



United Nations

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

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

Advance copy

Advance copy

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



United Nations • New York, 2024

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.

Advance copy

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	11
IV. Organization of work	12
A. Membership and officers	12
B. Participation in the work of the Committee	13
V. Action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 77/22 and 77/23	13
A. Introduction	13
B. Mobilization of the diplomatic community	13
C. Raising awareness of the question of Palestine	14
D. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system entities	17
E. Capacity-building	18
VI. Action taken by the Department of Global Communications in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/24	19
VII. Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee	21
A. Action by the Committee in response to the conflict and humanitarian crisis	22
B. Action by the Committee in response to human rights violations	21
C. Action by the Committee in response to annexation and settlement activities	23
D. Action with the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court	24
E. Advocacy and outreach with the international community and civil society	25
F. Action by Member States and regional organizations	25
G. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities	26

Letter of transmittal

[1 September 2024]

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 5 December 2022.

The report covers the period from 2 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

(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 (CEIRPP) has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/22](#), adopted on 5 December 2022. It covers the implementation by the Committee of its programme of work ([A/AC.183/2023/1](#)), formulated to promote 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 in accordance with international law 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 promoting a 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 2023 to 31 August 2024.
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 engagement with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. It also covers international conferences, including in virtual format, capacity-building and advocacy 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. For over 76 years, the Palestine question has remained on the UN agenda, marked by a 57-year-old illegal Israeli occupation, grave breaches of international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, a 17-year blockade of the Gaza Strip and the continuing plight of millions of Palestine refugees. Since October 2023, Israel's devastating military campaign in Gaza and increased Israeli military and settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, heightened global attention to the long-standing injustice and suffering of the Palestinian people. By March and again in June, the Security Council passed resolutions demanding a ceasefire, yet it failed to enforce them. (see para. 20) This inaction endangered Palestinian lives, undermined peace efforts, and jeopardized the two-State solution.

8. On 7 October 2023, Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups launched a major attack from Gaza into southern Israel that claimed the lives of over 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals, injured more than 5,400 others while 255 hostages were taken to Gaza.³ In response, Israel, the occupying Power, launched an extensive and indiscriminate aerial, land, and maritime bombardments, causing massive loss of human life and destruction, described as the most devastating collective punishment of civilians in modern history.⁴

9. Israel's military campaign has resulted in unprecedented Palestinian casualties, with the majority of victims children and women, with some families entirely wiped out. This triggered a humanitarian catastrophe, marked by displacement and dispossession of all of Gaza's population, spread of starvation, famine and diseases, and widespread destruction of homes and other civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, universities, schools, and businesses. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of 19 August⁵, Israel's military campaign had resulted in more than 40,223 Palestinians killed and at least 92,981 injured in Gaza, of which 12,927 are men, 10,627 children, 5,956 women, and 2,770 elderly and thousands presumed buried under the rubble. Concurrently, Israel undertook further illegal measures to deepen its occupation through continued construction and expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, seizure of Palestinian land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians. (see para. 12-14)

10. On 6 December, the Secretary-General made an unprecedented appeal by invoking Article 99 of the UN Charter, urging the Security Council to "avert a humanitarian catastrophe" and calling for a full ceasefire in Gaza. This call regrettably had no tangible impact, leading the Secretary-General to decry the international community's inaction to stop the carnage as a "moral stain on humanity."⁶

11. The principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution and other rules of international humanitarian law have been severely breached in this conflict. Children suffered the heaviest toll and grave violations according to the Secretary-General Report on Children and Armed Conflict 2024 (S/204/384)⁷ and a total of 625,000 deeply traumatized children have been compromised by their inability to attend school since October.⁸

³ OCHA reported impact snapshot, 21 August 2024

⁴ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15473.doc.htm>

⁵ OCHA reported impact snapshot, 21 August 2024

⁶ SG statement on Gaza conflict of 17 July 2024

⁷ Report of the Secretary-General Children in Armed Conflict, 2024

⁸ UNRWA update on traumatized Palestinian children.

