to regional stability in accordance with its General Assembly mandate.

In conclusion, NAM seizes this opportunity to reiterate its call for collective international efforts to uphold international law to bring an end to this historic and grave injustice. NAM member States reaffirm their commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects, including the plight of the Palestine refugees, and reaffirm their support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve justice and fulfil their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mrs. Frazier (Malta): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 elected members of the Security Council (E10), namely, Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland and my own country, Malta.

I begin by expressing our collective thanks to Guyana for coordinating our efforts to draft a resolution seeking to end the hostilities in Gaza.

The catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, including the lack of adequate healthcare services and the state of food insecurity creating a risk of famine, notably in North Gaza, underscores the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and take action.

The draft resolution presented by the E10 on 20 November (S/2024/835) was the result of several weeks of intensive consultations and negotiations, and it enjoyed the support of 14 Council members. If adopted, the Security Council would have unequivocally demanded the cessation of hostilities through an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, despite previous resolutions, including three with calls for humanitarian pauses and ceasefires, not being fully implemented. It would also have demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other armed groups since the attacks of 7 October 2023. It would further have deplored all acts of terrorism. We therefore deeply regret that the text was vetoed (see S/PV.9790).

On this occasion, the E10 reiterates its call on all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We once again stress the need to ensure the full, rapid, safe and unhindered entry of humanitarian aid into and throughout the Gaza Strip, including for those civilians in besieged northern Gaza. It is imperative that

the civilian population be provided with access to basic food and health services and life-saving assistance. That is an obligation under international humanitarian law.

Moreover, we underscore the importance of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East as the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza. The Agency is indispensable and irreplaceable and must be allowed to fulfil its critical mandate.

Even though our text was not adopted, the E10 will maintain our positions calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and the provision of humanitarian aid. That is the only way to stop the immense suffering and loss of life we observe in Gaza. It is the only way that can create the conditions for a credible and irreversible path towards the two-State solution, with the Gaza Strip as part of the Palestinian State, in line with Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters. We cannot afford to fail in this urgent and vital mission.

Mr. Moncada (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations.

We are participating today in this debate as a result of the negative vote cast by the United States of America in the Security Council on 20 November 2024 (see S/PV.9790), in connection with draft resolution S/2024/835, jointly submitted to that organ by its non-permanent members, which sought to demand an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire respected by all parties to the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip.

In that context, we condemn the veto cast by the Government of the United States of America, which amounts to further complicity with Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, by repeatedly preventing the Security Council from fulfilling its responsibilities, thereby severely undermining peace, security and stability in the Middle East.

Therefore, we urge the United States Government to put an end to its complicity in and indifference to the suffering of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and to yield to the overwhelming majority of the world, which defends the rule of law at the international level and respect for the Charter of the United Nations and supports the just cause of the Palestinian people.

We must insist that the Security Council shoulder its responsibilities, including on the basis of the relevant provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and also ensure that its resolutions on the question of Palestine are fully respected and implemented. The time has come for the Security Council to not only adopt a draft resolution that requires an immediate and permanent ceasefire to which all parties adhere so as to allow unimpeded, consistent and secure humanitarian access at scale, but also to adopt, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Charter of the United Nations, urgent measures aimed at ending the supply or transfer of arms, munitions and related materiel to Israel, the occupying Power, in all cases where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they could be used in the occupied Palestinian territory, which undoubtedly would prolong the illegal occupation and further extend Israel's aggression throughout the region, regard being had to the relevant provisions of resolution ES-10/24, adopted on 18 September 2024.

We urge the international community to take effective action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with international law, including by consistently condemning the double standards and selectivity that mark the application of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and by warning that those double standards gravely undermine the credibility of those States that insist on shielding the illegal and criminal actions of Israel and that they dilute the legitimacy of multilateral institutions.

We remain committed to redoubling our efforts aimed at ending the illegal Israeli occupation, at securing the independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem/Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, at fulfilling the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and to freedom, and at achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine in every respect, including that of the plight of the Palestinian refugees and the realization of their right to return, in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations and in line with the two-State solution, so as to achieve the independence of a sovereign and viable Palestinian State, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

We express our determination to prevent a normalization of the violence that Israel, the occupying Power, has unleashed in the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip, and in Lebanon alike. We cannot lose our ability to be astounded, much less stop demanding that the competent bodies of the multilateral system, specifically the Security Council of the United Nations, discharge their mandates. We demand that the Government of the United States of America, as a permanent member of the Security Council, desist from political calculations, as that is what has held the Council hostage to a paralysis that, among other factors, has emboldened Israel to pursue its policies of apartheid and extermination against the Palestinian people.

Lastly, we express our support for the responsible efforts undertaken by the General Assembly amid the ongoing tragedy being inflicted on the noble Palestinian people.

Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

We meet again at the resumed tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly as the catastrophic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and specifically in Gaza, continues to deteriorate and the Security Council remains paralysed and incapable of discharging its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The most recent chapter in the Council's failure just unfolded with its inability to adopt a draft resolution (S/2024/835) calling for an immediate cease fire on 20 November 2024 presented by the 10 elected members of the Security Council, whom we again thank for their efforts and their courage (see S/PV.9790).

This resumed session comes on the heels of the Israeli Knesset's passing of illegal legislation banning the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territory and revoking, in flagrant violation of international law, the diplomatic privileges and immunities of its staff, which are afforded to United Nations agencies working in the Palestinian territory. We also meet today at a time when the humanitarian situation in the Strip has become catastrophic, with Palestinian civilians facing

untold hardship and threats as winter approaches and Israel pursues its the policy of genocide and collective punishment against defenceless civilians, coupled with an asphyxiating blockade and the weaponization of starvation. Violence continues to spiral in the occupied West Bank, including in occupied Jerusalem, and Israel continues to bomb Syrian territory.

