



United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

**General Assembly
Official Records
Seventy-eighth Session
Supplement No. 35**



**Report of the Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People**



Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Letter of transmittal	4
I. Introduction	5
II. Overview of the political context relating to the question of Palestine	6
III. Mandate of the Committee	13
IV. Organization of work	14
A. Membership and officers	14
B. Participation in the work of the Committee	14
V. Action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 77/22 and 77/23	15
A. Introduction	15
B. Mobilization of the diplomatic community	15
C. Raising awareness of the question of Palestine	16
D. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system entities	20
E. Capacity-building	21
VI. Action taken by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/24	22
VII. Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee	24
A. Action by the Committee in response to the conflict and human rights violations	24
B. Action by the Committee in response to annexation and settlement activities	25
C. Action with the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council	26
D. Advocacy and outreach with the international community and civil society	27
E. Action by Member States and regional organizations	27
F. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities	28

Letter of transmittal

[1 September 2023]

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for submission to the General Assembly and circulation to all the competent bodies of the United Nations for necessary action, as appropriate, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 10 of Assembly resolution [77/22](#) of 30 November 2022.

The report covers the period from 2 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

(Signed) Cheikh **Niang**
Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The present report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/22](#), adopted on 30 November 2022. It covers the implementation by the Committee of its programme of work ([A/AC.183/2023/1](#)), focused on promoting the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. Its objectives include maintaining international awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people, mobilizing efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace, enhancing international solidarity with the Palestinian people and supporting the Government of the State of Palestine in its capacity-building efforts towards a future viable and sustainable independent State of Palestine.
2. Chapter II consists of an overview of the political context relating to the question of Palestine during the reporting period, from 2 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.
3. Chapters III and IV contain an outline of the mandate of the Committee as set out by the General Assembly and information on the membership of the Committee and the organization of its work.
4. Chapter V covers the action taken by the Committee, including its participation in meetings of the Security Council and its continuing dialogue with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. It also covers international conferences, including in virtual format, capacity-building activities organized by the Committee and other mandated activities carried out by the Division for Palestinian Rights on behalf of the Committee.
5. Chapter VI provides an overview of the special information programme on the question of Palestine implemented by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/23](#).
6. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly are set out in chapter VII of the report.

Chapter II

Overview of the political context relating to the question of Palestine

7. The Palestinian people continued to endure the belligerent occupation of their territory, which has continued for more than 56 years, compounded by recurrent and deepening political, humanitarian and economic crises. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remained tense and was characterized by a surge in human rights violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children, as well as a rise in settlement activities and creeping annexation. Israel has continued to implement measures that violate international law and United Nations resolutions, and also to prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their right to self-determination while impairing the exercise of all other inalienable rights. Despite continued engagement by the Security Council and growing calls by the international community for Israel to change course, no tangible actions were taken in the reporting period towards ending the occupation, advancing the two-State solution and ensuring accountability for the systematic human rights violations and grave breaches of international law being perpetrated in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

8. The new coalition government of Israel, considered to be the most extremist in the country's history, has increased anti-Palestinian rhetoric, discriminatory measures against the Palestinian people and hostility towards the Palestinian Authority (see para. 16). Members of the Israeli government advocated openly for the Occupied Palestinian Territory to be ethnically cleansed and encouraged revenge attacks against Palestinians, even calling for entire communities to be destroyed.

9. Israel intensified military raids and the use of lethal force against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, in particular in Jenin and Nablus.¹ On 3 July, Israel launched the largest military operation since 2002 in the Jenin refugee camp, using weapons and methods “associated with the conduct of hostilities in armed conflict, rather than law enforcement”.² The Secretary-General called for respect for international humanitarian law during military operations, while the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights described the air strikes in the densely populated refugee camp as an act that “may amount to wilful killing”.³ This incursion was preceded by other interventions in the camp, including on 19 June and 26 January.⁴ According to data compiled by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, at least 26 Palestinians, including women and children, were killed and dozens were wounded in the Israeli military assault on Jenin in January.⁵ On 22 February, a similar Israeli military assault in Nablus killed 10 Palestinians, including children and elderly persons, and injured 100 others.

¹ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Data on casualties”. Available at www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties.

² Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, comment on Israeli-Palestinian violence, 4 July 2023.

³ United Nations, UN News, “Jenin: UN concerned over ongoing Israeli military operation”, 4 July 2023.

⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), “Israel/Palestine: UN experts condemn renewed violence and Israeli killings of Palestinians in occupied West Bank”, press release, 27 January 2023.

⁵ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Israeli forces operation in Jenin”, Flash Update #2, 4 July 2023.

10. The new Government of Israel pursued further annexation of Palestinian land⁶ through forced evictions, displacement of communities, confiscation of property and settlement expansion, as well as by transferring its civilian population to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel continued to carry out settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016). The discriminatory policies and actions of Israel were consistently described by the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Link, as an apartheid system⁷ aimed at maintaining domination and the systematic oppression of the Palestinian people. In June, the Secretary-General called on Israel to reverse its decision to accelerate settlement activities.⁸ In the first quarter of 2023 alone, the Israeli authorities demolished, compelled individuals to demolish or confiscated 290 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. About 93 per cent of these demolitions were predicated on the absence of building permits, which are extremely difficult for Palestinians to acquire from the Israeli authorities. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a total of 43 structures were demolished, including schools funded by international donors in Masafer Yatta and Isfay al-Fawqa.

11. In 2022, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, saw the highest number of Palestinian casualties recorded since 2006.⁹ The number of casualties was rising rapidly in the first half of 2023 (see table below). By 7 August, the number of casualties in the West Bank had exceeded the total recorded in 2022. In addition, the United Nations has verified increasing grave violations against Palestinian and Israeli children in West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and Israel.¹⁰ OHCHR identified two primary causes for this alarming trend: widespread Israeli settler violence and excessive use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinians.¹¹ Israeli settlers regularly targeted Palestinians, including children on their way to school, attacked and vandalized Palestinian homes and vehicles, resulting in property destruction, and engaged in burning of olive trees. Armed settlers receive active support from Israeli security forces, who permitted or took no action to stop the violence of the settlers and systematically resorted to lethal force against Palestinians as a first response. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 cautioned that such acts could potentially constitute extrajudicial executions and wilful killings, which are explicitly prohibited by international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute.

⁶ United Nations, UN News, “Greater protection needed for Palestinians amid rising violence, annexation threat”, 30 March 2023.

⁷ OHCHR, “Israel’s 55-year occupation of Palestinian Territory is apartheid – UN human rights expert”, press release, 25 March 2022. For the definition of apartheid, see the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

⁸ Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 19 June 2023.