12. The ongoing Israeli attacks destroyed over 80% of the Gaza Strip's infrastructure, including hospitals, water and sanitation and electricity networks. Israeli-imposed access restrictions, combined with ongoing military operations, further obstructed relief efforts. With half of Gaza's population facing catastrophic food insecurity⁷, the Integrated Food Security (IPC) warned of an imminent elevated risk of famine across Gaza if the conflict and access restrictions continued.⁹

13. As the Israeli military aggression has continued, reports emerged of the untold suffering of Palestinian civilians injured, maimed and orphaned, detained and tortured, and struggling with severe shortages of food and basic needs, medical supplies and the worrisome spreading of communicable diseases, including poliovirus that could require massive efforts to contain.¹⁰ During a Security Council briefing (2 July), the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza Sigrid Kaag highlighted the worsening decline in aid entering and being distributed across Gaza, which was later exacerbated by Israeli military operations in Rafah, Khan Younis and other shelter centers.¹¹ The High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned Israel's deliberate restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza, warning of using starvation as a method of war, which constitutes a war crime.¹² Highlighting the plight of women, a UN Women report (27 June) observed that at least 557,000 women, among them pregnant women, faced severe food insecurity.¹³

14. Against this background, the Palestinian population in Gaza also endured repeated displacement, forced to flee from one so-called "safe zone" to another under Israel's evacuation orders, only for these areas to become Israeli military targets. The Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Phillipe Lazzarini stated on 27 July that 86% of Gaza was under Israeli military evacuation orders.¹⁴ Insecurity for humanitarian personnel throughout Gaza also grew. Casualties among humanitarian workers surged, with at least 289 personnel killed, including 211 UN staff - 207 from UNRWA and the rest from World Health Organization (WHO) UN Development Program, (UNDP) and UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)¹⁵ – as well as workers from Palestinian and international NGOs, including the World Central Kitchen.

15. Violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem also surged, marked by intensified Israeli military and settler raids, along with illegal settlement expansions and other related illegal measures. According to the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Flash Reports, in just the period between 7 October – 20 November¹⁶, Israeli security forces conducted over a thousand raids into Palestinian cities, refugee camps, and villages across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Between 7 October 2023 and 19 August 2024, more than 600 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with approximately 1,270 attacks by Israeli settlers recorded, resulting in around 120 Palestinian fatalities and injuries. As Palestinians faced evictions and dispossessions, Israeli settlement expansion continued with open declarations by Israeli government Ministers of plans to build more settlements and transfer more Israeli settlers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in grave breach of international law. As of March, 4,780 new settlement units were approved in Area C of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. At the same time, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian land and structures, including donor-funded ones, doubled the number of displaced Palestinians to over 3,070 in a 10 months period.¹⁷ Moreover, between 14

⁹ IPC Analysis Update - Gaza famine is imminent

¹⁰ Secretary-General's press encounter – on polio in Gaza, 16 August 2024

¹¹ Security Council briefing by the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, 2 July 2024

¹² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/comment-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-volker-turk-risk-famine-gaza>

¹³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2024/06/at-least-557000-women-in-gaza-are-facing-severe-food-insecurity>

¹⁴ UNRWA Commissioner-General X statement on <https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1817615379985740139>

¹⁵ At least 289 humanitarian personnel have been killed, from Palestinian and international NGOs and from the UN.

¹⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/palestine/2023-12-27-Flash-Report.pdf>

¹⁷ OCHA update on demolitions of March 2024.

and 18 March in the central and southern West Bank, settlers opened fire on Palestinians and their livestock, burned vehicles and crops, and established a new illegal settlement outpost in Al Lubban al Gharbiya.¹⁸ The escalation of Israeli settler attacks and violence in the West Bank, led several Member States, including Australia, Canada, France, and the US to impose sanctions on a few extremist Israeli settlers.

