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Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories

The occupied Syrian Golan*

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/81](#), in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

* The present document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution [53/208](#) B.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/81](#). In paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Assembly called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision.

2. In paragraph 2 of resolution [76/81](#), the General Assembly called upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements. In paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Replies received

A. Syrian Arab Republic

3. On 22 June 2022, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on behalf of the Secretary-General, addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel referring to General Assembly resolution [76/81](#) and requesting information on any steps taken or envisaged to be taken concerning the implementation of the resolution. At the time of reporting, no response had been received from the Government of Israel.

4. Also on 22 June, on behalf of the Secretary-General, OHCHR addressed a note verbale to all permanent missions in Geneva to draw their attention to the resolution and request information from Member States on any steps taken or envisaged to be taken concerning the implementation of the resolution. The Permanent Missions of Cuba, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic responded to that request.

5. On the same day, on behalf of the Secretary-General and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/81](#), OHCHR addressed a note verbale to the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations to bring the resolution to their attention and to request information on the implementation of the resolution. At the time of reporting, no responses had been received.

6. On 18 July 2022, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed a note verbale to OHCHR in which it stressed that, for decades, the General Assembly had requested Israel, the occupying Power, through several resolutions, including resolution [76/81](#), to comply with the resolutions related to the occupied Syrian Golan. In particular, the Syrian Arab Republic referred in the note verbale to Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), in which the Council decided that the decision of the occupying Power to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without any legal effect and demanded that Israel immediately rescind its decision.

7. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that, since 1967, the international community had rejected the occupation by Israel of the Syrian Golan and insisted on its full withdrawal from that territory. The Syrian Arab Republic referred to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [76/11](#), in which the Assembly demanded once more that

Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

8. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that, notwithstanding the repeated United Nations resolutions calling upon the occupying power to end its continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and to stop the daily repressive practices against Syrian citizens under occupation and its overt violations of international law without any deterrent, Israel continued to act above international law, benefiting from the protection of some members of the Security Council, including the United States of America.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its condemnation of the illegal decision of a former President of the United States recognizing what he called “Israeli sovereignty” over the occupied Syrian Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that that illegitimate decision constituted a flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Organization, foremost of which was resolution 497 (1981), which had been adopted unanimously by the Security Council. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed that the decision was null and void and had no legal effect.

10. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that, during the period following the above-mentioned illegal declaration by the United States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, at its summit meeting held in Baku, on 25 and 26 October 2019, had renewed its principled position regarding the occupied Syrian Golan and the protection of the rights of its Syrian citizens. It also noted that members of the Non-Aligned Movement had condemned the recognition by the United States of the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan by Israel. The Syrian Arab Republic further noted that the Non-Aligned Movement had called upon the international community and the Security Council to assume their responsibility in that context, given that the declaration was in violation of international law and the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Council resolution 497 (1981).

11. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that, on 26 March 2019, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation had rejected the recognition by the United States administration of Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan and had stressed that it constituted a clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 497 (1981). The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation had also stressed that the decision of the United States did not change the legal status of the Syrian Golan as an occupied Syrian Arab territory in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. It also noted that the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation had urged all countries to respect the United Nations resolutions and not to recognize any action inconsistent with them.

12. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated that the people of the occupied Syrian Golan had always expressed their absolute rejection of the occupying Power’s attempt to impose, in the view of the Syrian Arab Republic, its dangerous illegal decision to legitimize its occupation and apply its laws by holding elections for local councils in the occupied Syrian Golan. The residents had boycotted those elections despite the repression and detention of a large number of them by the Israeli occupation authorities.

13. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that, on 16 October 2021, Israeli occupation forces had shot and killed a liberated Syrian prisoner, Medhat Al-Saleh, while he was returning to his home in the Ayn al-Tinah, close to the occupied town of Majdal Shams. In the note verbale, the Syrian Arab Republic categorized that as a terrorist crime, which, in its view, confirmed the insistence of the occupation forces on continuing their crimes within the occupied Syrian Golan and beyond. It noted that

occupation and stated that occupation forces continued to engage in acts of aggression and terrorism, disregarding relevant Security Council resolutions and international norms. The Syrian Arab Republic elaborated that Mr. Al-Saleh had been an active defender of the rights of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan and had been arrested by Israeli occupation forces multiple times since his first arrest in 1983. He had been arrested again in 1985 and charged for belonging to a resistance group, subsequently spending 12 years in the prisons. After his release in 1997, he had established a committee to support prisoners and had been elected as a member of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic in 1998 to represent the occupied Syrian Golan. He had subsequently assumed the management of the Golan office in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, focusing primarily on documenting the violations of the Israeli occupation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

14. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its condemnation of the systematic settlement expansion policies implemented by the Israeli authorities and its rejection of the settlement plans, announced following the meeting of the Government of Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan in late 2021, to redouble the number of Israeli settlers over the next five years.

15. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the project of the Israeli authorities to install wind turbines on Syrian-owned lands in the occupied Syrian Golan reflected one of the ways to consolidate those policies. In the note verbale, the Syrian Arab Republic stressed the dangerous impact of that project and made the following points:

(a) The Israeli authorities had granted the Israeli energy company Energix Renewable Energies Ltd. a licence to build between 45 and 52 wind turbines in order to generate energy on the lands of Syrian farmers in the occupied Syrian Golan, in the context of its policies of creating facts on the ground to perpetuate the occupation;

(b) The wind turbines would be installed to generate energy on an area of 6,000 acres of agricultural land belonging to Syrians and surrounding various villages in the occupied Syrian Golan. Large protests by inhabitants of that territory were conducted to express rejection of the project, which would limit the ability of the occupied villages to grow and restrict the residents to living in suffocating and dense residential outposts, causing severe health, environmental and agricultural damage. The project would occupy more than one fifth of the remaining agricultural lands in the occupied Syrian Golan to the detriment of the remaining source of livelihood of the people there;

(c) The damage would be related not only to the project but also to the entire infrastructure connected to it. For example, the Israel Electric Corporation had installed a high-voltage power line to produce electric power from the wind turbine project that would connect the power substation of the Israeli settlement of Katzrin with another power station that was under construction;

(d) By authorizing Energix Renewable Energies Ltd. to implement the project on agricultural lands owned by the Syrians, the Israeli authorities were reinforcing their continued discriminatory and settlement policies.

16. The Syrian Arab Republic highlighted that, on 7 December 2020, representatives of Energix Renewable Energies Ltd. had entered the agricultural lands belonging to Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan, escorted and protected by large numbers of Israeli security forces. The security forces subsequently rushed to close the roads leading to the lands of nearly 1,000 Syrian farmers in order to allow the company to carry out its work. Notwithstanding the closure of the roads, hundreds of people gathered to protest the project and its destructive impact.

17. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that, in response to that escalation and disregard for the negative effects of the project, which would be built on hundreds of

dunums of agricultural land near Syrian villages, residents of the occupied Syrian Golan had announced mass protests and had marched towards the areas where the wind turbines would be erected, an action to which Israeli security forces had responded with repression and intimidation. A number of people had been injured and arrested.

18. The Syrian Arab Republic referred to the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, in which the Committee repeatedly expressed deep concern about the effects of the project on the residents of the occupied Syrian Golan.

19. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed that Israeli authorities continued to pressure the residents of the villages in the occupied Syrian Golan to accept ownership deeds issued by the Land Registration Bureau of Israel instead of ownership deeds registered by the Syrian Arab Republic, through threats to confiscate their lands. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic referred to demands by the Israeli authorities for the submission of land ownership certificates of the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan, especially those in Ayn Qinyah and the industrial area in Majdal Shams. In addition, the authorities reportedly threatened to confiscate those lands if the documents were not submitted.

20. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned the continued settlement policies of Israel aimed at perpetuating the occupation of the Syrian Golan, including the construction and expansion of settlements, the confiscation of agricultural lands and the establishment of an agricultural industry that supported Israeli settlers and harmed the agricultural industry of the Syrian Arab residents of the occupied territory. In particular, the Syrian Arab Republic highlighted the following:

(a) The regional council of Israeli settlements had continued to announce, in its weekly bulletin, the expansion of settlements in the light of the increasing number of Israeli settlers. As in the case of the settlements of Trump Heights, Metzar, Odem and Aniam, the pace of the construction of temporary homes or caravans had accelerated, with plans to create longer-term residences. Work continued on the construction of so-called service facilities for the settlements in Katzrin, Kidmat Tzvi, Nov, Kanaf, Neve Ativ, and Yonatan. According to figures on migration from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel, the number of settlers in Katzrin settlement has increased by 2,000 since 2019;

(b) The continued implementation of a multi-year plan to develop and strengthen agriculture in the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan had begun, in order to encourage Israeli young people to join the agricultural sector;

(c) In April 2019, Israeli authorities had announced plans to expand settlements, which included the construction of 30,000 housing units, the construction of new settlements and the transfer of 250,000 settlers to the occupied Syrian Golan, which would change the demographic composition of the area;

(d) Israel had supported the seizure of land by Israeli settlers and the exploitation of land by the settlements for the purpose of producing various agricultural products. The Syrian Arab Republic explained that that constituted an unbearable economic burden on the Syrian residents of the occupied Syrian Golan, noting that unfair competition due to discriminatory policies threatened the future livelihood of the Syrian Arab population, which depended on agriculture;

(e) In June 2019, a new settlement project bearing the name of the former President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, had been started. The regional council of Israeli settlements had announced the arrival of new temporary homes to accommodate 20 families of new settlers, selected from among 300 applicant

families, who had been granted permission to live in the settlement. The 20 families would be given a piece of land on which to build permanent homes in the settlement. The regional council had started building infrastructure and social facilities in the settlement to receive the families during the forthcoming years;

(f) Israel had continued to impose restrictions on the Syrian Arab residents of the occupied Syrian Golan to prevent the construction and expansion of villages, in particular in the village of Majdal Shams. The overcrowding in that area had been further exacerbated by the confiscation of more than 80,000 dunums, extending from north of Majdal Shams to Ayn Qinya, reportedly in the name of the Hermon Protectorate project, and by the refusal to expand the structural map of the village of Majdal Shams, which was experiencing a crisis in terms of urban expansion;

(g) On 11 October 2021, in the context of seeking to expand settlement projects in the occupied Syrian Golan, a conference entitled “Economic Strategic Regional Israeli Development in the occupied Syrian Golan” had been convened in the settlement established on the land of Khasfayn village. A number of corporations working on settlement projects in Golan had participated. One objective of the conference was the expansion of settlement projects in the occupied Syrian Golan, with the aim of reaching half a million settlers by 2048.

21. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled Economic and Social Council resolution [2021/4](#), in which the Council reaffirmed that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, were illegal and constituted a major obstacle to achieving economic and social development. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the continued establishment and expansion of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan were considered a transfer of population carried out by Israel to the land that it occupied, which was prohibited under international law.

22. The Syrian Arab Republic further noted that Israel continued to exploit natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan and that Israeli and multinational companies played a central role in implementing the policies of Israel, which the Syrian Arab Republic described as colonial. The exploitation of water was raised as a particular concern by the Syrian Arab Republic, which noted that the occupying Power had adopted several methods for confiscating natural resources, including water, in violation of human rights, including the following:

(a) The confiscation of the lands of displaced persons, including the consideration of such lands as State property under the pretext of the absence of their owners, and the confiscation of communal lands owned by the population in general, such as the lands of the communes in the village of Mas‘adah;

(b) The confiscation of lands close to the ceasefire line and the planting of landmines in those lands;

(c) The confiscation of lands for the establishment of military camps and sites and for the construction of roads, including on lands far from the ceasefire line;

(d) The confiscation of land for the construction of settlements and agricultural and industrial facilities;

(e) The fencing off of 100,000 dunums of land, for use by the Nature Protection Authority of Israel;

(f) The indirect confiscation of lands through the *meshkanta* process, which consists of giving an agricultural loan against a mortgage to an Israeli bank and confiscating the property if the loan is not paid in full within a specified time period;

(g) The confiscation and sale of potable water and the granting of access to potable water at an inflated price while limiting the access of the Syrian Arab population to non-potable water sources only. Syrian farmers were further prevented from digging wells and storing irrigated water.

23. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled the recent expropriation of tens of thousands of dunums of land in the Syrian village of Jubbata al-Khashab, which lay within the demilitarized zone established by the United Nations in 1974, with the aim of building trenches close to Syrian territory. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, tens of thousands of dunums of land belonging to the village had consequently been inaccessible to the Syrian Arab population of the village.

24. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that Israel had continuously sought to impose Israeli identity and civil documents on the Syrian Arab population as a way to consolidate its occupation. Furthermore, Israel continued to prevent Syrians of the occupied Syrian Golan from visiting and communicating with their families in the Syrian Arab Republic.

25. The Syrian Arab Republic further noted that Israel continued to violate the human rights of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular the right to health, work and agricultural and cultural rights, positing that those rights were violated through a set of discriminatory practices and measures implemented by the occupying Power. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that it had provided examples of those practices to OHCHR.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that, in his report of May 2022 entitled “The situation of Arab workers of the occupied Arab territories”, which covered, in part, the occupied Syrian Golan, the Director General of the International Labour Organization had highlighted the continuation of the discriminatory practices of the occupying power against Syrian workers in favour of Israeli settlers.

27. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that the occupying Power continued to exploit the health needs of Syrian residents in order to put pressure on them, for example by obliging Syrian citizens to subscribe to the health systems of the occupying Power and requiring them to pay exorbitant health insurance premiums that were deducted from the salaries of workers and employees. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that the occupying Power continued to ignore the repeated demands to provide Syrian residents in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan with integrated health centres, including a psychiatric treatment centre in each of the occupied villages, and the demands related to the construction of a hospital that would accommodate 30 beds and facilities with the capacity to perform minor surgeries. Syrian doctors in the occupied Syrian Golan, of whom 95 per cent had completed their education in Syrian universities, were unable to participate in scientific events and seminars held outside the occupied Syrian Golan as a result of the restrictions imposed on their movement and travel to the Syrian Arab Republic. Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan suffered psychologically from the consequences of the ongoing occupation and its discriminatory practices, including those related to the imposition of educational curricula and the severing of social ties with their relatives in the Syrian Arab Republic.

28. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that discriminatory practices of the occupying Power had peaked during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, noting that medical supplies had diminished in clinics in the occupied villages and that the shortage of medical supplies and equipment had exacerbated the suffering of the Syrians and doubled the number of COVID-19 cases. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic stated that the occupying Power had refrained from providing detailed statistical data on Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan regarding the response

to the pandemic in order to conceal the indicators that would enable an assessment of the response needed.

29. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized the need to address the right to health of the Syrian Arab residents of the occupied Syrian Golan and called upon international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, to provide urgent health and medical supplies in the context of the spread of COVID-19, especially given the lack of medical services in the occupied Syrian Golan as a result of the discriminatory and racist practices implemented by Israel.

30. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its rejection of attempts to perpetuate the occupation of the Syrian Golan by Israel, the occupying power, and its continued violation of international law, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), of 1949, in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic further rejected any form of support by other Member States for that approach, which would be in violation of their international obligations as States Members of the United Nations.

31. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its call upon Member States to promote international law in order to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan, and not to recognize any legal situation arising from violations of peremptory norms of international law by Israel. The Syrian Arab Republic further called upon Member States to refrain from providing any assistance to facilitate the occupation, in particular through commercial and tourist activities.

32. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its call upon the Secretary-General to establish a database in order to compile a record of and to report on all business establishments and commercial companies involved in activities that had enabled or would enable, directly or indirectly, and benefit from the construction and growth of settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), and to submit a follow-up report in that regard.

33. The Syrian Arab Republic demanded the implementation of the recommendation of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories contained in paragraph 68 (g) of the report of the Special Committee of 29 September 2021 ([A/76/360](#)), in which the Committee urged OHCHR to take the steps necessary to update the database of business enterprises involved in settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and to make it available to the public. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic emphasized the Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 68 (h), to ensure that corporations respected human rights and stopped financing or entering into commercial transactions with organizations and bodies involved in settlements or the exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan.

34. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed, in particular, the need to refrain from providing political and economic support that would allow Israel to perpetuate its occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and to continue its violations of relevant provisions of international law, in particular Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#) and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in particular any assistance to the continuation of Israeli settlements or the establishment of new settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan.

