



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 30 July 2021 addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of Security Council members by the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the 8826th meeting of the Security Council convened on 28 July 2021 under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The interventions of the briefers, Council members as well as the Observer State of Palestine and Israel will be published as an official record of the Security Council ([S/PV.8826](#)).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8826th meeting, the following delegations and entities submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed (see annexes): Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the letter by the President of the Security Council addressed to Permanent Representatives of Security Council members dated 7 May 2020 ([S/2020/372](#)), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, these statements will be issued as a document of the Security Council, and reference to the document will be made in the verbatim record ([S/PV.8826](#)).

President of the Security Council  
(Signed) Nicolas **de Riviere**



**Annex I****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries**

[Original: English]

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate France on its successful presidency of the Security Council this month and thank it for providing an opportunity for the Non-Aligned Movement to present its position on the question of Palestine that has historically constituted an issue of concern and vital importance to the Movement.

Having considered the critical developments and deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries issued a communiqué, on 13 May 2021, on the escalating violations and provocations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and condemned in the strongest terms the acts of aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population. The Non-Aligned Movement laments the grave impact on innocent and defenceless children, women and men, many of whom were tragically killed in the sanctity of their own homes, in particular in the Gaza Strip.

Israel's provocative, illegal actions, including its ongoing settlement colonization of the Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem, and all measures of annexation, constitute grave breaches of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and in blatant disrespect of the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Non-Aligned Movement calls for a halt to all such illegal actions, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, and a halt to the seizure of Palestinian property, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the expulsion of Palestinian families from their homes, including in occupied East Jerusalem in the neighbourhoods of Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan and in the Jordan Valley. Israel, the occupying Power, must cease forthwith its colonization measures and the forced displacement and transfer of the Palestinian civilian population and must fully respect its obligations under international law without exception.

The Non-Aligned Movement cautions that, if not averted, such plans will have far-reaching and devastating repercussions for stability and the already dire humanitarian conditions on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for the prospects for realizing the rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence; the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders; and just and lasting peace and security.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls on the international community to enact serious accountability measures in the light of Israel's continued non-compliance. These should include the halting of business with the illegal Israeli settlements and the banning of entry to markets for settlement products, among other measures, in line with international norms and rules, including relevant United Nations resolutions and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Non-Aligned Movement continues to believe that Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) provides the most viable path to a just peace and calls for its

full and effective implementation. The resolution sets forth the essential requirements and parameters for the achievement of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with respect for the long-standing terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions; the Madrid Guiding Principles, including the principle of land for peace; the Arab Peace Initiative; and the Quartet road map.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the cessation of all violations, provocations and aggressions in this regard and for respect for the sanctity of holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem, rejecting any attempts to breach their sanctity and to alter the historical and legal status quo. The Movement also expresses support for Jordan in preserving and administrating the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif and the Hashemite historical custodianship of the holy sites as exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn al-Husain of Jordan.

The Non-Aligned Movement further welcomes the call for Al-Quds Day/Jerusalem Day signed in Rabat, on 30 March 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role that Al-Quds/Jerusalem plays as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and to stress the need to preserve its specificities and its features as a city of peaceful coexistence.

The Non-Aligned Movement demands once again that Israel abide by Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) and withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [338 \(1973\)](#).

We reiterate the call on the Security Council to uphold its duties, to implement its resolutions vis-à-vis the Question of Palestine and to act urgently to address Israel's annexation plans, which threaten regional and international peace and security.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for urgent measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population, in accordance with international law, and stresses the need for the full respect of the recently agreed ceasefire and an end to the repeated breaches by Israel, the occupying Power, including military air strikes against the Gaza Strip and illegal actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Movement urges the international community to respond generously to the emergency appeal launched by the United Nations on 27 May 2021 with a view to providing urgently needed humanitarian assistance to alleviate the vast humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and to support reconstruction efforts following the widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure, health clinics, schools and businesses as a result of the recent Israeli military aggression. The Movement also reiterates its long-standing call for the full lifting of the Israeli blockade.

In the light of the continuously deteriorating humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees, which is challenged even further by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the members of the Non-Aligned Movement express deep appreciation for the invaluable work done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, including its essential emergency assistance provided to help Palestine refugees to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. We once again urge the sufficient and predictable funding of the Agency to enable the continuity of its operations, in line with its General Assembly mandate, and encourage support for the Agency's core programme budget, as well as for the COVID-19 response plan of the United Nations

for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the COVID-19 flash appeal for Palestine refugees.

In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as its unwavering support for their just cause, and renews its commitment to further supporting, strengthening and coordinating the international efforts to achieve a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects, including the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#). We express our sincere hope that this year will witness tangible progress in the heroic quest of the Palestinian people to attain justice and fulfil their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. This will most certainly open a new chapter for regional as well as global peace and stability, a goal strongly supported by our Movement and one that requires urgent international action to avert the looming dangers and salvage the prospects for a just and lasting peace.

## Annex II

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Rabab Fatima**

[Original: English]

I wish to commend the Presidency of France for its dynamic stewardship of the work of the Council in July 2021. I also thank all the briefers for their comprehensive briefing.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Niger on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. In addition, I wish to highlight the following points in my national capacity.

We have once again witnessed the violation of the “ceasefire” of May 2021 by the Israeli Occupation Forces. This phenomenon has been common, and Israel has demonstrated a pattern of repeatedly violating ceasefires. The lack of strong action by the international community or any international mechanism against such abuse of trust, which is often based on a false premise, emboldens the occupying power. As a result, brutal attacks and acts of aggression by Israel have been going on in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In the first half of 2021, even amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, settler violence has increased by 33 per cent. Home demolitions; deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools and water sources; forced displacement; and arrests and killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, have been rampant in the occupied territory of Palestine. These have made the humanitarian situation worse during this pandemic situation. The systemic targeting of health infrastructure and health workers and the decision to withhold some of the Palestinian tax revenues have added an additional burden on an already debilitated health system, leading to more suffering and deaths among COVID-19 patients.

The international community, including the United Nations, had, in the past, repeatedly expressed serious concerns at the cycles of violence, allegations of excessive use of force by the Israeli Occupying power, and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory. These concerns remain valid even today. So many attempts have been made in this Council and in other international forums to stop such flagrant violations of international instruments, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and United Nations resolutions. Yet the ardent appeals by the international community went unheeded by the Israeli Occupying power. It is unfortunate that our collective effort has failed to ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination.

In this regard, today, I would like to emphasize the following issues.

First, the international community must make genuine efforts to address the root causes of the Palestine crisis and to end this cycle of violence and injustice by the Israeli Occupation Forces and extremist settlers.

Second, Israeli settlement activity and the dismantlement and seizure of Palestinian structures in the West Bank must stop immediately. An independent international investigation must be conducted and legal action must be taken against the Israeli authorities for the crimes and atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

Third, the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, including COVID-19-related needs, should be addressed urgently. Facilitating the work of the health workers and ensuring the availability of COVID-19 vaccines should be on the priority list. Reconstruction work in the Gaza Strip should be started now.

Fourth, the Israeli authorities and all relevant stakeholders should take all necessary steps to facilitate the rescheduling of elections so that the Palestinian people can exercise their sovereign rights.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Bangladesh's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their just struggle. I also reiterate Bangladesh's steadfast support and principled position for the establishment of an independent, viable, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, under a two-State solution.

The international community, including the Security Council, must take true and effective initiatives for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause and peace in the region.

## Annex III

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

[Original: English]

Brazil would like to thank France for convening this quarterly debate on the situation in the Middle East. It has now been over two months since a ceasefire agreement was reached between Israel and Hamas, putting a pause to the escalation of violence in Gaza. It is essential that all steps are taken to prevent violence and that every party refrain from provocative actions in order to consolidate the ceasefire agreement.

In the wake of the recent conflict, it is important to give priority to the provision of humanitarian aid to the population of Gaza and to the recovery of its infrastructure. Brazil echoes the Secretary-General's call for an integrated, robust package of support for a swift, sustainable reconstruction and recovery that supports the Palestinian people and strengthens their institutions. We call on all parties to work together to ensure the rapid, safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Brazil welcomes the new Israeli Government and looks forward to its constructive engagement in political dialogue. We also hope that unlocking the process of reforming the Palestinian leadership may create the political conditions for direct contacts between the parties and the resumption of the peace negotiations. Brazil reiterates its commitment to a two-State solution to the conflict, where Israel and Palestine can live side by side, in peace and security, within secure and recognized borders.

Turning to the situation in Syria, we were glad to see the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of its resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), renewing the cross-border assistance mechanism. Aid provided through the Bab al-Hawa crossing represents a lifeline to millions of civilians in north-west Syria, whose needs have become even greater with the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Operations in the crossline modality should also be scaled up and closely monitored. In addition, humanitarian exemptions for any sanctions programme related to Syria must be observed to ensure that the sanctions do not undermine access to food and essential health supplies for those most in need.

Brazil reiterates its condemnation of the indiscriminate attacks against civilians, the targeting of medical and humanitarian workers, and the forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and summary killings that have become all too common throughout the conflict.

Progress on the political track is urgent. Brazil reaffirms its support for the efforts of the Special Envoy, Geir Pedersen, in facilitating a solution to the conflict through the implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). We urge the members of the Constitutional Committee to bridge their differences and make substantial progress in their upcoming sessions. Brazil remains convinced that only a "Syrian-owned and Syrian led", United Nations-facilitated political process, with due regard for the preservation of Syria's territorial integrity, will bring lasting peace and provide relief for the suffering of the Syrian population.

Regarding the dire situation in Yemen, we reiterate our call on all parties to renounce the escalation of violence and adhere to a nation-wide ceasefire. We urge all parties to engage in good faith in peace negotiations, without preconditions. The impasse surrounding the repair of the SAFER oil tanker is an additional cause of

concern, and we call on the Houthis and the United Nations to reach an agreement on this pressing issue as soon as possible.

Brazil welcomes the appointment of Hans Grundberg as the new Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and wishes him a successful mandate in his urgent mission to bring Yemen to the path to peace.

We are glad to see the progress made this year towards achieving a political solution in Libya. We consider the formation of the Libyan unity Government as a major breakthrough that demonstrates the determination of the Libyan people to reach a lasting peace. It is important now to secure the integrity of the upcoming elections, beginning by adopting a constitutional basis and enacting the necessary legislation in time to hold the elections by December.

We hope that progress on the political track will have an impact on the situation on the ground, helping to improve the daily lives of Libyans and to consolidate a lasting and comprehensive ceasefire. The departure of all foreign fighters and mercenaries should be coupled with a robust disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme to prevent the further destabilization of the region. The arms embargo is also an indispensable element for de-escalating the conflict, and we reiterate our call for its full implementation.

As we consider the situation in the Middle East, it is necessary to bear in mind that long-term political stability and economic prosperity are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Efforts to support the peaceful resolution of conflicts should be combined with initiatives to promote socioeconomic growth, which are key to building resilient and inclusive societies.

Brazil is fully aware of the challenges ahead in the road to de-escalation, peace and recovery in Middle Eastern conflicts. As a newly elected member of the Security Council for the 2022–2023 mandate, we will continue our long-standing tradition of seeking the constructive engagement of all parties, including the members of the Security Council, while keeping in mind the centrality of the protection of civilians, the respect for international humanitarian law and the support for peace and mediation efforts.



## Annex IV

### Statement by the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, Cheikh Niang

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I would like to congratulate France for its able presidency of the Security Council this month.

So far, 2021 has proven particularly challenging for the Palestinian people on all fronts. Not only have we witnessed terrible loss of life, a humanitarian crisis, and destruction during an 11-day conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, affecting the Gaza Strip in particular, but cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infections are also rising in the Occupied Palestinian Territory owing to the lack of access to vaccines.

The hostilities in May, the most severe and deadly escalation of violence since 2014, tragically claimed the lives of at least 245 Palestinians in Gaza, including 68 children and 37 women, killed by Israel air strikes on civilian areas, and 12 persons killed in Israel by indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza. The Committee stresses the imperative of the full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law and the protection of civilian persons. The Committee calls on all parties to the conflict to respect the ceasefire and allow for unhindered humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, which are urgently needed to alleviate the dire socioeconomic conditions and hardships borne by the Palestinian population in Gaza.

