



General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 December 2019

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 21st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 22 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)

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

Agenda item 60: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/74/88-E/2019/72)

1. **Mr. Nour** (Director, Regional Commissions New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” (A/74/88-E/2019/72), said that the report had been prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/255 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/20. Over the previous two years, Israel had taken a number of administrative measures to consolidate its control over the occupied territory, support settlements and expand its jurisdiction. Palestinian residents of the West Bank continued to suffer from a discriminatory dual legal system, while the Israeli military continued to be exempted from civil liability for any wrongdoing in Gaza. Discriminatory zoning in Area C often left Palestinians with no alternative to building homes without permits, leaving them vulnerable to demolition.

2. The year 2018 had been the deadliest year for Palestinians since the 2014 Gaza conflict. In responding to the Great March of Return, Israeli security forces had committed acts that might be considered serious international crimes. Despite increasing settler violence, Israel had ended the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. Also of concern were continued excessive use of administrative detention and mistreatment of detainees, especially children and women.

3. The coercive environment that induced many Palestinians to leave Area C and Jerusalem might be regarded as forcible transfer. Home demolition and property seizure had increased by some 10 per cent in 2018; such measures might be considered collective punishment. At least one third of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem were at risk of demolition, threatening some 100,000 residents.

4. Israel continued to impose mobility restrictions, the most severe of which was the ongoing blockade of Gaza. In the West Bank, a complex system of physical and administrative obstacles obstructed Palestinian social and economic activity and blocked international aid delivery. More than one fifth of Palestinians were either without access to water or suffered from poor

water quality. Obstacles to the repair of infrastructure in Gaza had resulted in untreated sewage being pumped directly into the sea. In the West Bank, Israeli-operated waste treatment facilities did not take proper environmental precautions. Israel continued to appropriate Palestinian mineral resources.

5. Low investment had led to deindustrialization and declining growth, leaving nearly half the Palestinian population in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Unemployment in Gaza was over 50 per cent, and almost 30 per cent for Gaza and the West Bank combined. One third of the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including two thirds of the population of Gaza, was food insecure. Schools in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were overburdened and students subject to harassment by Israeli security forces. The health system in Gaza was on the verge of collapse, with the lives of patients in hospitals jeopardized by electricity shortages.

6. In the occupied Syrian Golan, illegal Israeli settlements and annexation measures were part of a policy that discriminated against the Syrian Arab inhabitants. The Syrian agricultural sector continued to deteriorate, prospects for youth employment were shrinking and the threat of home demolition and displacement continued to loom.

7. The protracted Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan was making attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals all but impossible. Adherence to international law was imperative for peace.

8. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that while his delegation appreciated the report, he could not help but note that it failed to highlight sufficiently how the Israeli occupation and its criminal settlers were obstructing realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He objected to the use of such terms as “Israeli army” and “Israeli security forces” to refer to the occupation forces. Instead of just giving raw numbers of persons affected by the occupation, the report should always give the population percentages represented by those numbers so as to convey their true significance. The report should also refrain from describing Israel as being in “control” of territory that it merely occupied, or as “maintaining security” in areas under Palestinian jurisdiction. The report should distinguish among three distinct groups: Israeli civilians, Israeli soldiers and Israeli settlers; all 600,000 of the latter were terrorists. The report should not adopt the Israeli use of the term “terrorist” to refer to Palestinian detainees, nor should it use the term “barrier” to refer to the separation wall. The report also

neglected to mention the Israeli exploitation of Palestinian offshore gas fields, the obstacles created for the Palestinian tourism industry or the exploitation of Dead Sea resources.

9. With 10 years remaining to the Sustainable Development Goal target year of 2030, it was all but certain that the Palestinian people would be left behind. With regard to Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Israeli restrictions had left some 300,000 Palestinians without regular access to safe drinking water. Settlers in the West Bank and Jerusalem received three times more water at lower prices than Palestinians did. Virtually the entire population of Gaza, including a million children, suffered from water shortages. With regard to Goal 4 on education, Israel was depriving some half a million children of education, especially in occupied Jerusalem and Area C. Many residents had been forced to change their places of residence in order to ensure safe access to schools for their children. With regard to Goal 3 on health, the health system in Gaza was on the verge of collapse because of the Israeli blockade, even as thousands of new casualties were being created by brutal Israeli suppression of peaceful demonstrations, and the general hardship was resulting in an increase in mental illness. Roadblocks and other obstacles were preventing timely access to health facilities in the West Bank.

10. Speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he said that the report showed clearly that as long as the Palestinian and Syrian peoples lacked sovereignty over their natural resources, they would continue to be left behind in progress towards sustainable development. In the West Bank, illegal Israeli settlement expansion, expropriation, evictions, demolitions and a restrictive planning and zoning regime affected the development, employment and livelihoods of Palestinians. Nearly a third of the population was affected by food insecurity, which was driven by high poverty and unemployment rates. The negative impact of the occupation and the Israeli policies and practices was multilayered, and their cumulative repercussions affected the future of the populations living under occupation. Area C of the West Bank, which contained the most valuable natural resources, continued to be almost entirely off-limits for the Government of Palestine, producers and investors. The application of two different legal systems in the same territory was an inherently discriminatory practice.

11. The economies of occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan could not be put on the path of sustainable development under the current situation. The Group echoed the call by the international

community for an immediate end to systematic closures and restrictive measures that impeded economic growth.

12. **Mr. Al-Kuwari** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said he wished to draw attention to the report on United Nations Conference on Trade and Development assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (TD/B/EX/68/4), which had shown how humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, were deteriorating because of the illegal Israeli occupation. OIC was concerned about declining donor support, decreasing per capita income, increasing unemployment, deepening poverty, the volatile fiscal situation, the rising environmental toll of occupation and the consequent impact on the socioeconomic conditions and development of the State of Palestine.

13. The outlook was particularly grim in the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli blockade prevented humanitarian aid and basic materials from reaching the civilian population. Israel, the occupying Power, continued to impose restrictions that fragmented the State of Palestine geographically, socially and economically. Israel was denying Palestinians access to their own natural resources, in complete disregard of international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The settlements, separation wall and threats of annexation all proved that Israel was more interested in entrenching its colonial regime than achieving peace and security. The international community should demand that the occupying Power cease all such illegal actions and be held accountable for the failure to comply with its legal obligations under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

14. The ESCWA report (A/74/88-E/2019/72) had once again confirmed that the protracted Israeli occupation continued to have cumulative repercussions for the living conditions of the Palestinian and Syrian populations, as well as for social and economic development. In the first half of 2019, the expansion of Israeli colonial settlements had continued at an unprecedented rate. In that connection, he reminded Member States of the call by the Security Council in its resolution 2334 (2016) “to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967”. Israeli demolitions and seizures of Palestinian homes had also increased. The dire economic situation in Palestine was being further exacerbated by the decision of the Israeli authorities to withhold Palestinian tax revenues in

violation of international law and signed agreements. OIC echoed the appeal of the Secretary-General to the international community to guarantee that donor countries maintained their generous level of financing for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

15. The only way to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and make tangible progress towards peace, security and prosperity was to compel Israel to comply fully with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Progress towards development could not be achieved under foreign occupation.

16. **Mr. Ladeb** (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of Group of Arab States, said that the ESCWA report had shown how Israel, the occupying Power, was enacting laws and measures aimed at wiping out any distinction between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, thereby paving the way for annexation. Israel was emboldened in its actions by the support of the United States of America, which had already recognized the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan. While settlers in the West Bank were subject to Israeli civilian law, Palestinians were subject to military regulations. Israeli law exempted the Israeli military from civil liability for wrongful acts committed against Palestinians in Gaza, which it defined as “enemy territory”.

17. Administrative detention persisted, as detainees were held without trial or charge on indefinitely renewable six-month administrative detention orders. Since 2000, at least 8,000 Palestinian children had been arrested, often being taken away in the middle of the night, subjected to intimidation and put in situations conducive to forced confessions.

18. The report was just the tip of the iceberg. Israel was able to violate international law and the Geneva Conventions with impunity because of the unconditional support it enjoyed from the United States, which prevented the Security Council from adopting any binding resolutions. The Group of Arab States reiterated its demand that Israel be subject to international law and not above it.