⁹ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Statement by Lucia Elmi, acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, on the alarming increase in violence and movement restrictions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem”, press release, 18 October 2022.

¹⁰ [A/77/895-S/2023/363](#).

¹¹ OHCHR, “Israel: UN experts condemn record year of Israeli violence in the occupied West Bank”, press release, 15 December 2022.

Table
Palestinian casualties since 2022

	2022	2023 ^a
West Bank	151	165
Gaza	30	31

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

^a From 1 January to 7 August.

12. Israeli settlement expansion was accompanied by a surge in settler violence against Palestinians, resulting in further displacement of their communities. Numerous incidents serve as evidence of this alarming trend. In 2022, there was a 41 per cent increase in Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank compared to 2021. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported 849 attacks by Israeli settlers, including 228 attacks that resulted in Palestinian casualties in 2022, compared with 496 settler attacks in 2021. At the time of writing, there have been more than 329 Israeli settler attacks, 112 of which resulted in casualties. On 25 May, the Palestinian community of Ayn Samiyah in Ramallah, which consists of 178 Palestinians, including 78 children, was forced to evacuate because of settler intimidation and violence.

13. On 20 June, following an Israeli military operation in the Jenin refugee camp in which four Palestinians were killed, Palestinians killed four Israelis in the settlement of Eli, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Groups of armed settlers then carried out revenge attacks in several Palestinian villages, burning property and terrorizing residents in Luban, Sharqiyah and Sinjil among others. In Turmus'ayya, one Palestinian was killed. The Israeli army did not protect the Palestinians and even assisted the settlers.¹² Similarly, on 26 and 27 February, hundreds of Israeli settlers physically assaulted Palestinians in the town of Huwwarah and nearby villages and killed one Palestinian in the town of Za'tarah. The settlers set fire to tens of Palestinian residences, businesses and vehicles in retaliation for the killing of two Israelis in Huwwarah.¹³ Israeli forces were present but failed to stop the attack, which was described as a "pogrom" by a high-ranking Israeli military officer. An Israeli cabinet minister praised the settlers' attack and called for the town to be "wiped out". The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, condemned the failure of Israel to protect Palestinian civilians and called for the perpetrators to be held accountable.¹⁴

14. The High Court of Justice of Israel rejected an appeal against the eviction of Palestinian communities, including 12 herding groups with more than 1,150 residents in Masafer Yatta.¹⁵ Settlement activity continues to threaten Palestinian neighbourhoods in the Hebron area and in occupied East Jerusalem. In the latter, Silwan was one of the most affected neighbourhoods, where at least 470 Palestinians were threatened with forced eviction from their homes, often by settler organizations filing eviction cases in Israeli courts. The number of approved settlement housing units on

¹² United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, "Briefing by Special Coordinator Wennesland to the UN Security Council on Implementation of UNSCR 2334 (2016)", 27 June 2023.

¹³ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Protection of Civilians Report 14–27 February 2023", 4 March 2023.

¹⁴ United Nations, UN News, "Israel-Palestine: UN envoy gravely concerned over killings and retaliatory attacks", 27 February 2023.

¹⁵ OHCHR, "UN experts alarmed by Israel High Court ruling on Masafer Yatta and risk of imminent forcible transfer of Palestinians", press release, 16 May 2022.

Palestinian-owned land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, doubled in 2023 compared with previous years.¹⁶

15. The Security Council held 15 meetings on the question of Palestine, including five that were held outside its regular schedule. In his most recent report on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/52/76), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that there appears to be a correlation between the expansion of outposts and settler attacks against Palestinians, with just under 700,000 Israeli settlers now illegally residing in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.¹⁷ On 20 February, for the first time in nine years, the Security Council issued a presidential statement on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. In that statement, the Security Council reaffirmed its strong support for a two-State solution, expressed serious concern about Israeli settlement expansion and “legalization” of settlement outposts and called for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.¹⁸

16. Faced with continued inaction in the Security Council, on 30 December 2022, the General Assembly adopted resolution 77/247, in which it calls upon the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the prolonged denial of the right of the self-determination to the Palestinian people, on the legality of the occupation of Palestinian territory by Israel and on the consequences for third parties. In response, Israel imposed punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority, sparking widespread international condemnation.

17. The situation at the holy sites in East Jerusalem worsened. On 26 July, the National Security Minister of Israel, Itamar Ben-Gavir, and 1,700 of his supporters visited the Haram al-Sharif compound in violation of the historic and legal status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. Many countries, including the United States of America, issued statements reaffirming the need to preserve the status quo at the holy sites, deeming actions that prevent this to be unacceptable. On 5 January, the Security Council convened an emergency meeting in the wake of another visit by that same minister, accompanied by security forces, to the Haram al-Sharif compound.¹⁹ In a statement delivered at that meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific expressed concern regarding the fragile situation at the holy sites and warned of the potential for violence throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.²⁰ The Assistant Secretary-General urged all parties to respect the status quo and the special role of Jordan.²¹ Heightened violence and simmering tensions once again marred the coinciding religious holidays of Ramadan, Passover and Easter. On 4 April, Israeli forces used disproportionate force to evacuate the Qibli prayer hall of the Aqsa Mosque, launching stun grenades, resorting to violence and firing rubber-coated metal bullets to remove Palestinian worshipers who resisted. Israeli extremists’ provocative calls for Jews to conduct ritual animal sacrifices at the holy sites further inflamed the situation. In addition, increasing attacks against Christians and their holy sites in Jerusalem have been reported.²²

18. Despite international condemnation and recommendations for Israel to end the practice of administrative detention, the number of Palestinian detainees imprisoned without trial or charge reached its highest level since 2008. The United Nations called

¹⁶ See [S/PV.9328](#).

¹⁷ See paras. 5 and 13 of the report.

¹⁸ [S/PRST/2023/1](#).

¹⁹ See [S/PV.9236](#).

²⁰ See [S/PV.9387](#).

²¹ United Nations, UN News, “UN working to reduce tensions following Israel minister’s holy site visit”, 5 January 2023.