35. The Syrian Arab Republic called upon the international community and international organizations to monitor the flagrant violations by Israel of international

law and demanded that effective and concrete measures be taken to stop those violations, in particular those related to illegal settlement practices aimed at perpetuating the occupation.

36. The Syrian Arab Republic affirmed that the occupied Syrian Golan was an inseparable part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and that its recovery from the Israeli occupation, by all means guaranteed under international law, was an eternal right that would not be subject to bargaining or concession or a statute of limitations.

37. Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterated that the stability of the Middle East region and the credibility of the United Nations required that measures be taken to ensure the implementation of all international resolutions related to ending the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, and the withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, notably Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#), [497 \(1981\)](#) and [2334 \(2016\)](#).

B. Cuba

38. On 2 August 2022, the Permanent Mission of Cuba addressed a note verbale to OHCHR, noting that the international community had reiterated its serious concern about the suffering of Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continuous violations of their human rights by the Israeli occupying forces since 1967 and that the international community had demanded an end to the occupation of the Syrian Golan.

39. Cuba reiterated that the illegal military occupation by Israel in the Syrian Golan was inadmissible. The international community continued to demand an end to the de facto imposition of Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration over that territory. Cuba stated that the acquisition of territory by force was not acceptable in the light of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

40. Cuba reiterated that it considered all actions, measures or legislative or administrative provisions that had been adopted by Israel, or that it could undertake in the future, that sought to modify the legal status, physical character or demographic composition of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the measures to apply Israeli jurisdiction and administration in the illegally occupied territory, to be null and void, without legal validity or effect.

41. Cuba rejected what it called the Israeli practices aimed at controlling and seizing the resources of the occupied Syrian Golan, in flagrant contravention of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council regarding the permanent sovereignty of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over its natural resources.

42. Cuba called upon Israel to cease its practices that were in violation of the human rights of Syrian inhabitants of the occupied territory and to desist from the application of repressive measures against them. Cuba highlighted that foreign occupation, policies of expansion and aggression, racial discrimination, the establishment of settlements, the creation of a so-called *fait accompli* and the annexation by force of foreign territories, including in the occupied Syrian Golan, were practices that violated international instruments and standards and had a negative impact on the human rights of the Syrian people.

43. Cuba stressed that Israel must withdraw immediately from the entire territory of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in compliance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [338 \(1973\)](#), and renounce its intention to annex the occupied Syrian Golan, a territory that should be under Syrian sovereignty. Cuba

further stressed that the continuation of the illegal Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation attempt constituted an obstacle to the achievement of a just, complete and lasting peace in the region.

44. Cuba condemned the violations of international humanitarian law committed by Israeli authorities against Syrian detainees in the occupied territory and reiterated its concern about the continuation of those practices and about the inhumane conditions in Israeli prisons.

45. Cuba strongly condemned the declaration of the United States of America recognizing the occupied Syrian Golan as territory of Israel, noting that that constituted a serious and flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution [497 \(1981\)](#). Cuba emphasized that the declaration violated the legitimate interests of the Syrian people and the Arab and Islamic nations, with serious consequences for stability and security in the Middle East and the growing escalation of tensions in the region.

46. Cuba urged the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations with regard to maintaining international peace and security and to adopt the decisions necessary to stop the actions by the United States that supported the intentions of Israel to annex Syrian territory of the occupied Syrian Golan.

C. Iraq

47. On 4 August 2022, the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed a note verbale to OHCHR, affirming its principled position of the rejection of the acquisition of land by force, stressing the importance of all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council with regard to the identity of the occupied Syrian Golan and condemning the illegal Israeli occupation.

48. Iraq stressed the need to respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations relating to the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and to implement international resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan.

49. Iraq reiterated its position rejecting settlement expansion and other commercial projects of Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan, in addition to rejecting all policies that affected the economic situation of the local population.

50. Iraq affirmed the right of return of the displaced persons and stressed the illegality of the measures taken by Israel to impose its laws and jurisdiction on the lands that it occupied, including the occupied Syrian Golan. Iraq rejected the local elections that had been conducted by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan and reaffirmed the importance of complying with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

51. Iraq was concerned about the United Nations reports documenting the extent of the suffering of the Syrian people of the occupied Syrian Golan and requested that the United Nations exercise its role in ending that suffering and the illegal occupation.