We saw a diplomatic window of opportunity in Lebanon when the agreement on the cessation of hostilities came into force on 27 November 2024. The Arab Group welcomes the practical steps currently being undertaken to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), starting with the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south. The Group of Arab States underscores the need for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected within its internationally recognized borders and for Israel to honour its commitments, including by withdrawing from all the occupied Lebanese territories. While we welcome this significant development, which is in line with efforts to de-escalate tensions and promote regional stability, and commend the efforts of the United States and France, our hope is that the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon will be a prelude to a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Group of Arab States reiterates the message of the Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on 11 November 2024 and presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, on the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and adopt a binding draft resolution under Chapter VII that commits Israel to a ceasefire in Gaza so as to allow the safe, unhindered delivery of immediate and sufficient humanitarian aid throughout Gaza, that opposes the displacement of Palestinian citizens within or outside of Gaza, that opposes any attempt to partition the occupied Palestinian territories, in particular the Gaza Strip, or to change the demographic or geographic character of the Strip, and that preserves the legal and historical status quo of the holy sites in occupied Jerusalem.

/The Group of Arab States reiterates its strong condemnation of the Knesset's passing of legislation against UNRWA. Through that measure, Israel aims to liquidate the Palestinian question, and with it the Palestinian refugee cause, thereby destroying prospects for stability in the region. We underscore that UNRWA's mandate will be accomplished only when a just and comprehensive solution is reached through an end to the occupation and the achievement of an independent State of Palestine on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. To that end, a just solution to the refugee issue must be found that guarantees their right to return in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy, including resolution 194 (III) and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted at the 2002 Arab Summit Conference in Beirut. We call on States to oppose that unlawful and dangerous step, and we emphasize the need to continue providing UNRWA with the necessary political and financial support to enable it to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under resolution 302 (VI) of 1949.

The Group of Arab States stresses the need to curb the unlawful Israeli escalatory measures in the occupied West Bank, which compromise the two-State solution and destroy any chance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We condemn the ongoing, systematic and unabated terrorist acts being perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinian citizens and their property — acts

that are supported and enabled by the Israeli occupation Government and protected by its forces.

We also condemn Israeli hostile actions against the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. We call on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to cease those actions. We warn against the continued violations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif, including attempts aimed at violating its existing legal and historic status quo and its partition, temporally and spatially.

The Group of Arab States condemns Israel's increasing acts of aggression against the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic, including the targeting of civilians, the destruction of civilian buildings and infrastructure and the violation of Syrian sovereignty. Those constitute gross crimes under international law and violations of the relevant United Nations resolutions. We emphasize the need for an end to the Israeli occupation of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

The Group of Arab States stresses that the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Middle East region is the implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy, respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, support for international justice and respect for, and implementation of, decisions handed down by international courts.

We wish to further underline that the Palestinian question is a central question and that a just, permanent and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without an independent State of Palestine that is based on 1967 borders, according to the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted at the 2002 Arab Summit Conference in Beirut, without an end to the Israeli occupation of occupied Arab territories and without the settlement of the question of Palestinian refugees on the basis of resolution 194 (III).

In conclusion, the Group of Arab States welcomes the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza, convened on 2 December under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The conference formed part of efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and to respond to their humanitarian needs. Our Group welcomes the statement by the President of the conference and renews its support for the efforts by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar, in cooperation with the United States of America, towards securing a permanent and immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of all the prisoners and the hostages.

The Group also looks forward to the convening of an international conference for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the two-State solution on the basis of 1967 borders, with a view to achieving a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session in June of 2025. The Group trusts that the two draft resolutions to be introduced during this resumed session will garner the support of Member States.

Mrs. Narváez Ojeda (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the convening of the fifty-seventh plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session.

Chile aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We deeply regret the fresh veto in the Security Council, on Wednesday, 20 November, of a draft resolution (S/2024/835), which had been presented by the 10 elected members of the Security Council (E10) and had called for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza (see S/PV.9790). The fact that the text was not approved despite receiving 14 votes in favour from members shows that it addressed a matter of great urgency and sensitivity for the United Nations.

On that subject, we commend the E10 on their capacity for dialogue, agreement, political will and consensus. We appreciate the time that they devoted to negotiations in attempting to achieve an outcome that the majority of States Members of the United Nations yearn for — a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Chile has called for full implementation of, and swift compliance with, the relevant resolutions that underpin the right of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign State, among them resolutions 181 (1947) and 242 (1967) and the associated resolutions, such as Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which it is reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a violation of international law. We reaffirm our support for the State of Palestine's admission as a full Member State of the United Nations.

Chile advocates the two-State solution and the right of Israel and Palestine to live in harmony, within secure and recognized international borders, with full respect for the human rights of all their inhabitants and in accordance with United Nations resolutions. That being so, we oppose Israel's expansionist policy and its confiscation of land in the occupied West Bank, because it stokes tensions, does not strengthen either party and is a step in the wrong direction if a negotiated, just and lasting two-State solution is to be found.