²² See [S/PV.9309](#).

on Israel to cease the arbitrary practice of administrative detention, with various special rapporteurs describing it as a war crime that deprives protected persons of fair trials. OHCHR reported that 5,000 Palestinians, including 160 children, were being held in Israeli prisons. Of that number, approximately 1,100 were being held without charge or trial.²³ Some Palestinian prisoners engaged in hunger strikes to protest the detention policies of Israel. One of those prisoners, Khader Adnan, who had been repeatedly detained by Israel without charge, ultimately died. The detention without due process and deportation of human rights lawyer Salah Hammouri drew international condemnation as a violation of international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

19. Israel persisted in imposing restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, adversely affecting the livelihoods of thousands and impeding family reunification and access to health care, education and economic opportunities. Civil society organizations have emphasized that the policy of family separation and the restrictive permit regime of Israel have devastating consequences.²⁴ On 27 April, during Eid al-Fitr, movement restrictions in Jericho were further intensified, affecting approximately 50,000 residents and visitors. Palestinian Christian worshippers also encountered limitations when trying to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the Orthodox Christian Holy Fire ceremony. The World Health Organization has reported arbitrary delays and denials for Palestinians seeking health care as a consequence of the permit regime, separation barriers, checkpoints and restricted-access roads, as well as the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

20. The 16-year land, air and sea blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel continued to cause severe limitations on Palestinian access to essential services and materials, including for hospitals, and to undermine livelihoods and development. The economic and humanitarian situation continued to worsen against a backdrop of import and export restrictions, supply shortages, high unemployment²⁵ and contaminated water.²⁶ More than 2.1 million people across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 58 per cent of whom are from the Gaza Strip, urgently required humanitarian aid according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.²⁷

21. The situation between Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian armed groups remained highly volatile; several escalations occurred that resulted in casualties, injuries, damaged housing and displacement of families. On 9 May, Israel targeted and killed three members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, as well as 10 family members, including children. In response, Palestinian armed groups launched rockets, leading to retaliation from Israel. Although a ceasefire was eventually reached, the ensuing closure of the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings by Israel hindered humanitarian access.

22. Civil society organizations had their rights routinely violated and were attacked, harassed and silenced. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the

²³ OHCHR, "Special Rapporteur Says Israel's Unlawful Carceral Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory Are Tantamount to International Crimes and Have Turned it into an Open-Air Prison", 10 July 2023.

²⁴ United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, "Palestinian Rights Committee-Convened Consultations with Civil Society Organizations: 'The Ongoing Nakba in Gaza: Blockade, Dispossession and Denial of Rights'", Chair's summary, 27 April 2023.

²⁵ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Humanitarian situation in Gaza", Flash Update #5, 16 May 2023.

²⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, "175,000 additional parents and children are getting access to safe drinking water in the Gaza Strip", 5 June 2023.

²⁷ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of *Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Response Plan OPT, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023* (New York, 2023).

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, in its latest report,²⁸ found that the Israeli government restricts civic space in order to delegitimize and silence civil society and those who advocate for Palestinian rights, including Israelis. Israeli authorities increasingly used electronic surveillance and social media monitoring, including through unauthorized spyware planted on mobile phones, to spy on Palestinian civilians, human rights defenders, journalists and students and to arrest and detain them for political statements posted on social media platforms.²⁹

23. The Middle East peace process has been stalled since 2014. On 19 March, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the State of Palestine and the United States met in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to discuss commitments for de-escalation of tensions and Palestinian economic conditions, as well as to establish mechanisms to counter violence and incitement. That meeting came on the heels of another meeting that was held on 26 February, in Aqaba, Jordan, at which the participants stressed similar commitments, including upholding the historic status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. On 11 May, the participants in a Munich-format ministerial meeting that was held in Germany called on parties to fulfil their commitments for peace as agreed in Aqaba and Sharm el-Sheikh and emphasized the need for a realistic political process. However, Israel immediately disavowed the agreements reached and violated its commitments.

24. On 13 October, 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, signed the Algiers Declaration, in which they acknowledged the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and outlined plans for Palestinian elections. The Secretary-General welcomed the reconciliation agreement, stressing that it could contribute to ending a 15-year rift.

25. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the extreme dependence of the Palestinian economy on Israel hindered growth, despite some signs of post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery.³⁰ Unemployment remained high at 26 per cent in the West Bank and half of the workforce in Gaza was unemployed. The closure of the Gaza-Israel border crossing has prevented 17,000 Palestinians from reaching their places of employment.

26. The fiscal crisis of the Palestinian Authority continued as international support declined, further undermining its ability to provide basic services and fulfil its obligations. Since November 2021, public sector employees have been receiving partial salaries.

27. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) also continues to face a dire financial crisis, putting Palestine refugees' livelihoods and regional stability at high risk. According to the Commission-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, a decade of chronic underfunding has led to a threat of collapse. The budget shortfall at the start of 2023 was \$75 million, and the Agency's global appeal for \$1.6 billion raised only \$828.3 million, including \$115.2 million in new contributions.³¹ The realization of the Secretary-General's call to ensure that UNRWA has sustainable and predictable funding remained elusive, as Palestine refugees' needs continued to grow. On 11 May, the World Food Programme (WFP) revealed significant funding shortages that may result in reduced aid to over

²⁸ OHCHR, "The rights of civil society members are being violated by all entities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, UN Commission of Inquiry says; Israeli Government restrictions intrinsically linked to occupation", press release, 8 June 2023.

²⁹ [A/HRC/53/22](#).

³⁰ [TD/B/EX\(72\)/2](#).

³¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, "Pledges At Funding Conference Not Sufficient To Cover UNRWA Financial Requirements From September Onwards", news release, 2 June 2023.

200,000 Palestinians and a high risk that around 60 per cent of the residents of the Occupied Palestinian territory would face hunger.³²

28. On 30 November, the General Assembly, decided to commemorate, for the first time, the anniversary of the Nakbah. In its resolutions [77/23](#), the Assembly instructed the Division for Palestinian Rights to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah on 15 May, including by organizing an event in the General Assembly Hall, which was well-attended. On that same day, the Committee held a high-level special meeting at which the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, delivered a statement decrying efforts to deliberately obstruct implementation of United Nations resolutions and the increased suffering of Palestinians. In addition, he vowed to pursue legal and diplomatic measures for the realization of Palestinian rights and seek accountability for the crimes perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people.³³

³² World Food Programme, “WFP operations in Palestine risk suspension due to funding shortfall”, news release, 11 May 2023.

³³ United Nations, “Marking Anniversary of Nakba, President Tells Palestinian Rights Committee ‘Tragedy Constitutes a Scar on Humanity’”, press release, 15 May 2023.