16. In East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities increased their provocations and challenges to the historic and legal status quo at the Holy Sites, and pushed to increase the Jewish presence and influence particularly in Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah. On 27 July, Israel's Security Minister made his second visit to Haram al-Sharif since 7 October, provocatively aiming to assert Israeli sovereignty. Jordan, the site's custodian, and other Member States condemned this provocation and recurrent violations of the status quo, warning of the dangers of rising tensions stoked by such illegal actions. In another incident of incitement, Israel's finance minister suggested on 7 August that deliberately starving Palestinian civilians in Gaza could be "justified and moral", drawing condemnation by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights¹⁹ and several Member States.

17. On 26 January, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued provisional orders that demanded Israel to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza in response to the case initiated by South Africa.²⁰ On 6 March, the Court granted modified provisional measures requested by South Africa in response to Israel's planned assault on Rafah, where about 1.4 million Palestinians were sheltering.²¹ On 26 March, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 affirmed, in a report titled "Anatomy of a Genocide" (A/HRC/55/73), that Israel's actions in Gaza constituted genocide.²² In another consequential judicial ruling, on 20 May, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Karim Ahmad Khan requested arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials and Hamas leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity.²³ The Court's request was consistent with findings from the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (27 May)²⁴ and the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territory (25 June).²⁵

18. The OHCHR report of 31 July²⁶ noted Israel's arbitrary, prolonged and *incommunicado* detention of thousands of Palestinians since October. UN human rights experts also reported widespread abuse, torture, sexual assault and rape of Palestinians, resulting in at least 53 deaths during this period. They called for international intervention and an ICC investigation, with a total of 9,500 Palestinians, including children and women, imprisoned—one-third without charge or trial—and many arbitrarily abducted and detained, since 7 October.²⁷

19. Amid the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza and increasing hardships for the population, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) remained a vital lifeline for millions of Palestine refugees. Despite Israeli attempts to discredit, defund, and dismantle the Agency, and amidst significant funding gaps and restricted access to Gaza, UNRWA continued to

¹⁸ UNRWA Report # 92 at <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-92-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>

¹⁹ High Commissioner condemns Israeli Minister's statement on starving in Gaza as justified and moral, 9 August 2024

²⁰ ICJ provisional orders of March 2024 on South Africa's case.

²¹ ICJ modified provisional orders under 24 May 2024 on South Africa's case.

²² <https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>

²³ ICC Prosecutor's statement of arrest warrants of 20 May 2024

²⁴ Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory on war crimes, 19 June 2024

²⁵ Committee of Israeli practices and settlements activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories, A/78/533) report findings

²⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/un-report-palestinian-detainees-held-arbitrarily-and-secretly-subjected>

²⁷ UN experts' hail ICJ declaration on illegality of Israel occupation of Palestinian territory, 30 July 2024.

deliver on its General Assembly mandate. Since October, UNRWA delivered food to 1.9 million people, conducted 3.4 million medical consultations, including psychosocial support, produced 112,000 cubic meters of water daily, provided emergency shelters to thousands of displaced families, and maintained humanitarian efforts across the OPT.²⁸ The Secretary-General urged the international community to support UNRWA following Israel's accusation of 12 UNRWA staff of colluding in the attack of 7 October. These allegations caused some donors to temporarily withhold funds at a time of immense humanitarian needs. In July, 123 Member States endorsed "Share Commitments", reaffirming unwavering support for UNRWA's mandate and critical role in the region²⁹ with many donors resuming funding.