Once again, Chile extends its condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims who have died in the conflict that is gripping the Gaza Strip and only deteriorating by the day. We are witnessing untold suffering. It is staggering to learn of the tragic events and reports that more than 44,000 people have perished in the Israeli forces' attacks, with 70 per cent of those afflicted by the catastrophe being innocent women and children. Thousands of other corpses have yet to be counted because they lie under the rubble or have been burned. Almost the entire population of Gaza has been displaced multiple times. The healthcare situation is abysmal. And 660,000 children are not attending school. Public and private infrastructure has been, for the most part, destroyed.

We repeat once again that violence cannot be solved with more violence. We call for recognizing the possibly irreparable damage that the war is doing to this and future generations. We stress that the protection of human life must be our top priority and the protection of civilians is a fundamental obligation. To that end, the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law must be respected. Undoubtedly, that respect has been violated by the terrorist acts perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the indiscriminate response of the State of Israel to the population living in the Gaza Strip, which has also affected the West Bank.

Chile has unequivocally condemned the actions of Hamas, as well as all terrorist acts, acts of violence or hostilities against the civilian population. We therefore demand the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages still held by Hamas, ensuring their welfare and treatment in accordance with international law.

Chile calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire; a greater flow of humanitarian assistance to Gaza; guarantees for full, immediate, safe, unimpeded and sustained access for humanitarian assistance, that is, the removal of all obstacles to that assistance; and facilitating the use of all available land routes to enter the Gaza Strip in order to provide the population with their basic needs, such as food, water, medicine and fuel, among others. We echo the request of the Secretary-General himself and the respective heads of other United Nations agencies to de-escalate tensions.

We encourage all parties involved, as well as the international community, to continue working to bring the war to an end. That is possible only through diplomacy and dialogue.

We recognize the efforts being made and the results achieved by friendly countries with a view to reducing the fighting. We are alarmed by the repercussions and ramifications that the conflict is having on the rest of the region. We highlight the campaign in Gaza to vaccinate children against the polio virus, which reached more than 500,000 children. We underscore the four resolutions adopted by the Security Council aimed at achieving a ceasefire, mitigating the conflict or facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance: resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023), adopted last year, and in particular 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024), adopted this year. We recall that all resolutions of that organ are binding and must be complied with and respected.

We share the concern expressed by the senior officials of this Organization and so many other Member States about the laws passed by the Israeli Parliament that will restrict and stop the coordination activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We are concerned about the devastating humanitarian consequences that may result from their implementation. We therefore call for the laws passed by the legislature to not go into force. We condemn that decision and stress that UNRWA has a mandate granted by the General Assembly of this Organization and, therefore, that legislation represents a serious precedent for the international system.

We reaffirm our country's commitment to making voluntary contributions to UNRWA and encourage other Member States to continue to make their contributions so that the Agency can remain operational.

We reiterate our full support for the dedicated and courageous work being done by the United Nations, its agencies and in particular UNRWA on the ground. It is with deep regret that we acknowledge that nearly 250 staff members of that humanitarian Agency have been killed in this war and more than two thirds of its facilities have been damaged or destroyed, in addition to the Agency being the target of a fierce disinformation campaign.

We note that Security Council resolution 2730 (2024), adopted on 24 May, demands that parties to conflict to comply with their obligations under international law and urges all States to immediately conduct full and impartial investigations into violations perpetrated against humanitarian personnel and United Nations

personnel. Naturally, we followed with interest the Security Council briefing on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, held on Tuesday last week (see S/PV.9795), and we were shocked when it was noted that this year we have reached a record of 282 humanitarian workers killed, 178 of them in Gaza and 333 since October 2023 alone.

Chile, together with Mexico, submitted to the International Criminal Court a letter on the situation in Palestine to support the investigation of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel. For Chile, the clarification of the facts and responsibilities, as well as accountability, are essential to put an end to impunity and prevent the future commission of international crimes.

Similarly, Chile filed with the International Court of Justice its declaration of intervention in the case of *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*. We stress that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (see A/78/968), of 19 July, must be complied with by all parties.

In conclusion, it is essential that all Member States honour agreements, build trust and redouble the capacity for dialogue to ensure effective and decisive responses to armed conflict. We consider it essential to promote the principle of the indivisibility of international security, that is, all States have a shared responsibility to contribute to the strengthening of an international order based on cooperation and regulated by rules.

Mr. Mahmoud (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): We are meeting today at the tenth emergency session, having exhausted all other means of achieving a solution. The war in Gaza has dragged on for more than a year with no end in sight. The resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and the orders of the International Court of Justice have not been implemented. The most recent attempt to adopt a Security Council draft resolution on 20 November were thwarted by a veto cast by the United States (see S/PV.9790). Therefore, the General Assembly must assume its responsibilities given the Security Council's failure to maintain international peace and security. The General Assembly should adopt two draft resolutions on achieving a ceasefire and supporting the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), respectively.

In that context, we underscore the following points.

First, all rules of war established by the international community have been violated before the eyes of the entire world. Yes, Israel has violated all such laws, having destroyed the Gaza Strip and having killed more than 44,000 people, 70 per cent of whom were women and children. Has there ever before been an army that killed women and children at that rate in any war? Has there ever before been an army that imposed starvation on besieged civilians in conflict, apart from the one in the north of Gaza?