Chapter III

Mandate of the Committee

29. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975 with the task of recommending a programme designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty and return to the homes and property from which they had been displaced, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974. The mandate of the Committee has evolved considerably over the years into greater advocacy for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the mobilization of assistance. Additional information about the Committee is available on the website maintained by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat.³⁴

30. On 30 November, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Committee (resolution 77/22) and requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights with the resources necessary for its programme of work (resolution 77/23) and to continue to implement the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat (resolution 77/24). The mandates of the Committee, the Division and the Department will be reviewed only as necessary. The Committee's report will continue to be produced annually. The Assembly also adopted resolution 77/25, entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", in which it reaffirmed the near-consensus international position regarding the components of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution.

31. The work of the Committee is fully aligned with the decisions of the main intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice, as well as with the work of the Secretary-General and the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with which it collaborates extensively.

³⁴ www.un.org/unispal.

Chapter IV

Organization of work

A. Membership and officers

32. The Committee is composed of 25 members representing Member States from different regional groups: Afghanistan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Türkiye and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

33. The 24 observers of the Committee are Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine, the African Union, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

34. The Bureau of the Committee is elected each year from among the permanent representatives of Committee members. At its 410th meeting, on 22 February, chaired by the Secretary-General, the Committee elected, in their personal capacity, Cheikh Niang (Senegal) as Chair and Pedro Luis Pedrosa Cuesta (Cuba), Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Neville Melvin Gertze (Namibia) and Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) as Vice-Chairs for the year. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia) was elected as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur on 3 May at the 411th meeting of the Committee. In accordance with established practice, the State of Palestine participates in the work of both the Committee and the Bureau as an observer.

35. The day-to-day tasks of the Committee are undertaken by its Bureau. Members of the Bureau represent the Committee at all international conferences organized by the Committee, including by chairing and moderating conference sessions, and on all delegation visits. On the margins of the conferences and during delegation visits, they hold meetings with senior officials of the respective host countries.

36. The Committee members and observers have actively advocated the rights of the Palestinian people, including in the Security Council. Currently, two Committee members, Ecuador and Malta, and one observer, the United Arab Emirates, serve on the Security Council as elected members.

B. Participation in the work of the Committee

37. As in previous years, the Committee invited all States Members of the United Nations and observers to participate in its work. Committee activities regularly involve civil society organizations, including those from Israel.

Chapter V

Action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [77/22](#) and [77/23](#)

A. Introduction

38. The Committee implemented its programme of work to realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, bring about an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and support the achievement of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 lines. Its activities are aligned with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the question of Palestine; the women and peace and security agenda; the programme of the United Nations country team; international law, including humanitarian law; human rights frameworks, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Sustainable Development Goals and their achievement by the State of Palestine. The Committee has continuously adjusted its approved programme of work in line with developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and developments relating to the Palestinian question, in general.

39. The Committee has made every effort to support the universally recognized rights of an occupied people and the right to self-determination. To that end, the Committee engaged the diplomatic community on the question of Palestine through formal and informal intergovernmental processes; conducted Bureau delegation visits and outreach meetings; organized a Bureau retreat; organized public awareness-raising activities that involved conferences, meetings, speakers' panels and the media, including social media, with the support of the Department of Global Communications; promoted partnerships with Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including UNRWA, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies and civil society organizations; and built capacities for the future State of Palestine. It formally invited all Member States to actively participate in its events.

40. The activities of the Bureau included holding meetings in a variety of formats, including in-person, hybrid and virtual events, as well as visits by Bureau delegations to locations away from Headquarters.

B. Mobilization of the diplomatic community

41. From 5 to 7 December, the Bureau held its annual retreat in Dakar to reflect on the implementation of its 2022 programme of work and discuss 2023 activities. The Bureau also met with officials from the Government of Senegal, including the President of the Republic, the Chef de Cabinet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the presidents of the National Assembly and Foreign Affairs Committee. It also engaged with education centres and think tanks in the country.

42. On 22 February, in a meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, the Committee elected five of its Bureau members for 2023 and officially adopted its programme of work for 2023. On 3 May, the Permanent Representative of Malaysia was elected as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur.

43. On 28 February, the Committee, through the Division for Palestinian Rights and with the participation of the Department of Global Communications, held its annual briefing session for 20 new delegates of Member States.

44. The Chair led Bureau delegations in a series of advocacy visits. The Chair participated in the forty-ninth session of the OIC Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which was held in Nouakchott on 16 and 17 March, and the high-level conference organized by LAS on the theme “Jerusalem: resilience and development”, which was held in Cairo on 12 February. The Chair visited France, Malta and Switzerland from 31 October to 4 November in order to engage with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of those countries. On 17 October, in Ottawa, the Bureau met with Ms. Salma Zahid, Member of the Parliament of Canada and of the Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Committee hosted Ms. Zahid in New York on 10 November.

45. The Bureau met with representatives of the non-permanent members of the Security Council on two occasions. On 20 February, it met with representatives of the five States that were elected to membership of the Council for 2023 and 2024, and on 9 May it met with representatives of all 10 of the non-permanent members of the Council. The participants exchanged ideas on how to implement Security Council resolutions and promote a political horizon to resolve the Palestinian plight, including through efforts aimed at resuming peace negotiations between Israel and the State of Palestine.

46. The Bureau used traditional and social media for global outreach and advocacy. On 30 September, the Bureau condemned the killing of Palestinian children and the trauma that they face. On 15 February, it expressed concern over the punitive measures taken by Israel against the Palestinian Authority in response to the request submitted by the General Assembly to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and denounced the decision of Israel to advance settlements in the occupied West Bank. On 24 February, it condemned a raid that Israeli forces carried out in Nablus. On 5 April, the Committee condemned violence by Israel against Palestinian worshippers at the holy sites of Jerusalem. On 19 June, it condemned the raids that were carried out in refugee camps in Jenin and the decision to expand more than 4,000 Israeli settlements in the West Bank. On 20 June, the Chair condemned the acts of violence carried out by extremist settlers against Palestinian communities.