On 10 May, the Bureau, on behalf of the Committee, issued a statement expressing its deep alarm at the escalation of violence and acts of provocation and incitement, in particular by Israeli extremists in occupied East Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque compound. It also condemned the planned evictions of Palestinian families from their homes in the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods of occupied East Jerusalem. The Committee further urged the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet to revitalize the stalled peace process with a view to resuming meaningful negotiations towards the achievement of a just peace on the basis of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions that have long been at the heart of the international consensus on a just solution.

As we heard today from the Deputy Special Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lynn Hastings, the violent escalation has had severe humanitarian consequences for the civilian population, in particular in Gaza, which remains under a 14-year blockade by Israel, the occupying Power. The Committee reiterates its long-standing call for the lifting of the blockade and for the freedom of movement of persons and goods to be respected in accordance with international law. The Committee also calls on donors to support the reconstruction needs of the Gaza Strip as outlined in the rapid damage and needs assessment by the World Bank Group, the United Nations and the European Union, in close cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, which estimated recovery needs of up to \$485 million during the first 24 months.

In this context, let me reiterate the Committee's full support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and underscore our call for the adequate and reliable funding of the Agency for its life-saving activities in support of Palestine refugees.

We support the international community's swift and resolute response calling for the respect of international law and accountability. Following a General Assembly

debate on 20 May, when I delivered a statement on behalf of the Committee, the Human Rights Council, through its resolution S-30 of 27 May at its emergency special session, decided “to urgently establish an ongoing independent, international commission of inquiry” to investigate, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021. The Committee welcomes the appointment, on 22 July, of Navi Pillay (South Africa), Miloon Kothari (India) and Chris Sidoti (Australia) by the Human Rights Council to serve as the three members of the commission of inquiry. The Committee, once more, calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and urges it to cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry, stressing that accountability is central for the achievement of justice and peace.

There is no doubt that the escalation in May was directly linked to the continuous human rights violations that the Palestinian people are enduring as a result of the decades-long Israeli occupation of their territory, leading to provocations and incitement in East Jerusalem and followed by a heavy response from the Israeli security forces. In addition, arbitrary detentions of Palestinian civilians, restrictions to the freedom of movement, settler violence, demolitions and the confiscation of Palestinian property across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem continue relentlessly, affecting communities and displacing entire families. The Committee calls for a stop to ongoing Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Aqsa Mosque, which were among the root causes of the latest escalation.

Similarly, the Committee urges Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by its responsibilities under international humanitarian law to supply prompt and adequate vaccine protection to all in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in order to avert the further spread of the virus and damage to the health and well-being of the Palestinian population under occupation.

The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people continue to be denied, and the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory continues as well through, inter alia, the construction and expansion of illegal settlements despite the provisions of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), which have so far been disrespected.

At a time when the international community had generated the momentum to revitalize the peace process, with the support of the Quartet and other concerned partners, the hostilities brought the revival of a political process to another standstill, posing a real threat to the efforts to salvage the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

Through its outreach to Member States, the Committee continues to encourage all supporters of the two-State solution to assist the parties in resuming negotiations towards the achievement of a peaceful settlement in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Committee also regrets the postponement of parliamentary and presidential elections in the State of Palestine and encourages the organization of the elections as soon as possible, including in East Jerusalem. We also call on Israel, the occupying Power, to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard.

The Committee also reiterates its call for all Palestinian factions to accelerate reconciliation efforts towards the achievement of unity for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

The full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the idea of a just solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions that ensures that

the two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace and security along the pre-1967 lines and with East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian State, and a just solution for the Palestine refugees in line with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) will require the cooperation of everyone in order for the light to be seen. The Committee is committed to upholding its responsibilities towards this principled goal, in line with its Assembly mandate.

The international community is called on to engage with the parties with the aim of de-escalation and of maintaining the ceasefire in full compliance with international law, including respect for the human rights of the Palestinian people.

In the coming weeks, the international community, including an expanded Middle East Quartet, will be called on to create the conditions with relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, with a view to garnering wider global support for the resolution of the question of Palestine and the realization of the two-State solution. The Committee will remain a reliable partner in the pursuit of the full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence.

**Annex V****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Rodrigo Carazo**

[Original: English]

I thank the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, for his briefing. We also welcome the new Israeli Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, and the Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid.

Costa Rica welcomes the lifting of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law, which prohibited Israelis married to Palestinians residing in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank from passing on Israeli citizenship or residency to their spouses for family reunification purposes. With the Citizenship Law no longer in force, Palestinians married to Israelis can start a gradual path to citizenship. Costa Rica looks forward to discussing, in this and future sessions, how new avenues can be opened up for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to enjoy full citizenship.

We are also deeply concerned about the postponement of the Palestinian elections, including the legislative elections originally scheduled for 22 May. We call on all Palestinian actors to resume talks and set a new date for elections as soon as possible. We also urge Israel to facilitate the holding of elections across all of the Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem.

On this note, Costa Rica would like to stress the following points.

First, Costa Rica urges Israel to halt the continued settlement in the occupied Palestinian Territories, including in East Jerusalem, as well as forced transfers, expansions, evictions, demolitions and confiscation, as they constitute a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law. Costa Rica calls on both parties to act in a restrained manner and to refrain from unilateral actions that would further aggravate tensions and undermine the viability of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the best interests of the constituents of both. Today, there are more than 680,000 Israeli settlers living in the West Bank, compared with 116,000 in 1993. They are spread across nearly 300 settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. As stated by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, this situation constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Second, we urge both parties to put an end to all acts of provocation, incitement and violence. Costa Rica condemns the indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars towards the Israeli civilian population by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Palestinian militants must cease this practice immediately. And, while we acknowledge Israel's legitimate security concerns, we reiterate that self-defence must be exercised in a proportionate manner and in accordance with international humanitarian law. In the conduct of its military activity, the Israeli Government must take all feasible precautions to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population and civilian objects.

Third, the 11 days of hostilities in May 2021 resulted in the loss of the lives of over 260 Palestinians – including 66 children – and 13 people in Israel, of whom were children. This humanitarian crisis created damage and losses that affected infrastructure and the productive and financial sectors and exacerbated previous traumas, affecting children in particular. Costa Rica reiterates the need to solidify the ceasefire in order allow the entry of unhindered and sustained humanitarian assistance that will help to stabilize the situation in Gaza. We also commend the important role

played by the United Nations, the United States, Egypt, Qatar and other international partners in this regard.

The situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories is unsustainable as it stands; Israeli and Palestinian civilians need to modify their attitudes and stances fast. This is not a situation that will be resolved through attrition: it is a situation that demands decisive, disciplined, direct dialogue. Increased violence may be politically opportune, but it does not benefit anyone in the long run. We call on both parties, with the support of the Middle East Quartet, to resume direct negotiations as soon as possible in order to achieve a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 lines and in accordance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

**Annex VI****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta**

[Original: English]

We endorse the statements delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Permanent Representative of Senegal, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

We reiterate our profound concern about the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the countries of the Middle East. In particular, the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people continues to worsen. Tackling the pandemic requires joint actions that prioritize cooperation and solidarity over political differences.

It is regrettable that, in the midst of this complex scenario, the Security Council continues to fail to adopt measures to put an end to the Israeli military aggression and occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

We reaffirm the strong condemnation of the indiscriminate bombings by the State of Israel against the Palestinian population in Gaza last May, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and extensive material damage.

These aggressions constitute yet another grave and flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law by Israel, which continues the occupation, consolidates its annexation policies and increases its illegal colonization practices and measures, including the construction and expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, punitive demolitions, the forced displacement of hundreds of civilians, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and plans for the annexation of the Palestinian territories in the Jordan Valley and other parts of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

These deplorable actions by Israel count on the complicity and impunity guaranteed by the United States, whose Government obstructs the action of the Security Council. We call once again on this body to fulfil its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and to demand an immediate end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories, as well as compliance with the resolutions on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

We ratify our unrestricted support for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that allows the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent and sovereign State within the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and that guarantees the right of return of refugees.

We express our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and Government. We support the accession of the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations and the call by its President for an international peace conference.

The aggressive, unilateral and unjustified actions of the United States in the Middle East infringe severely upon the legitimate interests of Arab and Islamic nations and lead to a dangerous escalation in the region.

We reiterate our rejection of the so-called “deal of the century” drawn up by the Government of the United States, which disregards the two-State solution that has

enjoyed the historic support of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other international actors.

The unilateral decision of the Government of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to establish its diplomatic representation in that city, disrespecting its historical status, and to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Syrian Golan constitute serious violations of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. We hope that the current Government will reverse such decisions, which, far from helping, further distance the possibility of a negotiated solution.

We demand, once again, the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Syrian Golan and all occupied Arab territories.

We support the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the situation imposed on Syria, without external interference and with full respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reiterate our strongest condemnation of the implementation of the "Caesar Act", which hinders the reconstruction of that country even more in the complex scenario of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We ratify our full support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran and the rejection of the withdrawal of the United States from that Plan.

We demand the immediate and unconditional end to the arbitrary and illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed on sovereign States, which are in violation of the human rights of their peoples, international law and the Charter of the United Nations and which generate additional difficulties in the current context of confronting the pandemic.

We reiterate our support for the urgent call of the Secretary-General to put an end to armed conflicts, hostilities and wars and instead to open up opportunities for diplomacy and cooperation, which will allow us to face this devastating pandemic together. The right to peace remains a fundamental priority.

It is the duty of all States, and in particular of the members of the Security Council, to defend multilateralism and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereign equality of States and for their political independence, unity and territorial integrity; non-interference in the internal affairs of States; the peaceful settlement of disputes; and refraining from the use or threat of use of force in international relations.

**Annex VII****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations**

[Original: Spanish]

First, I would like to congratulate France for its successful Presidency of the Security Council during the month of July 2021.

We reiterate that our statements made on 22 April and 16 May in the open debates on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, remain valid.

We express our concern at the escalation of violence reported in the last few months in the region, at a time when we are calling on the parties to make bilateral and collective efforts to conduct credible negotiations in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East without delay.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), demolitions are continuing at alarming levels. The properties destroyed include houses, animal shelters, latrines and solar power systems essential for the livelihood, well-being and dignity of the members of the community, which has been much more severely affected because of the threat of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to OCHA, between the months of January and July, 456 Palestinian structures were demolished, displacing 644 persons. At the current rate, the demolitions and resulting displacements will exceed the numbers for last year (854 structures demolished and 1,001 persons displaced). Ecuador expresses its concern at the humanitarian situation, the violations of human rights and the failure to comply with international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

It is essential to refrain from causing any type of harm to the civilian population and the life and security of persons must be respected, in accordance with the obligations under international humanitarian law.

We find unacceptable the hostility between the parties that has led to destruction and death, especially when the two nations are under the obligation to observe the norms of international law.

Furthermore, we express our profound concern at the annexation measures that constitute serious violations of international law, and in addition gravely affect the possibility of a two-State solution and undermine the prospects for a resumption of negotiations.

In that regard, the international community must reject any type of policy of illegal settlements, in particular the demolition and confiscation of Palestinian structures, including water and sanitation and humanitarian assistance infrastructure, throughout the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

COVID-19 remains a major problem in the Palestinian territory, considering that over 3,800 people have died from this disease in Palestine since the beginning of the pandemic. We call on the international community to strengthen the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) mechanism and other initiatives that promote and expand the national vaccination campaign in Gaza and the West Bank.

We believe that it is essential for the international community to redouble its efforts to enable the parties to return to the table for significant negotiations, with the



aim of achieving a definitive and just political solution for the parties, on the basis of the two-State solution.

Lastly, the Security Council should ensure the effective implementation of its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) which was adopted a year ago in July and resolution [2565 \(2021\)](#), both calling for the cessation of hostilities throughout the world.

**Annex VIII****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations**

[Original: Arabic]

During the month of May 2021, the Occupied Palestinian Territory witnessed a major escalation of already existing tensions in the occupied city of Jerusalem resulting from attempts to expel some Palestinian families in the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods. Tensions were also heightened by attempts by militant Jewish groups to storm the Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan. All this brought about a serious escalation of the situation, against the backdrop of ongoing Israeli practices such as land appropriation, home demolition and settlement construction in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as continued attacks by settlers on unarmed Palestinian civilians in the West Bank.