20. Since 7 October, both the UN General Assembly and Security Council have been heavily engaged in addressing the crisis, with limited success in ensuring a ceasefire, protecting the Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation and addressing the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. With overwhelming support, the General Assembly special session on 27 October adopted a resolution calling for an "immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian truce" leading to a cessation of hostilities. The Security Council struggled to reach a consensus on the crisis due to the casting of several vetoes, leading to successive General Assembly emergency sessions in October and December. In March, the Security Council adopted resolution 2728 calling for a ceasefire during Ramadan but failed to enforce it. This effort was followed by the Council adoption of resolution 2735 (June 2024), which endorsed a ceasefire proposal and three-phase plan for Gaza. However, none were implemented during the reporting period. Ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Hamas, facilitated by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States and aimed at halting the violence and address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continued throughout the reporting period. However, they have yet to produce tangible results, and the conflict continues with a growing death toll and misery among Palestinians.

21. Israel's military campaign in Gaza threatened regional stability, prompting the Special Coordinator to repeatedly urge restraint, including in a Security Council statement on 2 August.³⁰ Efforts to broker a humanitarian ceasefire continued amid rising tensions in the Middle East, including in the aftermath of the killing of a Hamas leader in Tehran on 31 July. The Secretary-General called for urgent international action to avert further regional escalation, emphasizing the need to focus on a Gaza ceasefire, the release of Israeli hostages, and increased aid.³¹

22. In a landmark development, on 19 July, the ICJ issued an Advisory Opinion³², requested by the General Assembly (RES/77/247), that determined Israel's prolonged presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to be unlawful and calling for its rapid end. It affirmed the obligation of Member States to not recognize or support Israel's unlawful presence. The Court called on the General Assembly and the Security Council to swiftly act to determine the modalities to end this occupation.²⁷ The Court's ruling affirmed the views of Member States, Palestinians, UN experts³³, scholars, civil society, and the CEIRPP-commissioned legal study concerning the illegality of the ongoing Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory.³⁴

23. On 18 April, the US vetoed a Security Council resolution on the State of Palestine's bid for full UN membership. In response, on 9 May, the General Assembly voted to affirm Palestine's eligibility for membership in the UN and to grant Palestine additional rights. To

²⁸ https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/unrwa_gaza_sitrep_127_7august_2024_eng.pdf

²⁹ Statement of shared commitment on UNRWA – press Release of 12 July 2024

³⁰ Special Coordinator of Middle East Peace process statement to Security Council, 2 August

³¹ Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Middle East situation, 31 July 2024

³² ICJ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 under <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-127-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>

³³ UN experts hail ICJ Advisory Opinion, 30 July 2024

³⁴ CEIRPP legal study report, 2023

bolster these efforts, the CEIRPP continuously urged more countries to recognize Palestine.³⁵ During this period, Armenia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, and Trinidad and Tobago recognized Palestine, bringing the total to 149 countries as of 9 August.

24. In light of the ongoing Israeli assault and mounting death toll in Gaza, 32 UN Human Rights experts, on 20 June, reiterated their demand to States and companies for an immediate halt to arms transfers to Israel. At least 11 Member States, including Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Jordan, South Africa and Türkiye have taken decisive actions in response to the deteriorating situation, such as recalling ambassadors to Israel and severing diplomatic relations, while others have deliberated about imposing economic, trade, and travel restrictions. Global calls to stop arms transfers and impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on Israel persisted throughout the reporting period as Israel's persisted with its aggression and occupation.

25. Israel also continued to withheld tax revenues and threatened to isolate Palestinian banks from the global financial system, further undermining the Palestinian Authority. In yet another attempt towards Palestinian reconciliation, 14 Palestinian factions signed the China-negotiated Beijing Declaration on 23 July to strengthen Palestinian national unity.

Chapter III

Mandate of the Committee

26. 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 over the years into greater advocacy for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Additional information about the Committee is available on the website maintained by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat.³⁶

27. On 3 December 2022, 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 and the Division were renewed with amendment to review thereafter only as necessary and with continued reporting by the Committee annually. The Assembly also adopted resolution 77/25, entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine”, in which it reaffirmed the longstanding international position regarding the components of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution in accordance with international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

28. 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, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Human Rights 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.