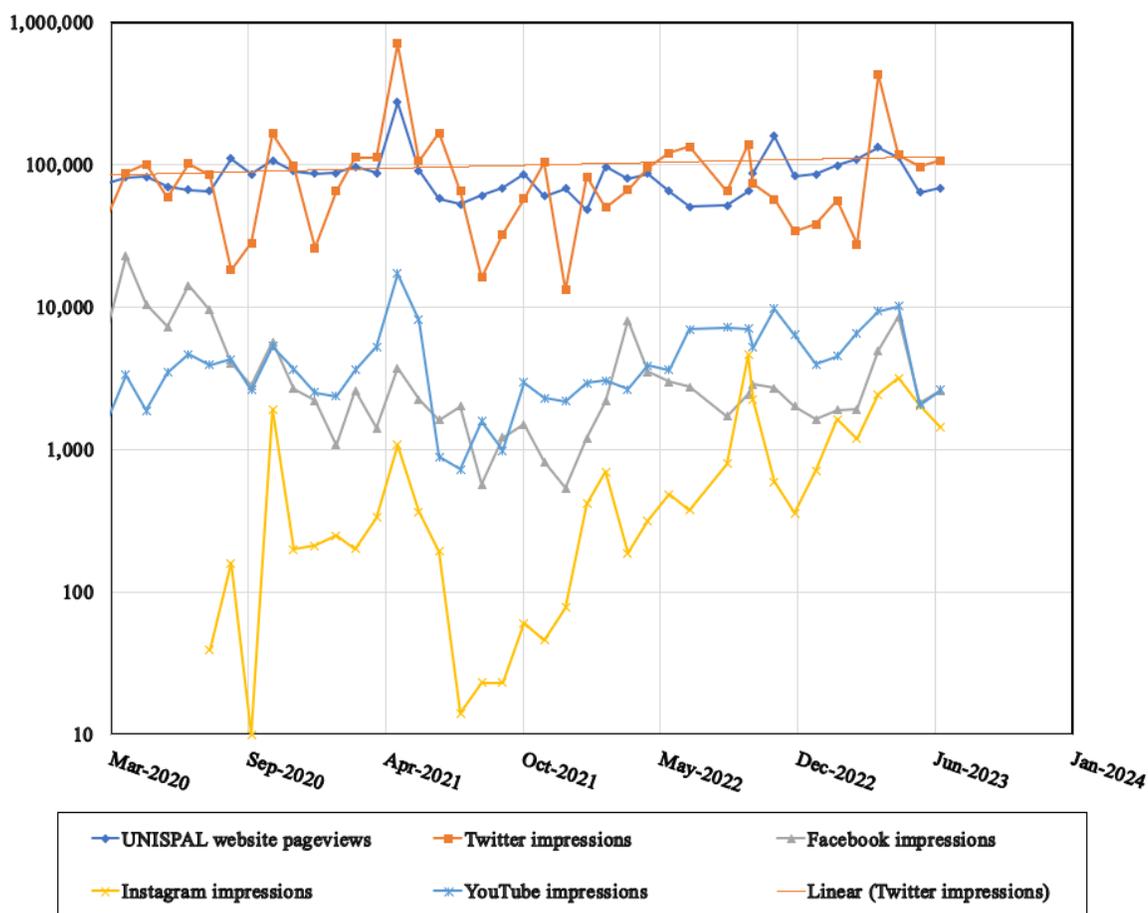
47. The Committee delivered statements at quarterly debates of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, on 28 October, 18 January, 25 April and 27 July. In those statements, the Committee highlighted the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and called for collective action to achieve the two-State solution and realize the rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to self-determination and independence, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

C. Raising awareness on the question of Palestine

48. The Committee continued to raise awareness about the political, human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the situation of Palestinian women and youth, by facilitating up-to-date briefings by experts and exchange of ideas on specific issues during virtual and in-person Committee meetings, side events and conferences, as well as through the dissemination of publications and information through social media platforms and the Committee’s website. As requested by the General Assembly, the 2023 programme of work is focused on raising awareness of the Nakbah. Details regarding each activity can be found on the Committee’s website.

49. To better reach global audiences, the Committee expanded its digital advocacy efforts, with its Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts recording steady growth in the number of visitors and followers, demonstrating growing public interest in the question of Palestine, as shown in the figure below. In addition, in May 2023, the Committee set up a TikTok account, which has accumulated 3,162 views in only a few months. The Twitter account alone had gained 1,215 new followers by the end of August (total 23,000), while the Committee mailing list reached a total of 13,000 subscribers. The website was visited 938,273 times during the reporting period. All Committee public events are broadcast on United Nations Web TV and social media, garnering thousands of viewers per event. The Committee also organized online advocacy campaigns ahead of the renewal of the mandate of UNRWA, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (see para. 52) and the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah (see para. 57), which resulted in strong engagement and a large viewership online.

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, social media statistics



Abbreviation: UNISPAL, United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine.

50. On 26 October, the Bureau met with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel and with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. On 11 April, the Bureau met with the President of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, and on 24 April the Bureau met

with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine. On 22 August, the Bureau held its annual meeting with the Secretary-General.

51. On 3 November, the Chair participated in the International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East organized by the Department of Global Communications, stressing the importance of media for the Committee in upholding its General Assembly mandate. The Chair underlined the importance of press freedom and that journalists must be protected in order to be able to carry out their work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In addition, the Chair met with Palestinian journalists from Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon who took part in the annual Shireen Abu Akleh Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists organized by the Department of Global Communications (see para. 76).

52. As mandated by the General Assembly, the Committee commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chef de Cabinet, the latter speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the need for reinvigorated efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine read a message from the President of the State of Palestine. In addition, speakers from the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, the African Union, LAS, OIC and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries delivered statements, as did Shawan Jabarin, General Director of Al-Haq, on behalf of civil society organizations. The event was attended by 63 Member States and 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while 44 Member States sent official messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Government. All statements and messages called for an end to the Israeli occupation and the achievement of the two-State solution. Similar commemorations were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

53. A virtual exhibit entitled “Palestine through its people: portraits of Palestinians” dedicated to the memory of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was launched as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

54. On 8 November, the Committee held virtual closed consultations with civil society organizations on the theme “Advocating for accountability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The participants, who included civil society organization representatives from the State of Palestine, Israel and the United States, as well as Committee members and observers, discussed accountability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as being central to ending the Israeli occupation and to upholding international law.

55. On 15 March, the Committee organized a virtual event on the theme “Memories of the Nakbah and its impact on Palestinians” on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. At that event, Nadine Sayegh, author of the book *Oranges from Jaffa*, discussed the enduring impact of the Nakbah on the lives of millions of Palestinians since their displacement and dispossession in 1948. The event provided the Committee a platform to reaffirm its support for the rights of Palestinian women through international mechanisms, such as Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

56. On 27 April, the Committee held a virtual closed consultation, under the Chatham House Rule, with civil society organizations on the theme “The ongoing Nakbah in Gaza: blockade, dispossession and denial of rights”. The consultation was attended by civil society organization representatives from the State of Palestine,

Israel and the United States, as well as Committee members and observers. The participants focused on the Great March of Return and its legacy, the violation of Palestine refugees' right of return, the restrictions imposed by Israel on family reunification, and access to health care in Gaza.