19. **Mr. Zaki** (Maldives) said that the ESCWA report demonstrated the negative consequences of the illegal Israeli occupation and showed clearly how Israel violated international law with its discriminatory restrictions, violations of human rights and limitations on the movement of people and goods. In the previous two years, the Knesset had proposed several measures that further infringed upon the rights of Palestinians and advanced legalization of settlements, including laws exempting the Israeli Defence Force from civil liability

in Gaza on the basis that it was “enemy territory”. The independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had noted Israeli violations that could be considered serious international crimes, including crimes against humanity.

20. Since 2009, over 5,000 Palestinian homes had been demolished by the Israeli authorities, even as constraints on the delivery of construction materials hampered reconstruction. The economy of Gaza was crippled. The year 2018 had been the single deadliest year for Palestinians since the 2014 conflict in Gaza, with the highest number of injuries since 2005. Palestinians would be left behind in the march towards the Sustainable Development Goals unless drastic steps were taken by the United Nations and the international community. Syrian inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan were also having their rights infringed upon by Israeli policies.

21. His delegation condemned the continued violation of human rights and disregard for international law by Israel in the territories that it occupied, including the expansion of illegal settlements in violation of Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), and reiterated its call for an internationally agreed two-State solution with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

22. **Ms. Leyva Regueira** (Cuba) said that even peoples under foreign occupation had the right to sustainable development. The ESCWA report showed clearly that the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan were being denied that right. Israel had retroactively legalized new settlements and expanded existing ones in order to consolidate its control over the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinians were being deprived of access to health services and water. Almost a third of the population was affected by food insecurity.

23. Her delegation condemned the violations of human rights and war crimes being systematically perpetrated under the Israeli occupation and called for unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and all other occupied land. Israel should comply with all United Nations resolutions on the Middle East. Cuba rejected the unilateral decision by the United States to relocate its Embassy to Jerusalem and the recognition by the United States of the Israeli annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan in flagrant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and in particular resolution [497 \(1981\)](#).

24. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that social and economic conditions continued to deteriorate in the

Occupied Palestinian Territory. Over half the population lived below the poverty line and unemployment was over 13 per cent. Over 1.5 million Palestinians suffered from food insecurity, and almost 15,000 remained internally displaced in Gaza. Many Palestinians were denied access to health, water and sanitation services. The energy crisis persisted, and damage was being done to the environment by the illegal transfer of hazardous waste by Israel. Palestinians were being deprived of access to their own fields.

25. His delegation called on the international community to pressure Israel to end its systematic violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and allow the creation of an environment conducive to sustainable development. The UNRWA funding crisis also needed to be resolved. Bangladesh remained steadfast in its support for the establishment of an independent, viable, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, within the framework of a two-State solution. Both the Palestinian people and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan deserved restoration of their rights to their natural resources and restitution for damages. Self-determination and an end to occupation were essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that documentation of Israeli practices was essential for addressing the Israeli occupation. She wished to draw attention to the latest illegal measures taken by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan. Her delegation had addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council detailing the threats posed to the health and livelihoods of Syrian farmers by Israeli confiscation of Syrian land for what it called "wind farms". It had also addressed identical letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([A/73/879-S/2019/395](#)) regarding the land survey being conducted by the occupation authorities with the goal of replacing Syrian ownership documents with Israeli title deeds.

27. The authors of the ESCWA report continued to ignore the occupation's systematic policy of arresting Syrians in the occupied Golan and holding them under inhumane conditions, and in particular the case of the "Syrian Mandela", Sidqi al-Maqt. She commended the reference in paragraph 121 of the report to the "strong attachment that the Syrians have to the land", but would also have liked to see mention of the boycott of the so-called "local elections" that the Israeli occupation authorities attempted to organize in October 2018. The steadfast resistance by Syrians in the occupied Golan to the occupation and their devotion to their Syrian identity were all the more reason for the United Nations and the

international community to repudiate any unilateral measures recognizing so-called "Israeli sovereignty" in the occupied Golan.

28. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation continued to support the right of return for Palestinian refugees and the right of the Palestinian people to an independent State in the West Bank and Gaza within the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also called for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and occupied Lebanese territory.

29. Sustainable development needed to be inclusive and fair. The report documented numerous Israeli violations, including discriminatory land and water policies and mobility restrictions. Israel had appropriated some 95 per cent of the occupied Syrian Golan and destroyed some 340 villages. The Israeli authorities used excessive force against children, women and the elderly. Thousands were subject to administrative detention. Attacks by settlers continued. There was no reason for the conflict to continue given that the Arab States were ready to reach a comprehensive peace with Israel based on the Arab Peace Initiative and international resolutions.