This dangerous escalation has led to a spillover of clashes and tensions into Israel itself. Clashes and armed action also broke out between Palestinian resistance factions in the Gaza Strip and Israel, leading to dozens of civilian deaths and injuries. That prompted Egypt, in cooperation with several regional, international and United Nations partners, to intervene to contain the situation and reach a ceasefire. Egypt is currently working in cooperation with various partners to shore up that ceasefire. Egypt also emphasizes the need to refrain from any unilateral measures that would reignite the situation and to respect the legal and historical status quo in East Jerusalem under Hashemite Jordanian custodianship of the holy places.

Egypt has not stopped there. It has tried to address the wider situation by calling for comprehensive reconstruction in the Gaza Strip. It has announced the allocation of \$500 million for reconstruction in conjunction with Egyptian companies active in such work. That is in addition to the continued humanitarian assistance provided by Egypt during and after the recent escalation to contain the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the Gaza Strip. Egypt has also facilitated the entry of humanitarian assistance being provided to the Palestinian people by several friendly and fraternal countries.

Despite all our efforts in cooperation with regional and international partners to reinforce the ceasefire, we were surprised when Israel allowed more than 1,000 settlers to enter the Aqsa Mosque courtyard on 18 July 2021, while our Palestinian brothers and the rest of the Muslim world were celebrating the Day of Arafat and Eid al-Adha. That was calculated to provoke Muslim sentiment during those holy days and was in fact a repetition of the same violations that led to the latest escalation last May. In our view, that move adversely impacted stability in the Occupied Territory and reignited escalation.

In a communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt expressed its condemnation of these renewed infringements by Israeli extremists under the protection of the occupying forces and warned against any defilement of the Aqsa Mosque, which has a special place in the hearts of Muslims around the world. In this context, it must be recalled that the clashes occurring during the recent escalation in the Gaza Strip between Palestinian resistance factions and Israel had their origin in clashes that took place in occupied East Jerusalem between Jerusalemites and the Israeli occupying forces as a result of violations at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Any honest assessment of the Palestinian crisis all these decades after the founding of the United Nations and the introduction of the Palestinian issue to its agenda can leave no doubt that the Palestinian people must be granted their legitimate rights, above all their right to self-determination. The Palestinian people have suffered

for decades. It is now time for them to have respite from that decades-long suffering that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The Palestinian cause – like it or not – remains the key to security and stability in the Middle East and the central issue for the Arab nation. It is from this standpoint that we reiterate the call for the Palestinian people to obtain their legitimate rights through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with the borders of 4 June 1967 and East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the agreed international references, including Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), the Arab Peace Initiative and the two-State solution.

Egypt also calls for a high-level meeting of the international Quartet to pave the way for an international peace conference. Trust must be built between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to create a climate conducive to the resumption of negotiations. All unilateral actions, especially settlement-building, must be stopped so as not to compromise the legal and historical status of East Jerusalem.

Egypt urges all donors to provide the necessary support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other relevant United Nations agencies to cope with the humanitarian repercussions of the recent escalation, as well as to address the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that connection, Egypt appreciates the support the United States is providing to UNRWA and urges all donor countries to follow suit in the light of the pressing needs of the Palestinian people.

At the regional level, Egypt endorses calls for a global ceasefire, including those made by the Secretary-General, to enable the peoples of the region to address the enormous challenges arising from the pandemic and pave the way for inclusive political processes based on the terms of reference set out in the relevant Council resolutions for resolving various protracted regional conflicts. The United Nations must ensure that efforts to resolve the crises in Syria and Yemen peacefully are guided by the peoples of those countries, free from intervention by foreign parties, and that those countries' sovereignty and independence, and the unity and integrity of their peoples and territories, are preserved.

Egypt also supports United Nations efforts in Syria and Yemen to push forward the political process and bring about a comprehensive ceasefire within the parameters set forth in the relevant Security Council resolutions. We stress the need for the Security Council to play a more active role to bring about political settlements of those crises, impose ceasefires, and combat terrorism and illegal terrorist organizations.

Egypt reiterates its deep concern about the continued attacks on ships, which threaten the freedom of international navigation. It condemns in the strongest terms the attacks against Saudi Arabia and the escalating use of force outside internationally agreed frameworks by certain parties in the region, a course of action that violates international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and threatens regional and international peace and security. Also of concern is the continued interference by certain countries in the internal affairs of other States and the fuelling of sectarian divisions to inflame conflicts. That trend requires coordinated and urgent international efforts to restore calm, promote dialogue and build confidence among countries in the region, under Security Council auspices, with a view to establishing a stable and robust security system that will achieve equitable and just security for all countries in the Middle East.

Egypt continues to support all efforts to reach a political settlement in Libya in order to restore the peace, stability and prosperity that the Libyan people deserve, and reiterates that Libyans themselves must take the primary responsibility in that regard. In that connection, Egypt welcomes the outcomes of the Second Berlin Conference

and calls for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on schedule in December 2021. The fraternal Libyan people must be able to choose their Government fairly and freely on the date set by the road map.

Egypt also stresses that all foreign forces, whatever their description, must leave Libya, and that the mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Libyan-led ceasefire agreement should monitor the departure of all such troops from Libyan territory without further delay. The Security Council must play its part in helping Libya get through this crucial stage, in accordance with the Council presidential statement of 15 January 2021.

A just and comprehensive peace can be achieved in our region only if there is full compliance with internationally recognized resolutions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially respect for the sovereignty and regional integration of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, and only if all occupied Arab territories are liberated, especially in Palestine and the Syrian Golan.

## Annex IX

### Statement by the Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Olof Skoog

[Original: English]

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia,\* Montenegro\* and Albania,\* as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union reaffirms its commitment to a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-State solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition.

The European Union remains deeply concerned by the situation in the Middle East. The latest escalation in Gaza led to deplorable civilian deaths and injuries, including a high number of children and women. The European Union has condemned the indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups on Israeli territory, has fully supported Israel's right to defend itself and has underlined how that right must be exercised in a proportionate manner and in full respect of international humanitarian law.

The European Union has welcomed the ceasefire and calls for its consolidation. The European Union welcomes the steps that Israel has taken to ease some restrictions on Gaza and calls for the further lifting of restrictions to allow for reconstruction efforts and basic service delivery as well as unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza. The situation in the Gaza Strip has long been unsustainable: only a political solution will bring an end to the conflict. Restoring a political horizon towards a two-State solution, for which the European Union reaffirms there is no alternative, remains of utmost importance.

The viability of the two-State solution is being constantly eroded by new facts on the ground. The European Union urges both parties to demonstrate their stated commitment to a two-State solution through concrete actions and to avoid unilateral actions which threaten it. Actions by either side which call into question this commitment must be avoided. The European Union will actively support the parties to restore confidence and create the environment of trust necessary to engage in meaningful negotiations as soon as possible.

In this regard, the European Union has welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and a number of countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. The European Union believes that these developments represent a positive contribution to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The preservation of the viability of the two-State solution is at the core of European Union policy and will remain a priority.

Settlements are illegal under international law. The European Union's opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, including in East Jerusalem, is well known. Such actions as building the separation barrier beyond the 1967 line; demolitions and confiscation – including of European Union-funded projects; evictions; forced transfers, including of Bedouins; illegal outposts; settler violence; and restrictions of movement and access will only escalate tensions in an already tense environment. It will be important not to proceed with any planned evictions. The status quo of the holy sites must be fully respected, and in this regard,

\* The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.

the European Union recalls the importance of the Hashemite custodianship of Jerusalem's holy sites. The European Union will continue to closely monitor developments on the ground and their broader implications and remains ready to take further action in order to protect the viability of the two-State solution.

The European Union calls for all parties to take swift steps to produce a fundamental change in the political, security and economic situation in the Gaza Strip, including the end of the closure of, and the full opening of, the crossing points while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns. Rocket fire and the launching of incendiary balloons and other attacks by Hamas and other militant groups is unacceptable. All stakeholders must commit to non-violence and peace.

The decision to postpone the planned Palestinian elections, including the legislative elections originally scheduled for 22 May, is deeply disappointing. The European Union has consistently expressed its support for credible, inclusive and transparent elections for all Palestinians. We firmly believe that strong, inclusive, accountable and functioning democratic Palestinian institutions based on respect for the rule of law and human rights are vital for the Palestinian people, for democratic legitimacy and, ultimately, for the two-State solution. We strongly encourage all Palestinian actors to resume efforts to build on the successful talks between the factions over recent months, to adhere to previous agreements, to renounce violence and terrorism, to recognize Israel's right to exist and to commit to democratic principles, including the rule of law. A new date for elections should be set without delay. We reiterate our call on Israel to facilitate the holding of such elections across all of the Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem. The European Union continues to stand ready to work with all of those involved in order to facilitate European Union observation of any electoral process. Palestinian civil society organizations and actors must be allowed to carry out their important task free from obstruction, harassment and intimidation. The European Union is shocked and saddened by the death of activist Nizar Banat following his arrest by the security forces of the Palestinian Authority, and we call for a full, independent investigation into his death and for those responsible to be held accountable. The European Union calls for the fundamental right to freedom of expression in areas under Palestinian Authority control to be upheld.

The European Union reiterates its deep and genuine appreciation for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and for its dedicated staff, who are working in an extremely difficult and challenging context. UNRWA is an essential provider of vital services to millions of Palestine refugees and a stabilizing force in the region. Until a just, fair, agreed and realistic solution to the refugee issue in accordance with international law is found, UNRWA remains crucial for providing the necessary protection and essential services for Palestine refugees, and we will continue to support UNRWA in all of its fields of operations, including in East Jerusalem. The European Union recalls that, together with its member States, it provided 75 per cent of last year's funding for UNRWA; it welcomes the additional financial support from other and new donors, including the renewed commitment from the United States, and calls upon all partners, including the Arab Gulf States, to increase their contributions to UNRWA.

Looking ahead, we need to explore the space for meaningful re-engagement between the parties, to develop confidence-building measures, to improve living conditions for ordinary people and to open up the path to the potential relaunch of the peace process, and we stand ready to engage with the new Israeli Government bilaterally as well as to support efforts to rebuild a meaningful political process.

The European Union will renew its engagement with key international partners, including the United States and other partners in the region, as well as with a revived Middle East Quartet.

Please allow me to turn to the situation in Syria.

The European Union welcomes the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), on 9 July 2021, which constitutes a considerable relief for the next 12 months for millions of Syrians who rely on the humanitarian assistance delivered through this mechanism for their survival. The renewal of the Council resolution on cross-border assistance continues to be vital, although by no means sufficient, as long as there is no adequate alternative to meet the immense, and growing, humanitarian needs in north-west Syria.

After a decade of conflict, a political solution has yet to be reached. Conflict, violence and instability in Syria continue to have profound repercussions for the stability of the entire region, causing enormous human suffering, with millions of Syrians still displaced or living as refugees in other countries.

The European Union remains committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian State and recalls that any sustainable solution to the conflict requires a genuine, inclusive political transition in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) and the Geneva communiqué of 2012 negotiated by the Syrian parties within the United Nations-led Geneva process, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.

The elections that took place in Syria on 26 May met none of the criteria for a genuinely democratic vote and did not contribute to the settlement of the conflict, and the European Union considers that these elections undermine efforts to find a sustainable solution to the Syrian conflict. Elections in Syria should take place only within the framework of a genuine political process, in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). The political process must be fully inclusive to ensure that all segments of Syria's society are involved in shaping the country's future unity and reconciliation.

The European Union fully supports the efforts of the Special Envoy, Geir Pedersen, towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) in a comprehensive approach, including on the issue of detainees and missing persons and the establishment of a safe and neutral environment in order for free and fair elections to be held under United Nations supervision, and continues to encourage the work of the Syrian-led Constitutional Committee, under United Nations auspices. The European Union recalls that a sixth meeting must take place as soon as possible, this time on the basis of a clear understanding of the working methodology and objectives. The European Union insists on engagement in good faith by all parties, and in particular by the Syrian regime, in the work of the Constitutional Committee with the aim of achieving meaningful progress on constitutional reform.