57. On 15 May, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, the Committee, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/23, commemorated the anniversary of the Nakbah at United Nations Headquarters. The Chair, the President of the State of Palestine, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and a civil society organization representative delivered statements at a high-level Committee meeting to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah. Representatives of regional groups read statements of support and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, in a video message, highlighted the critical needs of Palestine refugees. Following the meeting, a special commemorative event, which was open to the public, was held in the General Assembly Hall, which was at full capacity. The event, which was broadcast live, served to disseminate worldwide the continued impact of the Nakbah for the Palestinian people and the enduring call for a just solution to the question of Palestine. A video message from the President of the General Assembly was followed by an immersive experience of the Nakbah through live music, photos, videos and personal testimonies.

58. On 22 May, members of the Bureau met with representatives of Palestinian civil society organizations and the Israel-Palestine NGO Working Group based in New York to discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and recent reports in which it is concluded that Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are victims of apartheid. The representatives of civil society organizations called for the restoration of the Special Committee against Apartheid. The Bureau continued to support the mandate of UNRWA through its regular statements and interactions with all Member States. On 13 October, the Chair met with Director of the UNRWA Representative Office in New York to discuss the renewal of the Agency's mandate, including an advocacy campaign by the Committee in that regard (see para. 49). On 30 May, the Bureau met with the Commissioner-General to discuss the Agency's financial crisis ahead of the 2023 pledging conference in support of UNRWA, which took place on 2 June. On 18 July, the Bureau met with the Chief of Staff of UNRWA to discuss the Agency's mandate and sustainability.

59. On 20 July, the Committee and OIC held a virtual conference on the theme "The impact of Israeli settlement policies on the Palestinian population in Jerusalem". The conference was attended by civil society representatives from the State of Palestine, Israel and the United States. Participants discussed a variety of concerns, including Israeli court processes and how to use the database of businesses facilitating Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for economic activism. An evicted Palestinian illustrated the ongoing issues of illegal home evictions in East Jerusalem.³⁵

60. The United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, now in its twenty-ninth year of operation, remains an indispensable resource for diplomats, researchers and the general public, averaging 100,000 page views per month. It contains more than 42,496 documents and is the largest and most comprehensive online repository on the subject. The collection ranges from the latest United Nations documents to rare records dating back decades. Moreover, documents are increasingly being disseminated in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, in addition to English.

³⁵ United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, "Impact of Israeli Settlement Policies on the Palestinian Population in Jerusalem", Chair's summary, 20 July 2023.

61. In collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Division for Palestinian Rights continued to improve the accessibility of UNPal, an artificial-intelligence-based chatbot for the website of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine.

62. Further to its monitoring mandate, the Committee produced several publications for dissemination by the Division for Palestinian Rights. They include a weekly publication on NGO action on the question of Palestine, monthly bulletins compiling all official documents of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations relating to the question of Palestine, quarterly newsletters on the activities of the Committee, an annual compilation of United Nations reports on the question of Palestine and an annual compilation of all resolutions issued by United Nations bodies on the question of Palestine.

63. At the request of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Division for Palestinian Rights helped the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs produce a dossier of over 9,000 United Nations parliamentary documents drawn from the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine database for submission to the International Court of Justice in relation to the advisory opinion requested in General Assembly resolution [77/247](#).

64. The Committee's publications were disseminated to a growing mailing list of more than 13,000 subscribers, including research libraries, universities and such key stakeholders as political figures, members of the diplomatic community, students, university professors, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and journalists, as well as prominent personalities and opinion leaders. All the publications of the Committee are posted on its website.

65. In support of the Committee's global advocacy and with extended support from OIC, the Bureau distributed 2,724 United Nations exhibit booklets globally, including to Member States and United Nations offices. The electronic versions of the booklets were viewed by 9,362 visitors. The booklets were reproduced in Arabic and English, and they are being translated into French and Spanish in order to further expand their reach.

D. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system entities

66. The Committee continued to cooperate with intergovernmental organizations. OIC continued to support the annual International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem, organized in cooperation with the Committee. The African Union, LAS and OIC regularly attended Committee meetings as observers and participated in its work. The Chair participated in key events of LAS and OIC (see para. 44).

67. During its activities, the Committee, through the Division for Palestinian Rights, continued its long-standing cooperation with the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations country teams, UNRWA, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Department of Global Communications (including the United Nations information centres), the Human Rights Council and OHCHR, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations System Staff College.

68. The Committee continued to collaborate with NGOs in promoting the rights of the Palestinian people. Representatives of civil society organizations, including from Israel, were invited to attend all public events of the Committee (see paras. 54 to 59).

Civil society representatives were invited to speak at the special meeting of the Committee held on 29 November to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and at the high-level meeting held by the Committee on 15 May to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah.

69. NGOs continue to request accreditation with the Committee. At the time of writing, a total of two such organizations had been accredited in the reporting period to partner with the Committee in implementing its mandate.

E. Capacity-building

70. As requested in General Assembly resolution [77/23](#), the Committee continued to identify training opportunities to expand the capacity of officials of the State of Palestine and assess the impact of its programmes. Following the lifting of COVID-19-related restrictions, the Committee continued to prioritize hybrid (online and in-person) training.

71. In collaboration with UNITAR, the Committee supported the participation of four female diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine in a training course entitled “The art of speechwriting” from 17 October to 13 November. The course strengthened the individual capacity of diplomats working in roles requiring refined skills in speechwriting and public speaking.

72. From 24 October to 2 December, the Committee carried out its annual six-week capacity-building training programme on multilateral diplomacy for two female career diplomats. The programme, which was held in New York during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, enabled trainees to enhance their understanding of multilateral diplomacy and peace, security and development issues, and recent regional and global developments that are at the centre of deliberations in the General Assembly and Security Council.

73. The Committee organized a closed-door seminar on the legality of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The seminar, which was held in Geneva from 7 to 9 February, brought together prominent practitioners in the fields of international law and human rights and Palestinian diplomats.

Chapter VI

Action taken by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/24

74. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/24 of 30 November 2022, the Department of Global Communications continued to implement its special information programme on the question of Palestine.

75. The Department held its annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East on 3 and 4 November in Geneva. Journalists, media experts, think tanks, diplomats and members of academia from Israel, the State of Palestine, Switzerland and the United States attended the event to discuss three themes: “Honouring the legacy of Shireen Abu Akleh: protecting journalists covering the conflict”, “Forgotten stories in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: how political news eclipses coverage of economic challenges” and “Young journalists: opportunities and challenges”.