30. **Mr. Erwin** (Indonesia) said that Indonesia would stand against the occupation until Palestine was returned to the Palestinians. Unfortunately, Israel had systematically ignored international calls to end that occupation. Half of the Palestinian population remained in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. He urged the international community to deliver on its relief commitments. His country had increased its contribution to UNRWA by \$1 million. It had also conducted almost 200 capacity-building programmes in various areas for Palestinians and had exempted Palestinian exports to Indonesia from import duties. Achieving sustainable development in Palestine hinged on ending the occupation and implementing a two-State solution.

31. **Ms. Al-Dosari** (Kuwait) said that the ESCWA report clearly and impartially documented the violations and discriminatory policies being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power. Particularly damaging for development prospects were the natural resource depletion, property appropriation, infrastructure damage, mobility restrictions and settlement activity being conducted in disregard for international law and norms, in particular Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). Israel also continued to flout Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), in which it had been decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and

administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void and without international legal effect.

32. She also wished to draw attention to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 regarding the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a focus on access to water and environmental degradation (A/HRC/40/73). In the report it had been noted, *inter alia*, that in 2017, more than 96 per cent of the coastal aquifer groundwater in Gaza had become unfit for human consumption. Israel was hindering efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through numerous unjustifiable activities about which the international community could not remain silent. Her delegation reiterated its full support for the Palestinian and Syrian peoples in obtaining all their rights, including sovereignty over their natural resources. There could be no development without peace and no peace without development.

33. **Mr. Al-Hammadany** (Iraq) said that the practices of the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan not only violated human rights, but also obstructed economic and social development. The Palestinian people had a right to their land, water and natural resources, and a right to compensation for the depletion and appropriation of those resources by the occupation authorities. While other Member States were making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the inhabitants of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan were being left behind. His delegation reiterated its support for all the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including sovereignty over their natural resources.

34. **Ms. Almenhali** (United Arab Emirates) said that the Palestinian people had the same right to development as the people of other nations. Israel should immediately desist from its illegal practices in all the territories that it occupied. It should cease its settlement activity, remove restrictions on Palestinian mobility, and stop denying Palestinians access to their natural resources and trying to annex Palestinian land, thereby imperilling the two-State solution.

35. Her country had contributed over \$630 million to health, education and development in Palestine, not including an additional contribution of \$50 million to UNRWA. Such contributions helped, *inter alia*, to keep schools open. Her country would continue to support the two-State solution, with an independent Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as

its capital, in accordance with international resolutions and the Arab peace initiative.

36. **Ms. Izzudin** (Malaysia) said that the ESCWA report showed how Israel continued to violate international treaties and resolutions with excessive use of force, property confiscation, infrastructure destruction, population displacement and restrictions on movement. Malaysia called on the international community to continue pressuring Israel to cease its illegal settlement activities and demolition of Palestinian homes. Israel must end all violations, comply with all relevant resolutions and cease all measures aimed at altering the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. She called on Member States to contribute to UNRWA to help prevent the economic and social conditions from deteriorating still further. Malaysia was also unwavering in its support for the return of the occupied Syrian Golan to the Syrian Arab Republic. It was inconceivable that Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan would be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals if the current situation persisted.

37. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that the ESCWA report demonstrated clearly the detrimental effects of the Israeli occupation on living conditions in both the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. Preliminary data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics showed that growth in gross domestic product had slowed from 3.1 per cent in 2017 to 0.9 per cent in 2018. He wished to highlight the plight of young people in Palestine, who comprised some 27 per cent of the population and were living with daily oppression, violence and deprivation, not to mention limited employment opportunities and a bleak future. The situation was further exacerbated by the UNRWA funding crisis. His delegation welcomed the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the international community to maintain the same level of financing for UNRWA in 2019 and reiterated its support for a two-State solution with an independent and viable State of Palestine within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, coexisting peacefully with Israel.