The Israeli army is unfortunately launching attacks with unimaginable brutality while building military bases in the Gaza Strip. It is painful and extremely regrettable that the Security Council, which is entrusted with stopping the war and protecting civilians, has been paralysed and unable to fulfil its duties, because

the United States has continued to protect Israel by casting one veto after another, in the belief that doing so would ensure the safety of Israel. Meanwhile, the only genuine way to ensure Israel's safety is through the peaceful coexistence among the countries of the Middle East, including Israel. There is no other way. There is now no greater priority than stopping the unjust war, the collective punishment and the attempts to forcibly displace people. We must stop all of that immediately and in a binding manner for humanitarian reasons and in order to give a chance to negotiations that would ensure the return of hostages to their homes and that Palestinians in Gaza would be able to recover what is left of a decent life and enable them to heal their wounds. Stopping this bloody war is a necessary step towards a political track that should lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State along the lines of 4 June 1967.

Secondly, the call to immediately stop the killing of civilians in Gaza is based on the noble aim for which all international laws and conventions have been elaborated — the protection of the right to life for all. It is impossible, legally and morally, to make stopping the killing of civilians contingent upon any preconditions or any political stance whatsoever. The immediate stopping of this senseless massacre must inevitably be achieved, without preconditions. We warn everyone of the consequences when people feel that their blood is worthless.

Thirdly, we call upon the Assembly to take a deterrent stance against Israeli fabrications and Israeli attacks against the United Nations in order to avoid setting a precedent that would inevitably lead to the collapse of the multilateral international order. Israel has killed hundreds of United Nations staff. It has destroyed United Nations facilities and enacted laws to stop the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It attacked the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It even considered the Secretary-General persona non grata. Confronting such behaviour is a collective duty. It is a moral and political necessity. We must prevent Israel from persisting in such behaviour through a united stance that starts with adopting the draft resolution that will be presented on UNRWA and to build on the text in order to stop the implementation of the legislation of the Israeli Knesset and to prevent any future violations against the Organization that represents us all.

Fourthly, we stress before the Assembly that Palestinian rights to self-determination, to freedom and to living in an independent Palestinian State are natural rights based on the equality of all people. They are not a gift, or contingent upon the consent of other countries. We therefore call upon the Assembly once again to support adopting a draft resolution to grant the State of Palestine full and deserved membership in the United Nations, a draft resolution that would give effect to those rights, rather than establishing them. Egypt sincerely endeavours to advance dialogue and propose solutions. That is why we welcome the announcement of the entry into force of the ceasefire agreement in our brother country of Lebanon. We call upon all parties to respect that announcement to achieve a sustainable ceasefire. We call for Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories, and we call for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). We hope that those understandings will pave the way to stopping the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the violations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

We stress that Egypt, as a pioneer for peace, will continue its efforts to achieve a ceasefire and to alleviate the humanitarian situation and humanitarian

suffering in the Gaza Strip. We will continue to provide all forms of support to our Palestinian brethren until their current plight ends and their independent State is established. Through the mediation track, alongside Qatar and the United States, Egypt is continuing its efforts towards ending the war. Through the humanitarian track, Egypt seeks to deliver immediate aid to the residents of Gaza.

Most recently, efforts were undertaken on 2 December at the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza, held under the auspices of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, and the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, with the participation of more than 100 States and United Nations agencies. Egypt will also continue to work tirelessly to ensure Palestinian unity and to resume the political track once the war ends in order to achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish their own independent State, with its East Jerusalem as its capital.

We call upon all those who have a sense of humanity and responsibility to save besieged innocent civilians in Gaza and listen to their cries and calls without any conditions. We ask members not to stand idly by as spectators. We call upon the Council to avoid the trap of promoting any false arguments that justify their systematic and deliberate killing simply for vengeance. We call upon them to immediately implement a ceasefire and to save the Palestinian people.

All wars must end. And this war has long gone way beyond the finish line. There is no more patience to endure a possible continuation of this war. That is Egypt's message to everyone today.

Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for resuming this emergency special session.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Since the most recent meeting of the tenth emergency special session focusing on the situation in Gaza (see A/ES-10/PV.56), the humanitarian crisis has only gotten worse, reaching unprecedented levels, owing to the Israeli aggression, which have been ongoing for over a year and extended to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Israeli attacks against Palestinians have escalated and resulted in the deaths of more than 44,000 people. Moreover, the occupied Palestinian territory witnessed increased violations, including encroachment on the holy sites and settlement expansion, in clear violation of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, as well as disregard of the provisional measures and last July's advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice.

There is an urgent need to provide humanitarian aid at scale throughout Gaza so as to effectively respond to this humanitarian catastrophe. On that note, the State of Qatar welcomes the outcomes and the recommendations of the Cairo Ministerial Conference to Enhance the Humanitarian Response in Gaza, held on 2 December, with a view to pooling efforts and ensuring sufficient humanitarian assistance is delivered continuously to Gaza in order to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian people.

From the outset of Israel's attack on Gaza, the State of Qatar has undertaken sincere mediation efforts, in partnership with the United States and Egypt, with the

view to putting an end to the ongoing violence and humanitarian suffering of all parties. Those diplomatic efforts resulted in humanitarian pauses and a ceasefire in November last year. Throughout that period, there was an exchange of hostages and prisoners and an increase in the amount of humanitarian aid delivered. Subsequently, those good offices have continued, despite stumbling blocks.

During the most recent attempt to conclude an agreement, the State of Qatar last month informed the parties that it would suspend mediation efforts if no agreement between Israel and Hamas were reached during that round. Qatar nonetheless remains open and supports all efforts to achieve peace in the region. We continue to engage with all parties, in case there are changes to their position, demonstrating readiness to conclude an agreement. As for the escalation in the brotherly country of Lebanon, we welcome the ceasefire agreement and the efforts of the United States and France, which helped to conclude that agreement. We hope that a similar agreement will be achieved so as to put an end to the war that continues to wage in Gaza. We hope that such an agreement will be upheld by all parties, that military hostilities will end immediately and that resolution 1701 (2006) will be fully implemented.