The European Union notes with interest Special Envoy Pedersen's proposals for a new political format and for a "step-for-step" approach to move forward in the political process.

In the north-west of Syria, the situation continues to be highly insecure. The ceasefire agreed in March 2020 is fragile and must be upheld and strengthened, civilians must be protected at all times, and attacks on civilian objects, including hospitals, must cease.

The European Union continues to call upon the Syrian regime and its allies, and indeed upon all parties to the conflict, to fully respect international humanitarian law,

and in particular to permanently cease indiscriminate air strikes and the shelling of civilians and humanitarian workers.

The European Union also notes with concern the ongoing insecurity in the north-east of Syria. Military action by any party in Syria renders ordinary life dangerous and intolerable for the civilian population. The European Union once again echoes the call made on a number of occasions by the United Nations and the Security Council for the implementation of a nationwide ceasefire, in line with Council resolutions [2254 \(2015\)](#) and [2532 \(2020\)](#).

Turkey is a key partner of the European Union and a critically important actor in the Syrian crisis and the region. Turkey's security concerns in the north-east of Syria should be addressed through political and diplomatic means, not by military action, and in full respect of international humanitarian law.

Within Syria, violations of international law, including violations and abuses of human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law by all parties, in particular the Syrian regime and its allies, remain persistent.

The European Union continues to demand an end to repression, the release of detainees, and meaningful engagement by the Syrian regime and its allies towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

The European Union further insists that the Syrian regime must cooperate fully with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), including in its investigations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, and deplores the continued lack of cooperation of the regime with OPCW.

All those responsible for breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law, some of which may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, must be held accountable. The European Union reiterates its call to have the situation in Syria referred to the International Criminal Court.

In the absence of avenues for international justice, the prosecution of war crimes under national jurisdictions where possible, now under way in several European Union member States, represents an important contribution towards securing justice.

The European Union will continue to support efforts to gather evidence with a view to future legal action, including by the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria and the work of the Commission of Inquiry. We welcome the initiative of the Netherlands, together with Canada, to invoke Syria's responsibility for human rights violations.

The Syrian refugee crisis is the largest displacement crisis in the world, with 5.6 million registered refugees and another 6.7 million people displaced within Syria, and with conditions not in place for their safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return in line with the parameters defined by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and in accordance with international law. The European Union insists that the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin will only be encouraged once these conditions are met. The underlying causes of the refugee and displacement crisis must be addressed through the implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).

The European Union continues to warn against any further displacements in any part of Syria, as well as against the potential exploitation of such displacements for the purposes of social and demographic engineering.

The European Union, in line with the conclusions of the European Council, will be ready to assist in the reconstruction of Syria only when a comprehensive, genuine



and inclusive political transition, within the framework of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) and the Geneva process, is firmly under way.

Allow me to reiterate once more: only a credible, sustainable and inclusive political solution based on the full and comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) can bring sustainable peace to Syria and open the way for Syria to become once again the united, sovereign, prosperous and free country that we all want to see. The European Union will continue to support the Office of the Special Envoy in its efforts to bring about an inclusive political solution.

**Annex X****Statement by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Indonesia to the United Nations, Mohammad Kurniadi Koba**

[Original: English]

Indonesia aligns itself with the statements made by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Indonesia remains concerned about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which has not yet shown improvement.

We deplore the continued violations of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif by Israel, including the latest attack on worshippers.

We have pointed out on many occasions that such illegal actions constitute a grave breach of international law and are a threat to peace.

- They will make the prospect of peace remain elusive.

We would therefore like to reiterate our call on the Security Council to uphold its responsibility and act decisively to address the core of the problem and ensure international peace and security.

In this regard, allow me to reiterate three points.

First, the Security Council must call on Israel to cease its acts of aggression and respect international law.

The aggression, provocations and violations perpetrated by Israel in contravention of international law continue unabated.

- They include the expansion of settlements, the seizure and demolition of Palestinian homes, and threats of expulsion of Palestinian families.
- This must not be the status quo.

The Security Council must take up its responsibility and stop these illegal actions that undermine the prospects of a just peace.

Second, the Security Council must provide protection to Palestinian civilian populations, in accordance with international law.

To address the root causes and prevent future atrocities, we must also end impunity to ensure accountability for human rights violations.

Indonesia welcomes the decision by the Human Rights Council to investigate systematic abuses in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including occupied East Jerusalem.

Third, the Security Council must support and actively revive the stalled peace process on the basis of the two-State solution and in line with internationally agreed parameters.

- This is crucial to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable solution.

In conclusion, Indonesia would like to reiterate that the time for words is long past.

- We expect this august body to shoulder its responsibility.
- Concrete steps to ensure the safety of the Palestinian people, and the status quo of holy sites, must be explored.

At the same time, we must guard against actions that will undermine a peaceful future.

Indonesia remains committed to the people and the State of Palestine.

- We stand ready to support the Palestinian people and all efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution.

## Annex XI

**Statement by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Zahra Ershadi**

[Original: English]

Since the previous quarterly open debate of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, the situation in Palestine has been drastically aggravated owing to the unlawful policies and barbaric practices of the Israeli regime, including the desecration of Haram Al-Sharif, the confiscation, demolition, seizure and confiscation of Palestinian homes, and the killing and wounding of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the Occupying forces.

For example, in its 11-day brutal and all-out war on Gaza in May 2021 alone, Israeli forces killed 256 Palestinians, including 66 children and 40 women. This includes 13 members of an extended family who were killed and buried in the rubble of their own home – many of whom were children, one as young as six months.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, almost 2,000 Palestinians were also injured during attacks on Gaza, including “over 600 children and 400 women, some of whom may suffer from a long-term disability requiring rehabilitation”.

Besides, according to the Secretary-General, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, “Israeli military and security forces killed 21 Palestinians, including 6 boys, and injured another 1,662 Palestinians, including 185 children (7 girls and 178 boys) and 21 women”.

The Israeli regime also continues to commit the most systematic and gross violation of the rights of the child. According to the annual report of the Secretary-General, in 2020, the United Nations verified 1,031 cases of grave violations against 340 Palestinian children, of whom 11 were killed, 324 maimed and 361 detained.

In addition, as reported by the Secretary-General, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, “4,450 Palestinians were held as ‘security prisoners’ in Israeli prisons, including 140 children, 37 women and 10 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council”. In a barbaric act on 8 July 2021, Israeli troops detonated explosives, destroying the family home of a Palestinian prisoner, Muntasir Shalabi.

Furthermore, one of the unlawful and brutal actions of the Israeli regime has been the confiscation and demolition of Palestinian homes. According to the Secretary-General, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, “Israeli authorities demolished 1,015 Palestinian-owned structures ... Demolitions more than tripled during Ramadan in 2020, compared with the same period in 2019”. Such measures “resulted in the displacement of 1,255 Palestinians, the majority of whom were women (296) and children (666, including 305 girls)”. On 7 July 2021, the Israeli regime entirely demolished the Palestinian village of Humsah al-Fawqa for the fifth time.

During its 11-day attack on Gaza in May 2021, the Israeli regime destroyed over 2,300 housing units, and according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “an estimated 16,250 housing units sustained some degree of damage, as did multiple water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure, 58 education facilities, 9 hospitals and 19 primary healthcare centres”.

Likewise, in referring to the brutalities of the Israeli regime, one must not lose sight of the blockade of Gaza, imposed since 2007, which, according to the Secretary-

General, “continues to severely restrict the movement of persons and goods to and from Gaza, and has affected every aspect of Palestinians’ rights, including freedom of movement, the right to life, the right to health, the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to food”, and, according to a report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, by undermining all aspects of a viable economic and social life, “has transformed Gaza from a low-income society with modest but growing export ties into the regional and international economy to an impoverished ghetto with a decimated economy and a collapsing social service system”.

As clearly stated by the Secretary-General in his note on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, the blockade “may amount to collective punishment, which is prohibited under international law”. Yet the Israeli regime continues occasionally striking the Gaza Strip.

Of course, these are only the tip of the iceberg of the inhumane crimes and unlawful practices committed by the Israeli regime against the Palestinians, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity and entailing the international responsibility of the Israeli regime, whose officials must therefore be brought to justice for committing such heinous crimes.

Moreover, we must also refer to the continued destabilizing measures and military adventurism of the Israeli regime in the region, clear examples of which are the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and parts of Lebanon, as well as the systematic violation of the sovereignty of these two countries in contravention of international law, in particular article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

The history of mankind testifies that, when unlawful acts go unpunished, they are repeated. Therefore, the Israeli regime commits all such crimes with total impunity because, for well over seven decades, the Security Council has been dead silent against all unlawful acts committed by that regime, and the Council’s decades-long utter and inexcusable inaction has seriously emboldened that regime to commit more crimes with more brutality.

At the same time, it is evident that the decades-long silence and inaction of the Security Council against such grave breaches of the peace constituting a serious threat to international peace and security is because the United States has systematically shielded the Israeli regime against any action by the Council, one example of which is the use of the veto 44 times to prevent the adoption of draft resolutions of the Council against Israel, which is unprecedented in the Council’s history. The latest example of such measures was the act of the United States, in May 2021, to block the Council from issuing even a simple press statement calling for an end to Israel’s bombardment of Gaza.

Such unwavering support for Israel from the United States is against the inherent rights of the oppressed Palestinians, including their right to life, dignity, liberation, self-defence and self-determination and to establish their own independent State.

The Security Council must put an immediate end to this unjustifiable and unacceptable trend and to compel the Israeli regime to cease, immediately and completely, all of its crimes against Palestinians; to remove the unlawful and inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip; to end the occupation of all Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan and parts of Lebanon; and to hold that regime accountable for committing the gravest international crimes for several decades.

Condemning, in the strongest possible terms, all crimes of the Israeli regime against Palestinians, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and the full realization of all of their inalienable rights, in particular their inherent right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State throughout Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

In conclusion, I would like to recall the thirty-ninth anniversary of the abduction of three members of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, as well as an Iranian journalist, who were captured in July 1982 during the occupation of Beirut by the Israeli regime. There are various news reports and indications that, after being stopped and detained in the north of Beirut, which was then under the occupation of the Israeli regime, said Iranians were immediately handed over to the Israeli military forces. Likewise, there are various pieces of evidence, including assertions by some of those who were in Israeli prisons and released later or who have visited the prisons, suggesting that they are still alive and are in the hands of the Israeli regime. We underline the responsibility of the United Nations in properly addressing this criminal act, as well as its assistance in returning the abducted diplomats and journalist to Iran.

Finally, in his statement today, the Israeli regime's representative once again played the victim and, to distract attention from the brutal crimes that the regime continues to commit, accused others in the region and the world. Instead of proposing to address the challenges of others, the Israeli regime must stop the murder and bloodshed and cease expanding its terrorist activities to the entire region. Israel's accusations regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear programme are completely absurd, irrelevant and baseless, and its objective is to cover up the danger that the nuclear weapons of that regime pose to the region and beyond. To remove this threat, the international community must compel the regime to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and put all of its nuclear activities and facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Other accusations of the Israeli regime's representative were mere fabrication and disinformation too.

**Annex XII****Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Osuga Takeshi**

[Original: English]

First and foremost, I would like to reaffirm Japan's commitment to supporting a two-State solution based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed parameters.

The devastating acts of violence exchanged between Israel and Palestinian militants in May hindered the prospects for building trust between the parties and making progress on the Middle East peace process. The ceasefire declared by both parties brought some relief, and Japan welcomes the mediation efforts by countries concerned, including the United States and Egypt. However, the situation on the ground, including settlement activities and the destruction of Palestinian homes by Israeli authorities in the West Bank, as well as acts of hostility by both Palestinian militants in Gaza and the Israel Defense Forces, remains worrisome. These actions jeopardize the ceasefire and could lead to a re-escalation. Japan calls upon all parties to halt any activities that would hinder progress towards the full realization of peace in the Middle East. Japan also reiterates that the solution could never be achieved through violence, only through negotiations and through efforts to build mutual trust between the parties.