³⁶ United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine www.un.org/unispal.

Chapter IV

Organization of work

A. Membership and officers

29. The Committee is composed of 25 Member States, representing different regional groups and supporting the international consensus for a two-State solution: 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).

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

31. The Bureau of the Committee is elected each year from among the permanent representatives of Committee members. At its 415th meeting, on 31 January 2024, chaired by the Secretary-General, the Committee elected, in his personal capacity, Cheikh Niang (Senegal) as Chair. The following permanent representatives were elected as Vice Chairs for the year on 11 March 2024 Gerardo Peñalver Portal (Cuba), Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Ahmad Faisal Muhamad (Malaysia), Neville Melvin Gertze (Namibia) and Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua). A new Permanent Representative of Cuba, Ernesto Soberón Guzmán was elected as Vice Chair on 26 June 2024.

32. Members of the Bureau represented 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 held meetings with senior officials of the respective host countries. In accordance with established practice, the State of Palestine participates in the work of both the Committee and Bureau as an observer.

33. Committee members and observers have actively advocated for realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including in the Security Council. Currently, four Committee members, Ecuador, Guyana, Malta and Sierra Leone and one observer, Algeria, serve in the Security Council as elected members.

B. Participation in the work of the Committee

34. As in previous years, all States Members of the United Nations and observers wishing to participate in the work of the Committee were welcome to do so. Committee activities also regularly invite and engage with civil society representatives, including 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

35. The Committee implemented its programme of work to promote the realization of 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 international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law; Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Human Rights Council resolutions; ICJ advisory opinions; the women and peace and security agenda; the programme of the United Nations country team; and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee has continuously adjusted its programme of work in line with developments on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and geopolitical developments relating to the Palestine question.

36. The Committee supports the universally-recognized rights of an occupied people and the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the UN Charter and other instruments of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law and the relevant UN resolutions. Since the 7 October attacks and the subsequent Israeli assault on Gaza, the Committee further engaged the diplomatic community through formal and informal intergovernmental processes to promote the recognition of the State of Palestine including through Bureau delegation visits and outreach meetings; raised public awareness on various aspects of the conflict, including the impact on women and children, through conferences, in-person, hybrid, and virtual events, and the media, including social media. In addition, the Committee promoted partnerships with Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including UNRWA, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies and civil society organizations, and capacity-building projects for the State of Palestine; and convened a commemoration of the Nakba in May.

B. Mobilization of the diplomatic community

37. The Bureau closely monitored the rapidly evolving situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and held nine meetings in response. Following the events of 7 October, the Bureau postponed delegation visits planned to start in November.

38. On 27 October, the Bureau met with the Chair of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (COI-OPTEJI) established by the Human Rights Council, Navanethem Pillay, and Commissioner Christopher Sidoti as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 Francesca Albanese to discuss latest developments and their respective reports to the Third Committee session in New York and ways to further cooperate.

39. On 10 November, the Bureau held its annual retreat in New York to reflect on the implementation of its 2023 programme of work and discuss 2024 activities, with heightened focus on advocacy needs concerning the conflict in Gaza.

40. The Bureau met on 10 January with the Permanent Representative of South Africa who briefed on the proceedings before the ICJ concerning violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. On 6 February, the Bureau met with the President of the US-Middle East Project Daniel Levy.

41. On 31 January, in a meeting chaired by the Secretary-General, the Committee elected H.E. Cheikh Niang as Chair of the Committee. The Committee officially adopted its programme of work for 2024 and heard a briefing by the UNRWA Representative Office in New York about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and its impact on UNRWA's delivery of essential support to the population and South Africa briefed the Bureau on its case at the ICJ.

42. On 27 February, on behalf of the Committee, Division for Palestinian Rights held its annual briefing for 25 new delegates of Member States with the participation of the Department of Global Communications.