The State of Qatar reiterates the need for the General Assembly to assume its responsibilities with regard to the Palestinian cause. Therefore, we call for support for the two draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly, which reflect our shared humanitarian values and commitments, and are in line with the Charter of the United Nations and the requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security. The first draft resolution calls for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire to be respected by all parties. The second draft resolution calls for support for the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In that regard, we stress again the importance of UNRWA's mandate, in accordance with resolution 302 (IV). We also reaffirm the right of Palestinian refugees to return, which is guaranteed by resolution 194 (III) and Security Council resolution 237 (1967). We also stress the need for the implementation of all Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2735 (2024) which calls for a ceasefire in Gaza. Furthermore, we call for the implementation of the two resolutions recently adopted by the Assembly in its tenth emergency special session on the eligibility of Palestine for membership to the United Nations (resolution ES-10/23) and on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (see A/78/968) (resolution ES-10/24).

Mr. Massari (Italy), Vice-President, took the Chair.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar reiterates its firm and historic position in support of the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian people and their just cause, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, which guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian State along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Ladeb (Tunisia) (spoke in Arabic): We are meeting today at the resumed tenth emergency special session in the light of the continued unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe that the brotherly Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip are facing as a result of the genocidal collective war launched against them by the

occupation authorities for more than a year. It is the latest episode in a long series of massacres and violations that have been occurring for the past 76 years.

The deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory is unprecedented. The occupation's shameful crimes are intensifying, despite all the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice. Against that background, the international community is today facing a defining moment to overcome the silence and helplessness and to reconsider its approach to this situation in order to live up to its moral, legal and historical responsibility to save lives and put an end to the crimes of murder, abuse, starvation and displacement, which are condemned under all humanitarian and legal instruments.

The number of martyrs and wounded, which has exceeded tens of thousands, cannot by any measure become mere statistics. The forced displacement of the entire population of the Gaza Strip, the targeting of hospitals, schools, places of worship and tents for the displaced, the killing of aid workers, medical staff and journalists, the denial of life-saving humanitarian aid and the use of hunger as a weapon of war cannot become mere news items or ordinary events just because of their recurrence. It is also unacceptable that the Security Council remains unable to fulfil its supposed role owing to political calculations and double standards, and it is unacceptable that United Nations resolutions remain unimplemented.

As we have noted on previous occasions, all the aforementioned has emboldened the occupation authorities to continue their aggressive practices, settlement schemes, crimes and disregard for United Nations resolutions and international humanitarian law, with impunity, in an attempt to impose a fait accompli policy and perpetuate the idea that they are above the law. We therefore renew our call to the international community and the Security Council to take effective and responsible action to impose an immediate ceasefire and compel the occupation authorities to stop the genocidal war and all forms of abuse and violations against the Palestinian people. We call for the implementation of United Nations resolutions and respect for the international will. And we call for the occupation authorities to be held accountable for all their crimes. We also call for providing international protection for the Palestinian people, lifting the blockade imposed on them and allowing the unimpeded entry of humanitarian assistance without any delay.

In that context, we renew our condemnation of the continued endeavours and actions by the occupation forces to obstruct the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, disrupt its functions and to put an end to its vital role in providing humanitarian assistance to millions of Palestinians with the aim of exacerbating the suffering of the Palestinian people and to undermine their right to life.

In conclusion, Tunisia reaffirms its firm and principled support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to recover their legitimate and inalienable rights — imprescriptible rights that will not be erased through aggression — foremost of which is their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent and sovereign State on all the territory of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): We thank the President for convening this resumed tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly in response to the requests

of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement.

For over 400 days, the world has witnessed the indiscriminate slaughter of the Palestinian population of Gaza. Forty-four thousand people, mostly women and children, have been killed; more than 100,000 injured. The Secretary-General has said, "What we are seeing may well amount to the gravest international crimes."

The heads of 15 United Nations and other humanitarian organizations have said:

"The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic.

...

The entire Palestinian population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence." (*A/ES-10/1015, annex, p. 5*)

Pakistan welcomes the ceasefire in Lebanon, although Israel continues to violate it at will. But the slaughter continues in Gaza, as do strikes in Syria, and the danger of a wider war continues to loom large over the entire Middle East.

While we acknowledge the mediatory efforts made by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, we must express our deep dismay that, on 20 November, the draft resolution calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, sponsored by the elected members of the Council and supported by 14 of its members, could not be adopted owing to the veto exercised by one permanent member (see S/PV.9790). There is no rationale that can justify blocking a decision designed to stop the slaughter of helpless civilian populations. The General Assembly must now exercise its responsibility, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to demand an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the implementation of the several resolutions adopted on this conflict by the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as the adjudication by the International Court of Justice. We also support the establishment of an international accountability mechanism to take cognizance of and punish the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed and to determine the reparations for those crimes.

Similarly, we must uphold the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and condemn and reject Israel's efforts to halt its operations. UNRWA is the only organization capable of ensuring humanitarian assistance and relief to the besieged Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and elsewhere. Pakistan therefore welcomes the two draft resolutions to be submitted by the State of Palestine for adoption in this emergency session.