The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza persists as a result of the escalation in May. Japan decided in June to extend an emergency grant aid of \$10 million to the Gaza Strip and is committed to playing an active role in providing support to reconstruction efforts. While welcoming the international efforts to meet the enormous humanitarian needs since the escalation, in particular by Egypt, Japan calls upon the international society to respond to the appeals by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide further support for the people affected in Gaza and encourages Israel to ensure sufficient humanitarian access to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings.

More broadly, Japan has been extending multifaceted assistance to meet the socioeconomic needs of Palestinians and strengthen human security. To counter the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Japan decided to provide cold-chain equipment and related assistance amounting to approximately \$8.1 million. Japan highly values its long-standing partnership with UNRWA and has already disbursed \$32 million to the Agency this year.

Furthermore, Japan has been taking the lead in two important initiatives, the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity and the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, with the aim of supporting political dialogue among the parties concerned, Palestinian State-building efforts, and confidence-building between the two sides.

Since the last open debate of the Council in April, we have seen important developments on the political front. The Prime Minister of Japan, Suga Yoshihide, wrote in his congratulatory letter to Naftali Bennett, upon his taking office as the Prime Minister of Israel in June, that Japan would spare no effort to achieve a two-State solution, recognizing that progress in the peace process is of paramount importance for peace and stability in the region.

On the other hand, we regret that the series of elections in Palestine have been postponed until undetermined dates. Japan is convinced that only democratically

elected leaders on both sides would have the legitimate power to advance direct negotiations towards realizing a two-State solution. Japan again urges all parties concerned to collaborate in order to ensure the successful holding of Palestinian elections in a free, fair and inclusive manner that will include voting by Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Japan stands ready to help make these elections happen.



## Annex XIII

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations

[Original: Arabic]

A more peaceful world cannot come to pass without a stable Middle East. However, stability in the Middle East will remain elusive unless a just and comprehensive peace is attained, in the form of the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security, in accordance with the two-State solution, international law, internationally recognized resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

In order to achieve that objective, efforts must be redoubled to protect the peace process and the right of all the peoples of the region to live in security and peace. The two-State solution is the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace based on international law. It is the strategic Arab choice, a regional and international necessity, and a right for all the peoples of the region.

Time is of the essence. We must use all means at our disposal to launch effective international action to guarantee the legitimate rights of Palestinians, protect the holy places, make sure that Jerusalemites remain on their land, and instil calm throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Now is the time to move from taking positions to taking action. We must create the political prospect of restoring confidence in the peace process and making the necessary progress towards the two-State solution. No lasting and comprehensive peace can be achieved without an end to the conflict on the basis of the two-State solution, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative. The latter remains the most comprehensive proposal to put an end to the conflict and uphold the right of the peoples of the region to genuine peace. Such peace would allow all energies to be directed towards development and a future filled with opportunities and achievements rather than oppression and conflicts.

Protecting the chances of the two-State solution, and thus achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace, requires Israel to desist from illegal acts that undermine it. Continued settlement construction and expansion violate international law, and undermine the chances for peace. Displacement of Jerusalemites from their homes in the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods should be prohibited and punished as a war crime if it takes place. Continued violations at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif must cease. They violate the legal obligations of Israel as the occupying Power and create provocations to further escalation.

We therefore condemn the continued Israeli violations at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif. The most recent violations include the unilateral actions taken by the Israeli police at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif without regard for Islamic religious rites or the sanctity of the mosque. Worshippers and the staff of the Jerusalem Waqf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan were harassed, while large numbers of extremists were permitted to enter under the protection of the Israeli police. Mindful of the Hashemite dynasty's historical duty of custodianship of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, under His Majesty King Abdullah II as custodian, Jordan will continue its efforts to protect the holy sites and preserve the city's legal and historic status. We affirm that the entire 144-square-dunum area of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif compound is a dedicated place of worship for Muslims, supervised exclusively by the Jerusalem Endowments Department and the Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs Administration of Jordan.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) must continue to provide the vital services it is mandated by the Organization to provide pending a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine refugees that would uphold their right of return and compensation in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 (III) dated 11 December 1948, in the context of a comprehensive solution to the conflict on the basis of a two-State solution bringing an end to the occupation that began in 1967. In coordination with the United Nations, Jordan and Sweden are preparing to hold a donor conference for the Agency in the coming period, to mobilize political support that translates into sustainable financial support that will enable UNRWA to carry out its mandate.

In conclusion, we must act to protect the chances for peace and the right of the peoples of the Middle East to peace. We must create a political horizon that will enable us to reach a solution to the conflict and achieve true peace.

## Annex XIV

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations

[Original: Arabic]

Today, the Security Council is holding its quarterly open debate under the item on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The international community is continuing its efforts to maintain the ceasefire agreement between Israel, the occupying Power and Palestine, and is making efforts to ensure that urgent humanitarian assistance is provided and delivered to those affected by the major escalation in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, which has been brought about by crimes and attacks committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people.

Unfortunately, even with all those efforts, and despite the ceasefire agreement, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to implement its hostile policies against the Palestinian people, including plans to annex more Palestinian territory in the West Bank, in addition to obstructing and delaying the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip.

Such policies show yet again that Israel seeks to entrench the occupation by extending its illegal activities and policies, in particular through the expansion, construction and establishment of settlement units and the annexation of land, in open violation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

Recent United Nations reports have shown that settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have escalated since the Israeli Government gave the green light for the construction of 540 new residential units in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem. These reports have warned that the construction of these housing units would connect two Israeli settlements and separate Bethlehem and the southern West Bank from East Jerusalem. Such decisions not only adversely affect the chances of a resumption of negotiations, but also seek to judaize Jerusalem, thereby diminishing the Palestinians' chances for an independent, contiguous, viable, sustainable and independent Palestinian State. Kuwait adds its voice to that of the international community in condemning these plans. It stresses that the special status of Jerusalem should not be compromised, that any action aimed at changing its nature should be considered null and void, and that Israel should be compelled to put an end to its illegal practices and required to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

We are further troubled by the fact that this green light from the Israeli authorities for the construction of illegal housing units has been accompanied by acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers against the defenceless Palestinian people right before the eyes of the Israeli security forces. There have also been racist chants against Arabs and Muslims and destruction of Palestinian buildings and property. In the past three months, 72 buildings have been destroyed, resulting in the forced displacement of 78 people, including 47 children and 15 women. These acts and policies violate the most basic human rights laws, international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The occupying Power must honour its obligation to protect private property in the Occupied Territory, and refrain from appropriating it.

The prevailing climate of impunity gives Israeli settlers greater freedom to seize land and property and displace Palestinian families from their homes. Now more than ever, we must utilize international political and legal mechanisms to make sure that Israel, the occupying Power, is held accountable for its continued violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, who are protected under international law, and make

it put a stop to encroachments by Israeli settlers involving both the seizure and destruction of Palestinian property.

In closing, the State of Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to the Arab, Islamic and international position affirming the centrality of the Palestinian issue for the Arab and Islamic communities and the Arab identity of occupied East Jerusalem. We also reaffirm our commitment to peace as a strategic choice and the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with international law, the relevant internationally recognized resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, in a way that allows the Palestinian people to enjoy their full legitimate political rights and establish an independent State on their territory with East Jerusalem as its capital.

## Annex XV

# Statement by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Amal Mudallali

[Original: English]

I wish to congratulate France on its assumption of the presidency of the Council, and I commend the Ambassador and his mission on their active work during this month.

I seize this opportunity to thank Estonia on a good job as President of the Council last month.

After nine months of political gridlock, Lebanon seems to be inching towards forming a much-needed Government. The parliamentary consultations that were held this week tasked the former Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, to form such a Government.

The challenges are daunting. The financial crisis left the Lebanese people with little or no electricity on a daily basis; skyrocketing inflation and prices, with the Lebanese pound losing over 90 per cent of its value; and water, fuel and medicine shortages at a time of renewed resurgence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. A brain drain is depriving Lebanon of its young people, who are leaving out of despair at the situation and at rising poverty and inequality rates that are changing the character of the country. Suffice it to say that the two latest communiqués from the United Nations Children's Fund report that millions of Lebanese are at risk of losing access to safe water and that a majority of families in Lebanon can no longer afford to meet the basic needs of their children.

Forming a government is the first step on a long road towards implementing the indispensable reforms needed to help Lebanon out of this dire crisis.

As the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is nearing its annual term, Lebanon has expressed its willingness, at the highest level in the country, to extend the mandate of UNIFIL without changes. UNIFIL continues to play an important and indispensable role in maintaining security and stability in South Lebanon, for the benefit not only of the southern borders but also of the region. The French delegation put it correctly – in a Security Council meeting in 2017 – when it described UNIFIL as a regional public good.

In this regard, we welcome the renewal of the UNIFIL budget on 30 June and reaffirm the Government's commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) in its entirety.

The Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty, in particular by air, persist, causing damage to villages along the border and creating an imminent danger to civil aviation. The violations are well documented in letters of complaints addressed to the Security Council. Once again, we call on the Council to compel Israel to stop its violation of Lebanese sovereignty, to stop endangering peace and security in the region and to abide by its obligations under international law.

Needless to say, today the Palestinian people continue to live under the oppression of the Israeli authorities, and the occupation continues unabated, with its destruction of Palestinian homes and the approval of settlement projects.

The latest approval of settlement plans seeks to connect East Jerusalem with the rest of the West Bank. No matter the Government in power in Israel, the intensification of the occupation of the Palestinian territory remains the norm. This, along with the other illegal settlement activities, threatens the future of a Palestinian State and ends any hope of a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

The policy of mere condemnation from the international community has unfortunately empowered Israeli authorities over the years, creating and enshrining a culture of impunity.

In its press statement of 22 May 2021, the Security Council members “reiterated the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders”. The Security Council must live up to its responsibility and act swiftly and decisively towards its commitment, on the basis of international law, including the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. We must learn from the Gaza attack of May of this year that military power and violence do not solve the problem. On the contrary, they create a cycle of violence and new grievances. Only by addressing the root cause of this long-standing injustice, occupation, can the region live in peace and security.

A state of permanent occupation has led, over the years, to what Human Rights Watch recently described in a report as “crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution” against Palestinians. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of France warned of a risk of “long-lasting apartheid” in Israel if there was no Palestinian State.

A few days ago, we marked Nelson Mandela International Day to commemorate the life and legacy of the iconic anti-apartheid figure who uttered these powerful words: “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”.

**Annex XVI****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid**

[Original: English]

I thank the President of the Security Council for convening this important open debate. Malaysia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Niger on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

For more than 70 years, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has affected the Middle East landscape, yet it gains only “seasonal” attention and coverage when tensions flare and the international community takes notice. We must not allow this to be the trend as the suffering in the occupied territories continues unabated. The Security Council, as the custodian for maintaining international peace and security, must continue to intensify efforts in finding a final solution to the conflict.

Malaysia welcomes the ceasefire in Gaza on 21 May 2021 and commends all parties, including Egypt, that facilitated the ceasefire. Malaysia, together with Egypt and other cross-regional partners, also issued a joint communiqué on a global ceasefire on 22 June 2021 calling on all Member States and relevant parties to redouble their efforts to bring peace in the conflicts to which they are parties or in which they have influence, through the effective participation of all stakeholders. We also stress the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict, as well as the inequalities, injustices and discriminations that have made some of the conflicts and wars protracted. My delegation hopes that this message will receive due attention from the Council in addressing the world’s most enduring conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Malaysia also calls on the international community to continue to support the reconstruction efforts in Gaza and to provide urgent relief and humanitarian aid to the thousands injured and made homeless by Israel’s attacks.

At the same time, the international community must not lose sight of the prolonged suffering of the Palestinians and the urgent need to end the illegal Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We must come to grips with the reality that the Palestinians continue to live under brutal occupation and within a repressive blockade zone; their fundamental rights are denied while illegal settlements are being expanded. Regrettably and evidently, the intensity of the ferocious and apartheid policies of Israel against Palestinians has become rampant owing to the lack of accountability by the international community.

Earlier this month, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 told the Human Rights Council that the Israeli settlements amounted to a war crime. He further called on the international community to develop a menu of accountability measures to be applied to Israel if it continued to defy international law, including reviewing trade, investment, and cultural agreements and ending arms sales with Israel.