76. From 8 November to 9 December, the Department organized its annual Shireen Abu Akleh Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists in New York and Washington, D.C. Six Palestinian journalists received hands-on training on media-related topics. In addition, the journalists met with United Nations officials, representatives from Al Jazeera, the European Broadcasting Union and the Middle East Institute, the Chair of the Committee and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

77. The Department continued to update the web page of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in the six official languages, and it provided technical support for the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine.

78. The multimedia, multilingual news and social media teams of the Department provided coverage for related activities and events.³⁶

79. The Meetings Coverage Section issued 80 press releases, in English and French, related to the question of Palestine and the Middle East peace process, including press releases concerning statements and messages by the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Committee.

80. UN News generated almost 400 related stories and features in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. For example, the Arabic unit of UN News produced a feature entitled “Looking into the eyes of the occupation”³⁷ on the public hearings held by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

81. UN Video coverage included 28 news video packages on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the remarks made by the President of the State of Palestine during the general debate of the General Assembly and stories about internally displaced persons and refugees. Videos were aired by broadcasters from over 50 countries, including the Arabic service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, i24 News and the Arabic and English services of France 24.

82. The Department’s flagship United Nations social media accounts, with 67.5 million followers, in all six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, continued to provide updated information on the question of Palestine and promote events organized by the Committee. The promotional efforts drove traffic to the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine and the

³⁶ United Nations, “The West-Eastern Divan Ensemble performs at UN headquarters”.

³⁷ See news.un.org/ar/story/2023/03/1119152.

Committee's social media accounts. The information and content were also made available publicly on the Trello board dedicated to the question of Palestine that is maintained by the Department.³⁸

83. The Visitors' Service Section continued to raise awareness through the permanent exhibit "The United Nations and the question of Palestine", which is part of the United Nations guided tour route. Over 150,000 visitors saw the exhibit during the reporting period. The Exhibits Unit, in connection with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, facilitated the launch of the virtual exhibit "Palestine through its people: portraits of Palestinians", which has been viewed approximately 3,000 times (see para. 53).

84. The Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth collaborated with UNRWA to ensure that a young Palestinian innovator, Yassir Al Ostath, was able to participate in the session entitled "Working with and for youth in accelerating COVID-19 recovery and achieving the 2030 Agenda" at the Economic and Social Council youth forum for 2023, which was held from 25 to 27 April.

85. United Nations information centres, including in Ankara, Canberra, Lusaka, Manama, Moscow, Nairobi and Rabat, marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by organizing a wide range of commemorative events in collaboration with government officials and local embassies.

86. The United Nations information centre in Cairo provided media support for the launch of the UNCTAD report on Palestine, including by organizing a press conference at its premises in September 2022.

87. The United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe provided media support to the UNRWA Representative Office in Europe during the visit of the Commissioner-General to the Holy See and Italy in May 2023.

88. The Department moderated the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah that was held in the Hall of the General Assembly, with news and social media teams from the Department covering the commemoration and related events on its multimedia platforms. On 24 May, the United Nations information centre in Lusaka, with support from the Resident Coordinator Office in Mozambique, organized a watch party for the commemorative event. Attendees included, inter alia, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and young persons from six universities. The event featured a virtual exhibit, highlights from the event held at Headquarters and a video entitled "Sands of sorrow". From 27 to 31 May, the United Nations information centre in Jakarta, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Library of Indonesia, held an exhibit on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakbah to educate visitors about the historical context of the question of Palestine and the Nakbah and its consequences.

³⁸ Available at trello.com/b/772QZEh1/question-of-palestine.

Chapter VII

Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

89. In developing its recommendations set out below, the Committee has taken into account the deliberations at Committee and Bureau meetings, briefings received, outreach, international conferences and events involving Member States, civil society organizations and regional organizations.

A. Action by the Committee in response to the conflict and human rights violations

90. The Committee condemns the recurring human rights violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as amply documented by international organizations, including the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms, and human rights organizations, including from Israel. It calls for an immediate end to the excessive use of lethal force by Israeli forces and armed settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, which has resulted in an unprecedented number of killings and injuries. The Committee reiterates that the indiscriminate launching of rockets towards Israeli population centres is prohibited by international humanitarian law and must stop immediately.

91. The Committee condemns the punitive measures imposed by the Government of Israel to perpetuate the occupation and weaken the Palestinian Authority and repress the Palestinian people. It deplores the significant increase in violence and terror against Palestinians by armed Israeli settlers. The Committee calls on Israel to immediately reverse the measures against the Palestinian Authority, disarm Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and provide protection to Palestinian civilians as called for in Security Council resolution 904 (1994) and General Assembly resolution ES-10/20 and in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

92. The Committee calls on Israeli government officials to halt their provocations, rhetoric and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to end acquiescence to or support for, including by the Israeli army, settlers attacks on Palestinians and destruction of Palestinian homes and livelihoods. It further appeals to political, religious and community leaders to reject hate speech and violence and to speak up against those who try to inflame the situation.

93. The Committee strongly recommends that the United Nations and the international community take additional measure to ensure accountability, including arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court, because Israel has ignored its responsibility to investigate and prosecute acts committed by its agents or third parties that involve grave breaches of international humanitarian law and gross violations of the human rights of Palestinians.

94. The Committee calls on Israel to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and calls for full respect for the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem, including the historic and legal status quo at the Aqsa Mosque compound, recognizing the special role of the Jordan. The Committee decries the harassment of Muslim worshippers and the increasing number of attacks against Christians and their religious symbols in Jerusalem, and it urges Israel to ensure that Muslims and Christians can peacefully practice their respective religions without fear of violence. The Committee also calls for special measures to prevent future provocations during Muslim and Christian religious observances.

95. The Committee underscores the seriousness of the findings in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/76/871-S/2022/493) in relation to the situation of Palestinian children and calls for measures to protect children and prevent grave violation against them. The Committee urges the Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and ensure that the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution are upheld during any military operation.

96. In the light of the continuation and escalation by Israel of violence and disproportionate use of military force, including air strikes and ground operations targeting densely populated civilian areas, the Committee urges the Secretary-General and the relevant human rights mechanisms, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to take action consistent with their mandates and findings and consider potential listings of parties involved in violations against civilians, including women and children, as a deterrent measure, in order to protect civilian lives.

B. Action by the Committee in response to annexation and settlement activities

97. The Committee is gravely concerned at the stated objective of the Government of Israel to dramatically increase the number of settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, openly referring to these territories as the “land of Israel”, contrary to international law, countless United Nations resolutions and the international consensus on the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. The Committee supports the demands made by the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly for the cessation of all such illegal activities, including expropriation of and encroachment on Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian homes and properties.