38. **Ms. Elgarf** (Egypt) said that the ESCWA report and the reports of other United Nations agencies documented the social and economic decline suffered by the Palestinian people as a result of decades of Israeli occupation in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The only path to stability and security in the Middle East lay in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international

resolutions and the recognized terms of reference of the peace process. Settlement expansion, annexationist policies, home demolition and the Gaza blockade all threatened the two-State solution and deprived Palestinians of their right to their own resources. Israeli policies were in violation of Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2334 (2016), and international instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She urged the international community to maintain its support for UNRWA.

39. **Mr. Varli** (Turkey) said that despite repeated condemnation from the international community, Israeli violations had been increasing at an alarming rate. Illegal settlement activities continued. Forced displacement of Palestinians and destruction of their property had become an almost daily practice. Israeli security forces used disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians and barred Muslims from visiting the Haram al-Sharif. In the Gaza Strip the illegal blockade continued. Since the Great March of Return, humanitarian conditions had deteriorated further, and were being compounded by the worst financial crisis in the history of UNRWA. Whereas the Committee ought to be discussing how Palestinians could achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it was instead discussing how to help Palestinians merely survive. He called for revitalization of the peace process in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the recognized terms of reference, including the Arab Peace Initiative, the Madrid terms of reference and the performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A time frame should be set for realization of the two-State solution that included the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

40. **Mr. Elmaghur** (Libya) said that the ESCWA report had demonstrated the effects of Israeli racist and discriminatory policies and practices. Israeli monopolization of water resources, mobility restrictions and fuel shortages were obstructing the provision of basic services and heightening food insecurity. Settlement construction and displacement continued. The report had made clear that without fundamental changes in current conditions, the Sustainable Development Goals would be unattainable for Palestinians. Israeli-imposed restrictions, expansion of the illegal settlements and other practices not only suppressed development in the occupied territories, but had also brought about a humanitarian crisis that necessitated the diversion of national and international efforts from development to immediate relief. Israeli use

of administrative detention, including the detention of women and children, violated international resolutions, the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and international humanitarian law. His delegation reiterated its support for an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

41. **Mr. Henckert** (Namibia) said that Palestinians were continuing to be denied access to their natural resources. The humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip remained particularly dire, with the health system on the brink of collapse and supplies of essential medicine running out. The Palestinian Authority was facing an ongoing fiscal crisis, putting basic health, education and welfare services at risk. He called on the international community to ensure support for the vital services provided by UNRWA.

42. Settlement expansion and other Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan were creating a humanitarian crisis that was diverting funds from development efforts to immediate relief. The occupying Power was violating Security Council resolutions, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. A comprehensive and sustainable solution could only be achieved through the establishment of two States coexisting in peace and security.

43. **Mr. Albuflasa** (Bahrain) said that house demolitions and forced displacement had left many individuals and communities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem with no choice but to abandon their homes. The Israeli separation wall and settlement construction had been condemned as violations of international law in numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). In June 2019, Bahrain had hosted the “Peace to Prosperity” workshop in partnership with the United States. His country continued to support a political solution leading to the establishment of Palestinian State within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the two-State solution in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant international resolutions.

44. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Israel) said that it was ironic that countries that were known human rights abusers were accusing Israel of misconduct. It was regrettable that the Committee had yet again to sit through the annual ritual of discussing the agenda item without adding anything new or constructive. The report had portrayed the so-called “Great March of Return” as a family picnic on the border with Israel. It was in fact a deliberately created human shield from behind which terrorists had launched

gunfire, Molotov cocktails and flaming kites into Israel. Senior Hamas leaders had publicly admitted that peaceful resistance was a myth and that most of the casualties were in fact Hamas terrorists.

45. Some 600 rockets had been fired into Israel over the preceding months. Yet in the alternative universe of the United Nations, neither the words “rocket” nor “terrorist” appeared in the report. The hundreds of millions of dollars that the Palestinian Authority paid out annually in reward for terrorists came out of funds that should be used for development and realization of the 2030 Agenda. Surveys showed that Palestinians themselves were far more concerned about the corruption of their own officials than their relations with Israel. Meanwhile, one of the two rival organizations governing the Palestinians was itself an internationally listed terrorist organization. Unfortunately, it was easier to blame Israel entirely for Palestinian economic and social problems. Nevertheless, Israel stood ready to overcome decades of mistrust and engage Palestinians constructively with a view to creating a better future.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.