The international community must respond to this call. We cannot sit idly and stop all plots against the Palestinian people, which clearly violate numerous United Nations resolutions and international law, including humanitarian law. We reiterate the call on the Security Council to uphold its duties, to implement its resolutions vis-à-vis the question of Palestine and to act urgently to address Israel’s annexation plans, which threaten regional and international peace and security.

Malaysia continues to reaffirm its unwavering support and solidarity towards the Palestinian cause in realizing their inalienable rights to self-determination, freedom and independence, including the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We will continue our bilateral assistance to Palestine and support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to ease the conditions of the Palestinian people.

Malaysia believes that there is no alternative to sustainable peace without a negotiated political settlement of a two-State solution. In this context, Malaysia supports the call by the international community, including by the Secretary-General, on the Middle East Quartet to find a mutually agreeable path for the parties to re-engage towards a negotiated peaceful settlement.



## Annex XVII

### **Statement by the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

[Original: English]

I have the honour to deliver this statement, on behalf of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in my capacity as Vice Chair of OIC Group.

This meeting is taking place against the backdrop of a deteriorating and grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to Israel's unlawful and fait accompli policies of ethnic cleansing, racist practices and collective punishment against the Palestinian people and of colonial settlement construction and expansion. Israel, the occupying power, continues its violations and aggressions by the escalation in acts of provocation, incitement and violence, in particular by extremist settlers, along with repeated attacks against the Aqsa Mosque/Haram Al-Sharif, the destruction of Palestinian homes and properties, and the forced expulsion of Palestinian families from their homes, in particular in the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, and Bedouin families in the Jordan Valley. We are particularly concerned by the raiding of the Aqsa Mosque, attacks on Palestinian civilians praying in the area, and the detention of Palestinian civilians on 18 July, which represents the latest attempt to undermine the status quo of Haram Al-Sharif.

We forewarn once again that the continuation of such illegal, oppressive and destructive policies would transform a solvable political conflict into a global religious imbroglio, with unpredictable repercussions for peace and security in an already volatile region and beyond. We therefore reiterate that the Security Council should assume its responsibility in upholding international law and implementing its own resolutions aimed at bringing a halt to these illegal acts and salvaging the prospects for a just peace.

In the same vein, OIC reaffirms that all measures or decisions by any party aimed at entrenching the illegal Israeli occupation and unlawfully altering the legal, historical, cultural and political status of the occupied city of Jerusalem constitute a blatant violation of the political and legal rights of the Palestinian people and systematic breaches of international humanitarian law and of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [476 \(1980\)](#), [478 \(1980\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#).

OIC also continues to monitor with grave concern the dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a result of the recent devastating outcomes of the brutal Israeli air strikes on the besieged Gaza Strip that claimed more than 290 Palestinian lives, including 66 children and 40 women, and injured over 1,900 people, in addition to the thousands of families displaced and made homeless following the Israeli military's widespread destruction and damage to homes, vital infrastructure and civil facilities, including hospitals, schools, and water and sanitation facilities. OIC calls upon the international community to set up political and legal mechanisms to ensure Israel's respect for and compliance with international law and the enforcement of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as called for long ago by the General Assembly and the High Contracting Parties.

Moreover, the dire socioeconomic situation in Palestine caused by Israel's illegal occupation and blockade and exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic risks becoming even worse owing to the decision of the Israeli

authorities to withhold parts of the Palestinian tax revenues. Such an illegal decision is an act of piracy and collective punishment of the Palestinian people, constitutes a violation of international law and Israel's commitments under signed agreements, and must be ceased forthwith.

We affirm that the current dangerous developments warrant this esteemed Council, more than ever, intervening earnestly and immediately to provide international protection for the Palestinian people as guaranteed by international norms and conventions, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is unacceptable to continue to deal with Israel as a State above the law in the face of such relentless crimes and violations against the Palestinian people, of blatant colonization and of contempt for international law and the international community.

OIC believes that urgent efforts should be deployed to promote the role and expand the composition of the international Quartet and to mobilize further international engagement in order to effectively inspire new momentum for reviving the current deadlocked peace process that should henceforth be based on clear political terms of reference and parameters, as enshrined in United Nations resolutions, and with a specific time frame and international guarantees, aimed at achieving a just, comprehensive and durable solution that brings an end to the Israeli colonial occupation; realizes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and the independence of their State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and ensures a just solution to the question of Palestine refugees, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular resolution [194 \(III\)](#), and the Arab Peace Initiative.

## Annex XVIII

### Statement by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations

[Original: Spanish]

We welcome the holding of this quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine. We thank the distinguished speakers for their comprehensive briefings.

Peru has been closely following the development of the events surrounding the question of Palestine. Although we welcome the relative decline in the levels of violence through the ceasefire agreed on 20 May, we cannot help but underline the extremely fragile nature of the current situation, given the lack of trust that still prevails between the parties and the rigidity of their positions.

We believe that we find ourselves at a critical juncture, and it is essential to act swiftly and firmly to realize the only solution that we believe is viable and in keeping with international law: the two-State solution with internationally recognized and secure borders, to be directly negotiated between Israel and Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, which should also lead to the determination of the final status of Jerusalem.

We note that the resumption of a political process requires leaving behind hatred, antisemitism and discrimination, as well as any other manifestation of violence. From this perspective, we condemn the holding of anti-Palestinian marches in East Jerusalem in June, promoted by Israeli extremist groups, as well as the continued launching of incendiary devices by Hamas, putting at risk the lives of Israeli civilians and causing property damage.

To achieve this, we stress the obligation of Israel to observe in its responses the basic principles of international humanitarian law, in particular proportionality and distinction. Deadly force should be utilized only as a last resort, under imminent threat of death or serious injury.

In the same way, actions that weaken the required trust must be replaced. We are referring to the harmful practices of settlements, demolitions of homes and displacement in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, which undermine the two-State solution and violate the terms set by this Council in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). These illegal practices, like the recent demolition of property belonging to the Bedouin community of Humsa al-Baqai'a or the planned expansion of settlements in East Jerusalem, must cease.

Peru believes that the renewal of the commitment by the parties to the peace process should also include urgent action to alleviate human suffering. We deplore the progressive deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stress the urgency of addressing its root causes.

We therefore believe that it is essential to cease retaliation measures against the civilian population, such as the reduction in the Palestinian fishing zone off Gaza, or restrictions on the supply of fuel and construction materials through the Kerem Shalom pass. We welcome the recent announcement by Israel in that regard.

The international community must also support reconstruction efforts after the serious damage to critical infrastructure in the zone caused by the hostilities which took place this May.

We would also like to highlight the vital work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in providing essential services,

as well as the need to ensure its stable and predictable financing in order for it to overcome the serious financial crisis it is undergoing.

We would like to conclude by expressing our full support for Tor Wennesland in his efforts to prevent further escalation and promote dialogue among the parties, and by reaffirming our commitment to seeking a solution to the question of Palestine, which goes along with the achievement of lasting peace in the region.

## Annex XIX

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**

[Original: Arabic]

Since the last open debate under this item, the occupied Palestinian territory has witnessed a major escalation. Everyone has been warning that that might happen, given the continuing unsustainable status quo and the failure to reach a lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Occupied Jerusalem has been seeing repeated provocations and attacks by the occupying Power and settlers against the Muslim and Christian holy places, and most notably, the Haram al-Sharif, one of the most important holy sites for Muslims. That threatens to exacerbate the conflict and diminish the chances of it being resolved. Any attempts to alter the legal, historical and cultural status of the occupied city of Jerusalem constitute violations of international law and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

These provocative practices, along with other illegal measures, such as the confiscation and demolition of Palestinian property, including in the Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods, reflect a policy of judaization of Jerusalem, expansion of settlements and disregard for international law and internationally recognized resolutions. All this is what has brought about the recent escalation, which has resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties, including dozens of children, from aerial bombardment of residential neighbourhoods in the Gaza Strip. In an effort to restore security and stability, Qatar has engaged in diplomatic activity in coordination with the United Nations and fraternal and friendly States to facilitate a ceasefire agreement. It is of the utmost importance to maintain that ceasefire at this stage in order to avoid re-escalation.

We must address the urgent needs of 2 million Palestinians whose suffering has worsened this year as they continue to endure the siege of the Gaza Strip. The State of Qatar continues to be in the forefront of efforts to provide humanitarian and development aid to meet the urgent needs of the fraternal Palestinian people. This past May, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, provided a \$500 million grant for reconstruction in the Gaza Strip. That was on top of funds already provided by Qatar for government salaries, financial assistance to families in hardship, restoration of electric power stations and infrastructure development.

The Security Council must carry out its responsibilities by enforcing international law, implementing its resolutions, putting an end to occupation and illegal settlement, and supporting peace, which must be achieved through negotiations between the two parties on the basis of international law, United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative, the principle of a two-State solution under which the State of Palestine will be established with the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, an end to the occupation of other Arab territories, and a just solution to the refugee issue. We reaffirm the continued commitment of Qatar to support and join in all genuine international efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of peaceful protests by the fraternal Syrian people. Today, the Syrian crisis still awaits resolution. That will not happen through the military option but rather a deliberate political process leading to a political transition in accordance with the first Geneva communiqué and implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). The constitutional committee must complete its tasks, and confidence-building measures must be taken. That includes settling the issue of forcibly detentions and disappearances, and

creating conditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons. It is also important to ensure accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of chemical weapons, because accountability is conducive to sustainable peace. Millions in Syria depend on international assistance and the cross-border assistance delivery mechanism, and we commend the efforts of the United Nations in that regard. We note that the State of Qatar is in the forefront of those donating to alleviate the human suffering of the fraternal Syrian people.

Bringing an end to the crisis in Yemen requires negotiations between the Yemeni parties on the basis of the outcomes of the National Dialogue, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#). That would help to overcome humanitarian difficulties and preserve the unity, sovereignty and independence of Yemen. Qatar has been conscientious about contributing to alleviating the humanitarian situation of the fraternal Yemeni people. On instructions from His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, some \$100 million was allocated to support World Food Programme initiatives in Yemen that support food security and prevent famine.

With regard to the situation in Libya, the efforts of Libyans and the support of the international community have produced some encouraging developments over the past year, including a ceasefire agreement, the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and the formation of an interim Government of National Unity. There can be no questions but that we must demonstrate our commitment to maintaining this progress on the political, economic and security tracks by making sure that elections are held on time. That will be vital to establishing and sustaining stability in the interest of the fraternal Libyan people.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar is unshakeable in its faith in the principle of resolving disputes through peaceful means. In that connection, it is making ongoing efforts, through mediation and other means, to help lay the foundations of sustainable peace at the regional and international levels, and continuing to work with international partners to reduce tensions, bring an end to crises and realize stability, security and the common interest of all.

## Annex XX

## Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Cho Hyun

[Original: English]

My delegation would like to thank the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, for his briefing, and reaffirm my Government's full support for his efforts and dedication.

My Government welcomed the agreement on 20 May between Israel and Palestine to cease hostilities, emphasizing the importance of its faithful implementation. In this vein, we are deeply concerned by the Special Coordinator's recent report that the ceasefire agreement remains very fragile. It is particularly worrisome to hear that violent incidents continue on a daily basis throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Republic of Korea urges all sides to exercise maximum restraint, to refrain from unilateral steps and provocations, to take steps to reduce tensions and, most importantly, to solidify the ceasefire. We must do everything we can to avoid another deadly escalation.

My delegation takes this opportunity to welcome the new Israeli coalition Government sworn in last month. We reiterate our commitment to continue to support a two-State solution in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as international law and bilateral agreements. My delegation encourages the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to resume meaningful negotiations toward this goal, and we further express our support for efforts made by international partners, including the Middle East Quartet, to enable the parties to re-engage.

The Republic of Korea emphasizes the importance of respecting Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and international law. My delegation believes that confidence-building measures are urgently required to create a more favourable environment and encourages Israelis and Palestinians to refrain from any activity that undermines the prospect of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Intra-Palestinian reconciliation must be reinvigorated, and the Republic of Korea expresses its support for the efforts made by international partners in this regard. We reiterate that unity and consensus among the Palestinian people are crucial in achieving peace and an independent, sovereign and democratic State.