The Assembly and the world community must also look to the future, to the grave consequences of this Israeli war and the measures required to redress those consequences. Israel's war has demonstrated that aggression and genocide can be committed against some peoples with impunity, indeed, with the complicity of those who vocally uphold the rule of law and human rights in almost every other geographical and political context. Such impunity has contributed to the ongoing destruction of the foundations of the world order, which we created almost 80 years ago. Are the memories of those who fought fascism and racism, of those who

suffered the Holocaust, so short that they can justify and perpetrate this twenty-first century slaughter against the helpless Palestinian people? The genocidal actions of the Israeli war machine should be unacceptable to any individual, society or State that values the principles of the United Nations Charter, that values peace, that values human life and that cannot countenance the massacre of innocent children and women.

We must ask ourselves — what is the reality that we are creating and leaving behind in the Middle East in the wake of this war? We have today an Israeli leadership that has proclaimed its dark vision of continued slaughter in Gaza and its continued occupation; a vision of the expulsion and extinction of the population of Gaza through violence and starvation, of the annexation of the West Bank by aggressive Israeli soldiers, helped by settlers, unleashed against an unarmed Palestinian population; a vision of the outright rejection of the two-State solution and the extinction of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

This dark vision will have repercussions, especially in the Arab and Muslim world. The people of the Islamic world will not forget or forgive Israel's crimes. Popular resistance to Israeli occupation will not end; it will intensify. A peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict will become more difficult.

It is therefore imperative for the international community and the General Assembly to consider the steps needed to prevent the realization of the dark vision that Israeli extremists have set forth. They must be made to realize that genocide does not enjoy impunity, that aggression and occupation have consequences. The leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries have advocated a series of consequences — from stopping arms supplies, terminating trade and reviewing Israel's United Nations membership. All of those options deserve serious consideration by the United Nations and the international community.

At the same time, we need to take decisive steps to realize the two-State solution, which offers the only and globally accepted path towards durable peace and security in the Middle East. As part of the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit group, Pakistan welcomes the launch of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. Through that process and here at the United Nations, we must create political realities that would ensure the inevitability of the two-State outcome. To that end, we would urge — first, the widest possible official recognition of the State of Palestine, which must be made universal; secondly, the earliest possible admission of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations; and thirdly, the convening of an international conference to initiate decisive steps for the establishment of a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian State within the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mrs. Jaraud-Darnault (France) (*spoke in French*): France thanks the elected members of the Security Council for preparing this draft resolution and regrets that it could not be adopted on 20 November. The catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is a daily reminder of the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire there. The delivery of humanitarian aid must be commensurate with the immense needs of Palestinian civilians, particularly in the north of the enclave, which is threatened by famine. All hostages held in the Gaza Strip must be released immediately and unconditionally. The draft resolution strongly demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages. France, which still holds two hostages in Gaza, deplores the fact that the Security Council was unable to make

that demand. France has never ceased and will never cease to condemn the barbaric terrorist attacks committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups on 7 October 2023. The General Assembly must do likewise, without ambiguity. It is urgent to work towards the concrete implementation of the two-State solution. We need security guarantees for the Israelis. We must also work towards the creation of an independent, viable and contiguous State for the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority has a central role to play in this process, both in the West Bank and Gaza, which must, of course, be part of the future Palestinian State. France will continue to work towards those objectives, in coordination with its partners, including within the Security Council.

Ms. Schwalger (New Zealand): We are disappointed once again that a veto has blocked a draft resolution that had the near unanimous support of the Security Council. We acknowledge efforts to reach consensus in the Council, however, we simply must do better.

The situation in Gaza remains untenable. An immediate ceasefire is urgently needed, including to facilitate a surge of essential humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip. Ultimately, no military solution will bring about a just and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians. A negotiated political solution is needed to achieve lasting peace and security for Israel and Palestine. Diplomacy can work where there is political will.

New Zealand welcomes the recent announcement of a ceasefire in Lebanon and acknowledges the efforts of all the parties involved in the negotiations. This breakthrough in Lebanon demonstrates the value of diplomacy and negotiation. In Gaza, however, the conflict continues, and Palestinian civilians continue to pay the price. They deserve an immediate ceasefire, unimpeded access to humanitarian aid and an end to the spiralling tensions.

Any use of the veto is highly disappointing. We underline that every time this outdated and undemocratic mechanism is invoked, it undermines the Council's ability to fulfil its mandate to maintain international peace and security. New Zealand has been a vocal and consistent opponent of any use of the veto since 1945. We have actively supported the veto initiative (resolution 76/262) from its inception, and we remain a proud proponent of the resolution. The Council is not living up to its important ongoing responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. Its credibility and that of the United Nations as a whole is at stake. We invite the permanent members to reflect on that responsibility.

Finally, if resolution 76/262 is reactivated in future, it will once again be incumbent on the members of the General Assembly to continue to exercise our collective political responsibility under the United Nations Charter to address matters of international peace and security.

Mr. Van Schalkwyk (South Africa): I thank the President for reconvening the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, in relation to Palestine. This could not come at a more crucial time. Despite efforts to stop the carnage, Gaza has been bombed into a wasteland, and its citizens are facing imminent famine. Those circumstances alone should prompt even those with the most hard-line positions into action towards an immediate humanitarian response.

We gather here to once again lament the failure of the Security Council to uphold its responsibility and take demonstrable action to stop the bloodshed in

Gaza and bring to an end the suffering of the Palestinian people. Posterity will judge humankind harshly for allowing such suffering when we had the opportunity to take positive steps and bring to an end the genocide currently under way in Gaza. That is particularly so for us, in this Organization, which was created to protect people and ensure peace.