98. The Committee reiterates that the annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is illegal. It calls on the Israeli authorities to cease all actions aimed at changing the demographic composition, status and character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to abide scrupulously by its international legal obligations. Such illegal colonization measures undermine the prospect of achieving a two-State solution by systematically eroding a contiguous, independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem serving as the capital of Palestine, in accordance with international law, the pertinent United Nations resolutions, including, inter alia, Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 77/26, as well as the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.

99. The Committee urges the Government of Israel to refrain from seizing Palestinian land, stop carrying out demolitions, including of donor-funded structures, and end all forced evictions and forcible displacement of Palestinians, in particular in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The recent announcement by the occupying Power of a dramatic increase in the construction of settlement units, its attempts to retroactively “legalize” illegal outposts and its decision to allow settlers into previously vacated settlements to resume settlement activities are particularly concerning and must be halted.

C. Action with the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council

100. The Committee concurs with the stance of the Secretary-General on the question of Palestine, which is based on international law and numerous United Nations resolutions, and it urges him to continue leveraging his good offices to pursue a just resolution to the question of Palestine.

101. The Committee urges the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace affirmed in relevant United Nations resolutions, including Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and Assembly resolution [77/25](#), including by ensuring that Member States and intergovernmental organizations take tangible measures to implement their obligations under these resolutions, the foremost of which is to distinguish between Israel and the territories that have remained under its occupation since 1967, as well as the obligation not to aid, assist or recognize as legitimate any illegal measures taken by the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

102. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit his reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) in written format and, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the resolution, to include references to the implementation of the provision by Member States. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Committee also calls upon the Council to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of relevant Council resolutions, including the use of sanctions on States and private entities violating Council resolutions.

103. The Committee encourages the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet to actively pursue opportunities to revitalize the peace process and to seek multilateral mechanisms to revive the much-needed dialogue between Palestine and Israel, as that is essential for promoting a just solution to the conflict.

104. The Committee concurs with the findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel that discrimination against Palestinians and the continued occupation of Palestinian territory are the leading causes of the region's ongoing tensions, instability and conflict. The Committee raises deep concern regarding the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including land seizures, unlawful killings, forced displacement, movement restrictions and denial of the human rights of Palestinians. Those actions, which are akin to apartheid under international law, demand urgent scrutiny and action to safeguard human rights.

105. The Committee notes that any initiative aimed at achieving a just solution to the question of Palestine must, first and foremost, take into account the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, engage the Palestinian leadership and be based on the two-State solution, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

106. The Committee appreciates the decision by the General Assembly to implement the recommendation made in the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel ([A/77/328](#)) to urgently request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of, inter alia, the continued refusal on the part of Israel to end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In addition, the Committee calls on the Security Council to consider further action, as requested under paragraph 92 (b) of the report, to require Israel to bring its permanent occupation to an end.

107. The Committee insists that the Israeli air, land and sea blockade of Gaza, as well as all restrictions imposed by the occupying Power, be lifted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), and it urges the international community to address the plight of the Palestinian people with a human-rights-based approach, rather than a humanitarian one.

D. Advocacy and outreach with the international community and civil society

108. The Committee calls upon regional organizations, in particular LAS, the European Union, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and OIC to take a politically active role in stopping the annexation and facilitating an end to the occupation and a just solution to the question of Palestine. Any comprehensive resolution will require a regional approach, such as the approach set out in the Arab Peace Initiative.

109. The Committee fully supports the ongoing efforts by Algeria, Egypt and other Member States, as well as the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to promote calm and a just and lasting peace to the question of Palestine. The Committee commends the Government of Algeria for its efforts in promoting Palestinian unity and welcomes the Algiers Declaration of 13 October 2022 as a crucial step towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation and the establishment of a unified Palestinian leadership. In addition, the Committee encourages the organization of elections to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in the State of Palestine and the Palestinian administration.

110. The Committee further welcomes the recommendations made in the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, which was presented to the Human Rights Council on 8 June. The Committee urges Member States to carefully review the use by Israel of anti-terror legislation to designate Palestinian civil society organizations as terrorist organizations and restrict their funding, with a view to delegitimizing and isolating them, undermining their activities and ending international funding and support for them.

E. Action by Member States and regional organizations

111. The Committee calls on Member States and regional organizations to put pressure upon Israel, the occupying Power, to fulfil its responsibilities to safeguard Palestinian civilians under international law and to engage in a meaningful process of negotiations leading to the establishment of an independent and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace and security within internationally recognized borders.

112. The Committee deems unilateral decisions taken by Member States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the transfer of embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as null and void, as those actions violate Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016). The Committee welcomes decisions taken by Member States to rescind their recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and rejoin the international consensus in that regard, and it calls on other Member States to rescind similar decisions.

113. The Committee welcomes the update issued on 30 June by OHCHR to the database of business enterprises involved in certain activities relating to settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

114. The Committee notes the alarming financial shortfall facing UNRWA and reiterates the call by the Secretary-General for Member States to provide the Agency with predictable, sustained and sufficient funding to assist Palestine refugees. The Committee notes that a further decline in the Agency's financial situation and interruption of its indispensable operations could have significant humanitarian, political and security consequences for the region and beyond.

115. The Committee urges Member States to officially recognize the State of Palestine in order to promote the two-State solution. The Committee calls on Member States to support the fiscal stability of the Palestinian Government and strengthen Palestinian institutions, in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the population in the State of Palestine. The Committee notes that efforts by the parties and the international community to stabilize and improve conditions on the ground should be linked to a credible political framework to resolve the conflict justly and comprehensively.

116. The Committee will continue to encourage all supporters of the two-State solution to assist with the resumption of meaningful multilateral negotiations towards the achievement of a peaceful settlement on the basis of the long-standing international parameters for a just solution. The Committee vows to continuing advocating for initiatives in support of that goal, including holding an international peace conference leading to a two-State solution.

F. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities

117. The Committee conveys its gratitude to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs for its support for the Committee's work. It requests the Division to continue to provide substantive and secretariat support for all aspects of its mandate. The Committee encourages the Division to continue to disseminate information on the question of Palestine by broadening its outreach and promoting multilingualism on the Committee's website and social media platforms. It also requests the Division to continue to implement projects, including capacity-building for officials of the State of Palestine, that promote inclusivity and gender balance and encourage South-South and triangular cooperation between countries and regional and subregional organizations.

118. The Committee requests the continuation of the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications, which has made an important contribution to informing the media and the public.