My delegation is deeply concerned by the urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza and the West Bank, aggravated by the recent hostilities and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In order to help address this challenge, the Republic of Korea has recently provided \$1.5 million to fund the emergency appeal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the humanitarian fund for Palestinians of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. My delegation reaffirms its strong support for efforts by UNRWA and the Office to improve the humanitarian situation in Palestine, and we call on all parties to ensure full, unimpeded humanitarian access and to respect international law, including international humanitarian law.

In addition, my delegation would like to touch upon an important recent development at the Security Council. The Republic of Korea welcomes the unanimous adoption of Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), which extended the cross-border humanitarian assistance to Syria. The resolution will help to provide timely and essential assistance to millions of Syrian people in need, and we commend the close and constructive cooperation demonstrated by the members of the Security Council.

The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to continue its constructive role in advancing peace and stability in the region, in cooperation with the United Nations and the international community.



**Annex XXI****Statement by the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Mathu Joyini**

[Original: English]

My delegation is grateful to the President of the Security Council for convening this open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

At the outset, South Africa remains concerned over the recurring tensions, instability, and the protraction of conflict, including the systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial and religious identity exercised against Palestinians.

It is disconcerting to note that, 69 days since the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was reached, tensions remain high, as both parties have been in breach of the ceasefire. South Africa calls on the parties to abide by the ceasefire agreement and to work towards intensifying efforts, with the support of the international community, to foster trust and initiate dialogue among the parties in order to resuscitate a political track.

As much as we would all want to see a resuscitated political track between the Palestinians and the Israelis, we should be cognisant of the fact that this cannot happen if we do not address the root cause of the problem. Palestinians continue to be subjected to daily targeted violations of human rights and discriminatory practices, as enforced by the Israeli Government through its laws.

Israeli laws which discriminate against Palestinian people are an unjust system which accommodates a different set of rules for different peoples. As the international community, we cannot be bystanders and allow this form of discrimination to continue. Therefore, the Security Council and the international community at large must redouble their efforts to strengthen international action and uphold international norms and standards. A key aspect of this would be for the Security Council to implement its resolutions and uphold international law.

In this regard, Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) reaffirms “that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law”, yet the Government of Israel continues unabatedly to advance its settlement plans in the occupied West Bank. Relentless provocation is the order of the day as Palestinians are subjected to forced expulsions and demolitions of their homes in occupied Jerusalem. In recent weeks, we have again witnessed the increasing of violence against Palestinians and the violation of their religious symbols. It is particularly disturbing that security services and defence forces carry out this violence with almost full impunity, with total disregard for the human suffering to which it leads. South Africa condemns these acts of aggression by Israel and its use of excessive force, including lethal force, which is unlawful, unjustified and disproportionate. Moreover, these actions have the potential to escalate hostilities and jeopardize the already fragile ceasefire agreement.

The 11-day hostilities which erupted in May between Israel and Palestinians living in Gaza has crippled the infrastructure and livelihoods of those Palestinians, further exacerbating the dire humanitarian conditions on the ground. This is of grave concern to South Africa, and in this regard, we appeal to the international community to provide the necessary support in the form of much-needed humanitarian aid to assist with the reconstruction of Gaza.

In conclusion, I appeal to all Member States to actively support efforts aimed at the establishment of a viable Palestinian State, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognized borders based on those existing on 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with all relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and internationally agreed parameters.

## Annex XXII

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations, Bassam Sabbagh**

[Original: Arabic]

The Israeli occupation authorities continue to escalate their systematic attacks and violations against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On top of their barbaric shelling and suffocating siege of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities are allowing settlers to attack unarmed Palestinian citizens – as has happened in the Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Shaykh Jarrah, Bab al-Amud and Silwan – against the backdrop of their attempts to expropriate Palestinian homes on the basis of arbitrary decrees. The Israeli occupation authorities also recently allowed Israeli extremists to storm the Aqsa Mosque in large numbers under the protection of the Israeli police, and attack worshippers inside and outside the mosque. That is not even to mention their continued violations of international law and disregard for internationally recognized resolutions on the cause of the Palestinian people.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns all these Israeli practices perpetrated against the Palestinian people, and considers them to be immoral acts that reflect the true face of the Israeli entity. They are serious violations of the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the historical and legal status of the Aqsa Mosque, which the occupying Power is supposed to respect. These practices would not be able to continue without the sponsorship and protection provided to the occupying authorities by successive United States administrations and certain Western countries.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State over all of its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital, as well as for the right of refugees to return to their homes in accordance with General Assembly resolution [194 \(III\)](#) of 1948. We stress that any decisions, measures or deals that are inconsistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions or fail to safeguard the established rights of the Palestinians should be rejected in form and substance and are fundamentally unviable. Syria calls on the countries of the world and the United Nations, including the Security Council, to put an end to these shameful and inhumane practices, to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate historical rights, and to grant the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations.

The commitment of Syria to the cause of the Palestinian people is inseparable from our commitment to our people in the occupied Syrian Golan, where Israel continues to entrench its occupation in an unprecedented challenge to international will and to the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#). The Israeli occupation authorities continue to escalate their expansionist policies in the occupied Syrian Golan. They have expanded and accelerated settlement construction on the ruins of Syrian villages and lands destroyed and confiscated by the Israeli occupation. They are expropriating the land of Syrian Arab citizens for settlement activities, including a project to construct giant wind turbines on an area equivalent to one fifth of the agricultural land still owned the people of the Golan that serves as the green lung of the occupied Syrian villages. That is in addition to ongoing efforts by the Israeli authorities to displace people from their homes and land.

They have also recently set up several water facilities in the occupied Syrian Golan, where they are storing more than 33 million m<sup>3</sup> of water to be used for

irrigation and drinking by Zionist settlers at no charge while it is off limits to our people.

In addition, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to engage in racial discrimination against the people of the occupied Syrian Golan. They practice arbitrary detention, torture, displacement and abduction. They are trying to bring about demographic change by imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli educational curricula. They are stealing the Golan's natural resources by constantly drilling for underground resources. They are looting the archaeological heritage of Syria and tampering with historical and archaeological sites and monuments in an attempt to Judaize them and obliterate their Syrian Arab identity.

Since 1967, the Israeli occupation authorities have made sure to prevent any United Nations fact-finding missions, including those provided for by World Health Assembly resolutions, from gaining access to the occupied Syrian Golan to investigate conditions and make recommendations. Israel also prevents the World Health Organization from gaining unrestricted access to the people of the occupied Golan to assess their conditions and attend to their humanitarian needs, particularly during the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease pandemic, in total disregard of its obligations as an occupying Power.

Since 27 August 2014, the Israeli occupying authorities have closed the Qunaytirah crossing, the only authorized crossing point through which the people of the occupied Syrian Golan are able to remain in contact with their motherland. The occupying Israeli authorities continue to plant and expand minefields in the occupied Syrian Golan, which maim and kill mostly children. They also continue to bury nuclear waste at a number of sites in the Syrian Golan, in a major violation of international law and the relevant international agreements that poses an imminent environmental threat to the region and its inhabitants.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately and without delay reopen the Qunaytirah crossing, which is the artery that connects our people in the occupied Syrian Golan to their motherland and the lung through which they breathe. Syria also calls on the Security Council to put an end to illegal Israeli settlement practices and repressive measures against our people in the occupied Syrian Golan, to hold Israel accountable for these violations, and to take resolute and immediate action to prevent their recurrence.

The Israeli policy of State terrorism and attacks against the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of international law and Security Council resolutions affirming respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. The continuing series of Israeli attacks on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, the most recent of which occurred on Thursday, 22 July 2021, further entrenches Israeli policies of State terrorism and continued support for armed terrorist groups in Syria, which is also in flagrant violation of international counter-terrorism instruments. The Syrian Arab Republic has kept the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council informed of all these attacks by sending identical letters conveying the details and warning of the major threat they pose to the security and stability of the region.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms recent United States statements and declarations on the occupied Syrian Golan, which confirm that United States policy is made from the perspective of Israel and serves the latter's aggressive and expansionist policies in the region. Syria stresses that these declarations are null and void and have no legal effect; the occupied Golan will inevitably be restored to the motherland, using all means guaranteed by international law.

In closing, Syria regrets that reports from the Secretariat continue to turn a blind eye to the dangerous reality of systematic Israeli practices and violations against our people suffering under occupation in the Golan. It reiterates its call for the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, to give the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan the attention demanded by his mandate, and to include in his reports detailed information on the violations and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities being perpetrated against our people in the occupied Syrian Golan.

## Annex XXIII

**Statement by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, Bilge Koçyiğit Grba**

[Original: English]

It has been two months since the ceasefire was established in Gaza. However, tensions remain high, and the ceasefire is very fragile. Israel's latest air strikes targeting Gaza are testimony to the precariousness of the situation. We cannot grow complacent. The international community can no longer afford to put the Palestinian question on the back burner until another violent eruption occurs.

We need to remember what prompted the escalation in May. It was Israel's systematic provocations in Jerusalem. It was the restrictions imposed on and aggression unleashed against Palestinians worshipping in the Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan. It was the blatant desecration of Haram Al-Sharif. It was the forced evictions of Palestinian families from their homes in Shaykh Jarrah. It was the brutal use of lethal force against peaceful protestors in East Jerusalem, who have no other democratic means to express their views owing to the occupying power's denial of political participation.

We are dismayed to observe that some Member States fall into the trap of portraying these developments as a mutual escalation. We would like to remind them that, if they continue to turn a blind eye to the root causes of the conflict, it is only a matter of time before the next round of violence flares up. In May, 278 Palestinians, including 67 children, were killed as a result of Israeli attacks on Gaza. The right to self-defence does not give carte blanche for the excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force on civilians and civilian targets. There is no justification for Israel's attacks on the buildings of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) or on schools, international media outlets, and international relief organizations such as the Red Crescent.

If the international community genuinely wants a sustainable ceasefire, it must take concrete steps to ensure that Israel stops using excessive and disproportionate force against civilians. It must also put an end to Israel's continued attempts to erode the status of Jerusalem and the inhumane blockade in Gaza. There can be no lasting peace while Israel continues its annexation policies through illegal settlements and demolitions. This recurring pattern is part of Israel's encroachment on Palestinian people, aimed at curtailing their fundamental rights and freedoms and gradually depriving them of their homeland.

Unfortunately, Israel's provocations and violations in the occupied Palestinian territories still continue. Despite the fragility of the ceasefire, Israel is still fanning the flames of flashpoints in Jerusalem even today. It appears that the new Israeli Government has not drawn any lessons from the latest escalation in May. We continue to witness growing settler violence, home demolitions, forced displacement, and arrests and killings of Palestinian civilians, including children. We are particularly appalled by the fact that settler violence is enabled and permitted by the Israeli authorities, through employing extreme and far-right Israelis to advance the annexation agenda. Settlers are also increasingly being used to provoke Palestinians in Jerusalem. In this connection, we condemn that, on the eve of Eid al-Adha on 18 July, Israeli security forces once again violated the sanctity of Haram Al-Sharif by allowing racist Jewish groups to raid the Aqsa Mosque, attacking Palestinian civilians praying in the area and detaining Palestinian civilians, including children and women.

We are also gravely concerned by the demolition orders for Silwan and by the fact that families in Shaykh Jarrah continue to face the threat of eviction. These

practices also continue unabated in the West Bank. The latest displacement of 70 people, of whom 35 are children, as a result of the demolition of Palestinian households in the village of Khirbat Humsah in the occupied West Bank, is yet another flagrant violation of the international law.

Israel has demolished or seized 848 Palestinian structures in the occupied West Bank in 2020, leaving 996 Palestinians, including 518 children, displaced. Since the beginning of 2021 alone, at least 152 structures, of which 37 were donated, have been destroyed, rendering at least 184 Palestinians homeless. In 2020, 11 new illegal settlement outposts were established, 2,433 new illegal housing units began construction and 12,159 illegal housing units were advanced through plans in 55 settlements. These are clear manifestations of a creeping annexation.

We condemn Israel's unlawful and inhumane practices. Israel has been emboldened by decades of international inaction. Due to the lack of accountability, its systematic violations and human rights abuses were practically rewarded with impunity. Currently, Israel has no incentive to change its behaviour while it bears no tangible cost for its violations. Therefore, we strongly support judicial processes to hold Israel accountable for its crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In this regard, the processes of the Human Rights Council and of the International Criminal Court are important instruments for putting an end to the impunity with which Israel is continuing to perpetrate these serious crimes.