South Africa welcomes the decision of the International Criminal Court to issue warrants of arrest for the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Minister of Defence, Yoav Gallant, as well as Mohamed Deif of Hamas. We call on all members of the international community to execute the warrants in accordance with the prescripts of the Rome Statute, as part of our collective commitment to international law. We hope that this decision will put pressure, particularly on Israel, the occupying Power, to put an end to the continuing destruction of Gaza.

The trigger for bringing this discussion to the wider United Nations membership was the negative vote cast by one member of the Security Council. It is due to cases such as this that South Africa supports the suspension of the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities. The call, in the draft resolution crafted by the 10 elected members of the Security Council was simple — an immediate, unconditional ceasefire and a large-scale delivery of humanitarian aid to avert further disaster. Added to this was a demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and the treatment of all prisoners and hostages within the prescripts of international humanitarian law. The release of hostages and exchange of Palestinian prisoners has the potential to lay the grounds for a negotiated solution that results in peace and to create conditions conducive to the creation of two States, living side by side in peace and security.

The recent law passed by the Israeli Knesset to end Israeli cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is another measure that will only inflict greater harm on the Palestinian people and take us further away from peace. We call on Israel to reconsider that decision and to continue cooperation with UNRWA as a step towards the attainment of peace in the region. Ending support for UNRWA would result in the death and displacement of untold numbers of Palestinians, considering the already large number of displaced people and the devastation in Gaza.

A critical step for the General Assembly would be the recognition of Palestine as a State. We have recently heard all members of the Security Council profess their support for the two-State solution. We call on all States to convert those sentiments into reality by accepting Palestine as the 194th Member of the United Nations. The status quo and refusal to admit Palestine as a full Member will serve only to perpetuate the conflict and suffering of its people. When Palestine is afforded equal status in the international family of nations, peaceful coexistence would become possible.

We call on all parties to fulfil their obligations under international law, including the fulfilment of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and recent Security Council resolutions on Gaza. That includes, inter alia, an end to Israeli occupation of Palestine, the facilitation of the return of displaced Palestinians and the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinians.

In conclusion, we must refuse to allow the Palestinian people to be decimated through bombs, starvation and displacement while the world is unable and seemingly unwilling to act. Their right to self-determination cannot be erased, as it is etched in international law. We call on all peoples and countries of the world to support the call for a ceasefire and for measures that lead towards a two-State solution that result in an enduring peace in the region.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for resuming the tenth emergency special session.

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

We are meeting today for the fifth time in the context of this emergency special session since the beginning of the brutal Israeli aggression on Gaza more than a year ago. That is because of the repeated failure by the Security Council to adopt a draft resolution to put an end to the Israeli war in the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in more than 44,000 Palestinians lives lost and more than 90 per cent of its population being displaced and the destruction of approximately 60 per cent of the buildings and infrastructure in Gaza, including schools, hospitals, United Nations facilities, mosques and churches. It has also torn apart the social fabric in Gaza. If that is not genocide and ethnic cleansing, what is?

We reiterate our call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and adopt a draft resolution that would put an end to the Israeli attack on Gaza under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; put an end to the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians, including women, children and the elderly; and to stop the Israeli blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip. We need a draft resolution that would compel the occupying Power to open all checkpoints to ensure immediate, adequate and sustainable delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip.

As we meet today, the threat of famine looms across Gaza, especially in the north of the Gaza Strip. The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report indicated that some 133,000 people in Gaza are facing catastrophic food insecurity — that is IPC phase 5 — and that the number of people classified in phase 5 will increase threefold in the coming months if no action is taken to prevent the situation from getting worse. It is therefore imperative that the international community take immediate action to ensure the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip and prevent Israeli measures aimed at starving the Palestinian people by using food and water as a weapon, which is a blatant war crime under international humanitarian law.

Jordan will continue to carry out its humanitarian duty, whether through the services provided by Jordanian field hospitals in the occupied Palestinian territory or by sending urgent humanitarian assistance. Jordan carried out its first humanitarian airlift to Gaza on 20 November, in which it dispatched eight helicopters carrying more than 7 tons of food and medical supplies, in accordance with the Gaza Humanitarian Gateway initiative announced by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein in the speech he delivered during the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

Jordan has also sent more than 50,000 tons of aid, carried by 115 humanitarian convoys, via land crossing points, in addition to carrying out nearly 390 airdrops of humanitarian assistance since the beginning of the war in various areas of Gaza, in cooperation and coordination with international partners and relevant organizations. We call on the international community to implement the outcomes of the humanitarian response conference, hosted by Jordan and organized jointly with Egypt and the United Nations.

With regard to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the extremist Israeli Government continues its systematic targeting and political assassination of the Agency. Most recently, the Knesset adopted an unlawful law calling for the prohibition of the Agency's activities and the lifting of the Agency's immunity and that of its staff in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of Israel's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. As we speak, the Israeli Government is airing paid advertisements here in New York and in many countries accusing UNRWA of terrorism, which constitutes criminal incitement, not only against UNRWA and its staff, but against the entire United Nations family.

The General Assembly is duty bound to take appropriate measures to protect the Palestinian people from the ongoing Israeli aggression and to guide States, organizations and other members of the international community towards mechanisms for individual and collective action to achieve that protection—practical measures that must lead to tangible results on the ground. The General Assembly also has a duty to support United Nations agencies, staff and personnel and to prevent Israel's attempts to target them or weaken and undermine their mandates. What is happening with UNRWA now is a dangerous precedent that will encourage future violations against United Nations organizations, operations and personnel in various conflict zones.

Accordingly, we call on international partners to continue to provide financial, political and legal support to UNRWA to ensure the continuity of its work and support it in providing vital services to more than 6 million Palestinian refugees in all areas of its operations, in accordance with the mandate granted unanimously to the Agency by the General Assembly (resolution 302 (IV)) decades ago. We reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian refugees' right to return and reparations. UNRWA is indispensable, and there is no alternative to its central role.

In conclusion, we reiterate our categorical rejection of erasing the Palestinian question or displacing Palestinians from their land and stress that the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, along the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, is a prerequisite for the implementation of the two-State solution and to ensure the restoration of stability and security in the region. We call on Member States to vote in favour of the two draft resolutions before the General Assembly to ensure a ceasefire in Gaza, to save the people of Gaza from destruction and ethnic cleansing, to strengthen UNRWA and protect its mandate, and to uphold humanitarian values and support the principles on which our Organization was founded.

Ms. Oehri (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein appreciates this opportunity for the Assembly to meet today in an emergency special session, in accordance with resolution 76/262, to discuss the veto cast in the Security Council on 20 November (see S/PV.9790) and the situation in the Middle East as a whole.

Liechtenstein thanks the 10 elected members of the Security Council for their continued efforts in bringing about a solution to the conflict in Gaza and presenting draft resolution S/2024/835 demanding yet again an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire to be respected by all parties, as well as the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

With the strong support of the majority of the Council, namely 14 members, the use of the veto by the United States has been particularly appalling. We are grateful that the General Assembly is stepping in once again, as it has done since 7 October 2023 and before on several occasions in this situation and will consider draft proposals to address the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the region.

In that regard, we reiterate our call on all parties to fully abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of military necessity, precaution and proportionality, as well as the protection of civilians. We urge Israel to grant access to humanitarian organizations to provide the necessary emergency relief for civilians in Gaza.

Any violation of such obligations under international law must be prosecuted. In that respect, Liechtenstein has taken note of the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants upon the request of the Chief Prosecutor, in connection with the Court's investigation in Palestine. Liechtenstein is a long-standing and consistent supporter of the ICC and of the independence and integrity of its work and a strong advocate for the consistent application of international law. It is committed to fulfilling its cooperation obligations under the Rome Statute. Liechtenstein will continue to stand up, together with like-minded States, to defend the Court from political attacks and against efforts to undermine its integrity and independence.

As the vetoed Security Council draft resolution (S/2024/835) underscored, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) remains the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza. Liechtenstein is extremely concerned about the bills adopted by the Knesset prohibiting cooperation with UNRWA and aimed at drastically restricting its operations, including in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Those laws are incompatible with Israel's obligations under international law and set a dangerous precedent for the multilateral system. We welcome the press statement of 30 October by the Security Council in support of UNRWA (SC/15874). We must work towards keeping UNRWA operational by ensuring both its funding and its access to the people we have mandated it to serve. Liechtenstein will work with partners towards that end. UNRWA's role in the region is indispensable.

Mr. Lagdameo (Philippines): The Philippines welcomes the ceasefire agreed on 26 November 2024 to end 13 months of fighting between Israel and Hizbullah in Lebanon. We hope that the landmark deal will create the conditions to restore lasting peace and allow residents in both countries to return safely to their homes on both sides of the Blue Line. In that regard, we note the diplomatic work done by the United States and France to achieve that agreement, which we hope will be fully implemented and enforced to prevent the conflict from becoming another cycle of violence.

However, even as we welcome the ceasefire between Israel and Hizbullah in Lebanon, the Philippines remains gravely concerned over the catastrophic

humanitarian situation in Gaza and the increasing tensions in the Middle East. In that regard, the Philippines would like to reiterate the following.

First, we join calls from the international community for all parties concerned to refrain from escalating the violence. We condemn all attacks against civilians and civilian structures, which have resulted in an alarming number of casualties, particularly among women and children. We therefore urge all parties to end that vicious cycle of violence.

Secondly, we call for rapid, safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all those in need in Gaza. In that regard, the Philippines reaffirms its support for the full and immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) and all other relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions for a comprehensive ceasefire and humanitarian provisions in Gaza. We also welcome the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on 19 July 2024.

Thirdly, diplomacy remains the cornerstone of achieving peace in the Middle East. Meaningful dialogues and negotiations, based on mutual trust and in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, will be key to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East.

Fourthly, the Philippines reiterates its unwavering support for a two-State solution in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Both Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace, harmony and prosperity and where their rights, aspirations and security are recognized and upheld. In that regard, the Philippines supports the global alliance for the implementation of a Palestinian State and a two-State solution — a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, Norway and the European Union.

Fifthly, we reaffirm our full support for and confidence in the Secretary-General and his work. We are confident in his commitment to international peace and security, and his tireless efforts reflect our shared desire for an end to violence and for meaningful dialogue in the pursuit of lasting peace in the Middle East.

Sixthly, the Philippines supports the creation of the State of Palestine and its acceptance as a full-fledged member of the United Nations as soon as possible. The General Assembly's decision in May to upgrade Palestine's rights at the United Nations as an observer State (resolution ES-10/23) is an important step towards realizing Palestine's full membership in the United Nations.

Finally, the Philippines reiterates its full support for all efforts and initiatives that would stop the ongoing conflict, expand the space for meaningful dialogues and negotiations, build trust and mutual understanding and promote cooperation for lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting. We shall hear the remaining speakers on Wednesday, 11 December 2024, at 10 a.m. in this Hall.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.