We welcome the resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at the special session on Palestine on 27 May, which established an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate Israel's violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in both the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. This body could play an important role in documenting the commission of serious crimes, provide input to judicial proceedings and galvanize diplomatic, economic and political measures to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people. It is time to employ all possible avenues to pursue accountability for crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We will support the work of this commission and welcome the recent appointment of its commissioners.

Returning to the path of peace negotiations and accelerating all efforts, including by the Quartet, to revitalize the peace process is an urgent necessity. We support the proposal of President Abbas to convene an international peace conference to this end. The establishment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital is the only way to find a viable solution to this conflict.

We are concerned by the intention of third countries to open embassies in Jerusalem or relocate their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Opening embassies in Jerusalem not only violates international law but also undermines the prospects of achieving a two-State solution and establishing peace in the region. The status of Jerusalem is a fundamental issue that remains at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The final status of Jerusalem will be one of the most important components of the comprehensive solution of this conflict. We condemn the decision of Kosovo to open its embassy in Jerusalem and the recent decision of Honduras to relocate its embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in defiance of international law. We urge all Member States to respect Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the status of Jerusalem.

Following the attacks by Israel on Gaza in May, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has further deteriorated. At a time when swift humanitarian access is vital, the blockade has become even stricter. It is imperative to provide unhindered access to Gaza in order to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid. Notwithstanding the crucial role of aid in supporting the resilience of the population in Gaza, the dependence on

humanitarian assistance is unsustainable. Reliance on external aid delays finding a permanent and sustainable solution to the existing challenges of Gaza.

The Gaza rapid damage and needs assessment conducted jointly by the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union following the conflict in May estimates the damages incurred in Gaza to fall between \$290–380 million. The immediate and short-term recovery and reconstruction needs during the first 24 months are estimated at between \$345–485 million. The reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements of the Gaza Strip cannot be effectively addressed while the current blockade remains in force. The international community needs to force Israel to change its policies on Gaza and should increase its assistance to the State of Palestine in this critical period. Turkey will continue to provide development and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in order to improve their living conditions.

UNRWA continues to operate in extremely difficult circumstances. The challenges faced by the Agency have been compounded by the devastating impact of the latest round of violence in Gaza. After barely managing to keep essential services running in 2020, the Agency faces yet another imminent cash crisis. By the end of May 2021, UNRWA had received cash and confirmed pledges for only 45 per cent of its programme budget. Its total expected income in 2021 remains far below requirements, and on the basis of current income predictions, UNRWA is facing an end-of-year programme budget shortfall of over \$150 million in 2021. Current information indicates that the Agency will face cash payment difficulties by the third quarter, potentially affecting the Agency's ability to pay full salaries and vendors as early as August 2021. UNRWA is indispensable for providing vital health, relief and emergency assistance to millions of Palestinian refugees. We call on all donors to step up their support and to work together to address the structural reasons for the Agency's chronic funding shortfall.

We regret that the presidential and legislative elections have been postponed owing to Israel's position on Jerusalem. It is imperative that all Palestinians, including those residing in East Jerusalem, be allowed to exercise their democratic rights and elect their representatives. We call upon the Israeli Government to end its obstructive policies and to respect the provisions of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip of 1995, so that the Palestinian elections can be held at the earliest occasion. For a negotiated two-State solution, achieving intra-Palestinian reconciliation is an urgent necessity. Therefore, we encourage all Palestinian groups to continue to work towards unity and reconciliation. We urge the United Nations and the international community to support Palestinian reconciliation and the elections. Turkey is ready to extend all of the support needed for the successful conduct of Palestinian elections.

I would like to conclude with an urgent call to action: in order to put an end to the longest conflict in the history of the United Nations, we cannot continue with business as usual. It is time for the international community to take decisive and bold action. Revitalizing the Middle East peace process is essential for fulfilling our long-overdue promise to the Palestinian people of a life in dignity. It is also indispensable for the stability of our region. The international community has a key role to play: collectively, we must help to revitalize negotiations for a two-State solution in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.



**Annex XXIV****Statement by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations**

[Original: English]

The Middle East Peace process remains at the very core of any efforts aimed at restoring regional stability. Ukraine consistently supports the Middle East peace process with Israel and Palestine coexisting in peace and security.

Ukraine condemned the serious escalation of the situation in the Middle East region, in particular the indiscriminate firing of rockets into the territory of Israel by Hamas in Gaza in May 2021.

We also welcomed the ceasefire, which was reached after a few weeks of violence in the region, and commended the mediation efforts of all international stakeholders who facilitated this important progress.

However, we are concerned by new instances of violence caused again by Hamas from the territory of Gaza. We take this opportunity to reiterate that Israel has the right to defend itself from attacks.

Notwithstanding the extremely volatile and unstable situation, we cannot but note the recent positive developments in the region. In this context, Ukraine welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and a number of countries, in particular the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. We consider this an important step towards peace and stability in the region.

Ukraine reiterates its position that an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement lies within the framework of the unconditional fulfilment of the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is essential to refrain from taking any action that could undermine the prospects for a peaceful agreement.

The tenth anniversary of the Syrian conflict was earlier this year. The Syrian regime's actions against its own population led to one of the most brutal and bloody armed conflicts in this century that caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Syrians, including many women and children.

Today, despite the numerous calls from the international community, the Syrian regime continues to disregard its obligations towards the protection of the civilian population. We urge the Syrian regime to immediately cease attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including massive air strikes.

Ukraine reiterates its strong condemnation of the Syrian regime and its allies, primarily Russia, for the massive, systematic and grave violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law. We reiterate that all perpetrators of the most horrific crimes must be brought to justice, and we express our full support for the activities of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria and the commission of Inquiry.

We also condemn the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime and the refusal of the regime to fully cooperate with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in terms of investigations of the use of these weapons in the conflict.

Ukraine is deeply alarmed by the dire humanitarian situation in Syria, which was caused by the armed conflict. Today, millions of civilians continue to be at risk, with over half of the population forced to flee their homes while others continue to live under severe conditions.

Therefore, it is important to provide stable humanitarian assistance to all Syrians in need. In this regard, the adoption of the Security Council resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) on 9 July 2021 is vital in terms of ensuring cross-border humanitarian assistance, including food, medical and surgical supplies, and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines. However, much more practical steps need to be taken to support the long-suffering Syrian population.

Ukraine reiterates its support for a sustainable political solution to the conflict in Syria and recalls that the political transition should be implemented in line with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) and the Geneva communiqué of 2012.

**Annex XXV****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates**

[Original: Arabic]

Today's meeting comes at a time when the fraternal Palestinian people are suffering from difficult humanitarian, political and economic challenges – exacerbated by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic – that are complicating the political process. The only sustainable solution for overcoming these deteriorating situations remains the two-State solution and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative.

As an immediate priority, the international community must support vital sectors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including health and education, in a tangible, effective and urgent manner. The recent food and health assistance provided by the United Arab Emirates reflects my country's historic commitment to the Palestinian people. From 2013–2020, we provided more than \$840 million to finance vital sectors and support development in the Palestinian territories. More recently, the United Arab Emirates has provided the Gaza Strip with \$6.2 million in food aid to help thousands of Palestinian families there. That is in addition to having sent more than 30 ambulances and a range of medical supplies and vaccines since the onset of the pandemic.

While these humanitarian efforts are important, the events of May 2021 underscore the fragility of the situation in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. The international community must preserve and maintain the recent ceasefire, promote efforts and actions that prevent escalation and are conducive to the choice for negotiations, and work to protect the prospects for a two-State solution by breaking the deadlock in the political process so that a credible peace process can be relaunched.

In that connection, the United Arab Emirates reaffirms its support for regional and international efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. We particularly commend the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their efforts that helped to reach a ceasefire.

We stress the need for an end all illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that imperil the two-State solution and violate international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). That includes above all settlement construction and expansion, confiscation and destruction of Palestinian property, and forced displacement of the population. We also stress the need to preserve the legal status of the city of East Jerusalem, to enable Palestinians to practice their religious rights, and to respect the historical role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem.

In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates reiterates its firm belief that the peoples of the region – Palestinian, Arab and Israeli – have the same right as other peoples of the world to a life of dignity in stable States and safe communities characterized by tolerance and prosperity, where a person can realize their hopes and aspirations. We will work with our regional and international partners to end the cycle of conflict in the Middle East and realize this future for all the peoples of the region.

**Annex XXVI****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations**

[Original: Spanish]

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, by aligning itself with the statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, reaffirms its position both of history and of principle, not just in support of the legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people, but also in rejection of violence in all its forms and manifestations. Thus, we categorically condemn the indiscriminate bombing by Israel of the civilian population in the Palestinian territories, as well as the escalation of the cruel and deadly violence against the Palestinian people, under a systematic policy of aggression and apartheid that endangers regional peace and security.

During the most recent escalation of violence, which took place in May, indiscriminate attacks and airstrikes resulted in over 140 deaths, including 39 children and 22 women, and left over 1,000 wounded, as well as 77,000 newly displaced and hundreds of homes destroyed. Vital public and private infrastructure was deliberately attacked, and the legitimate residents of the Sheikh Jarrah community in East Jerusalem were expelled by force. These are all criminal acts, and furthermore they were accompanied by systematic assaults by extremist and fanatic groups organized throughout Israel, who committed hate crimes and racist attacks in dozens of towns and cities against the resident Palestinian population.

In view of the severity of these acts, we must recognize that such an escalation represents a new military phase in the colonial war being waged for over 50 years against the Palestinian people, on whom has been imposed a regime of ethnic domination that truly constitutes apartheid, in the midst of the twenty-first century. We must recognize this Israeli policy of aggression for what it is: the commission of ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity with impunity, through extermination, torture, ethnic cleansing, persecution, forced disappearance and other inhumane treatment.

The increase in the level of violence by the Israeli colonizers against Palestinian citizens is alarming. This takes place with total impunity, including in the presence of the Israeli security forces, and represents one of the many forms of oppression against the heroic Palestinian people, the objective of which is to advance Israeli plans for annexation.

We are facing a real tragedy. Today, the Palestinian State is dealing with two pandemics: the one caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the one caused by brutal Israeli military aggression, which included the bombing of the only existing laboratory on the Gaza Strip for processing coronavirus tests. Despite this barbaric act, the Security Council remains paralyzed due to the obstruction of just one country: the United States of America, which has facilitated the situation of international impunity that encourages Israel's crimes.

Israel daily violates international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and ignores its obligations under the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as international law. Not only does the occupying Power expand its colonial occupation every day, but it also couples its apartheid policy with the demolition of homes, expropriation of lands and houses, the proliferation of illegal settlements, extrajudicial executions, mass arrests and ethnic cleansing.

Thus, while we are not surprised, we are extremely concerned at the violation of the ceasefire announced on 21 May by Israel, which again conducted airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and left dozens wounded. We are referring to the Gaza Strip, which for over 14 years has been subjected to a criminal Israeli blockade resulting in severe shortages of fuel, water and electricity; the Gaza Strip, which is known as the largest open-air prison on the planet and which Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described as “hell on earth”.

These inhumane violations of the ceasefire, which disregard appeals by the United Nations and the great majority of the international community, have the potential to lead to a resumption of violence on the ground, revive provocations and intolerance and deepen the humanitarian disaster created by the cold calculations of the Israeli Government, and in no way do they contribute towards the resumption of the necessary political dialogue and credible and serious negotiations to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, on the basis of the two-State solution.

Without further delay, the United Nations Security Council should take decisions to bring an immediate end to the violence and hostilities, which guarantee international protection to the Palestinian civilian population, prevent the commission of crimes against the dignity and human rights of the Palestinian people and ensure that those responsible for these crimes are held accountable by international justice.

In conclusion, we reaffirm the position of Venezuela in defence of the sovereignty, independence and the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. We are committed to continuing to work actively and decisively to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful solution to one of the most unjust, painful and prolonged conflicts faced by humanity, and to enable the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State, within the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

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