43. On 11 March and 26 June, the Committee conducted elections to fill the remaining officer positions, completing the full Bureau of six members. (see para. 31). South Africa provided an update on its ICJ case in March. At the June meeting, Paul Reichler, legal counsel for the State of Palestine, briefed on the ICJ Advisory Opinion proceedings regarding the legal consequences of Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

44. The Chair led Bureau delegations to Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana on 22-26 April, which were instrumental in promoting the recognition of the State of Palestine by Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and later by The Bahamas. The Chair participated in the 15th OIC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Banjul on 4-5 May. On 1 July, a Bureau delegation participated in a joint seminar with the OIC in Jeddah, followed on 2 July by a Bureau delegation visit to Riyadh to hold meetings with the Government of Saudi Arabia. The Bureau delegation continued onto Indonesia, where from 4 to 5 July it held meetings with government and civil society representatives to harness support for the Palestinian people and to mobilize collective efforts for accountability and a just solution. During this visit, the Bureau held its first meeting with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to mobilize regional support for Palestinian rights.

45. The Bureau harnessed traditional and social media for global outreach and advocacy. Since the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza, it issued several press statements. On 17 October, the Bureau condemned Israel's mass killing and wounding of civilians in Gaza and called for an immediate ceasefire. On 14 February, the Bureau warned against a possible Israeli invasion of Rafah. On 28 February, it called for solidarity and support to sustain UNRWA amidst a smear campaign by Israel, funding suspensions and the humanitarian suffering of Palestine refugees in Gaza. (see paras. 19) On 23 July, the Bureau welcomed the landmark Advisory Opinion by the ICJ and called for rapid action by the international community to uphold obligations to bring an end to the Israeli occupation and to ensure the realization of self-determination by the Palestinian people.

46. The Committee delivered statements at quarterly debates of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, on 24 October, 23 January, 18 April and 19 July, highlighting the catastrophic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and called for collective action to end the Israeli military onslaught in Gaza, achieve the two-State solution and realize the rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to self-determination and independence,.

C. Raising awareness on the question of Palestine

47. The Committee continued to raise awareness about the political, human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, focusing on the conflict in Gaza, including the situation of Palestinian women, children and youth. It organized up-to-date briefings by experts and exchange of ideas on specific issues during virtual and in-person Committee meetings, side events and conferences, and continued the dissemination of publications and information through social media platforms. Details regarding each activity can be found on the Committee's [website](#).

48. On 12 December, the Committee convened a panel discussion titled “2023 Conflict in Gaza: the responsibility to prevent genocide”. Renowned legal scholars (including from Israel) and civil society representatives discussed the credible risk that Israel may be committing the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as per the definition in article II of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

49. On 13 March, the Committee organized a virtual event on the theme “Conflict in Gaza: Impact on Palestinian women and children” on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women. An all-female panel composed of representatives from UNRWA, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Save the Children and a Palestinian physician from Gaza, discussed the impact of the conflict on the lives of thousands of Palestinians families where 70 % of casualties were among women and children and the heavy brunt carried by women as primary caregivers.

50. On 3 to 4 April, the Committee held the 2024 Conference of CSOs working on the Question of Palestine “Building Bridges with International Civil Society to Address the Ongoing Nakba” at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The conference focused on the role of civil society worldwide in advocating for a durable and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza and in achieving accountability for Israel’s war crimes in the OPT, including East Jerusalem.

51. On 17 May, the Committee held the commemorative panel discussion “1948-2024: The Ongoing Palestinian Nakba” at UN Headquarters in New York, a total of 53 Member States and Observers, and around 60 members of civil society and the public attended. Panellists discussed *inter alia* the origins of the Palestine question in the United Nations in 1947 following the General Assembly’s adoption of the partition plan, the organization’s continuing responsibilities until a just solution is found, the catastrophic humanitarian situation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory as well as obligations of all States under international law vis-à-vis this grave injustice, including the duty to prevent genocide under the ICJ order of 26 January 2024.

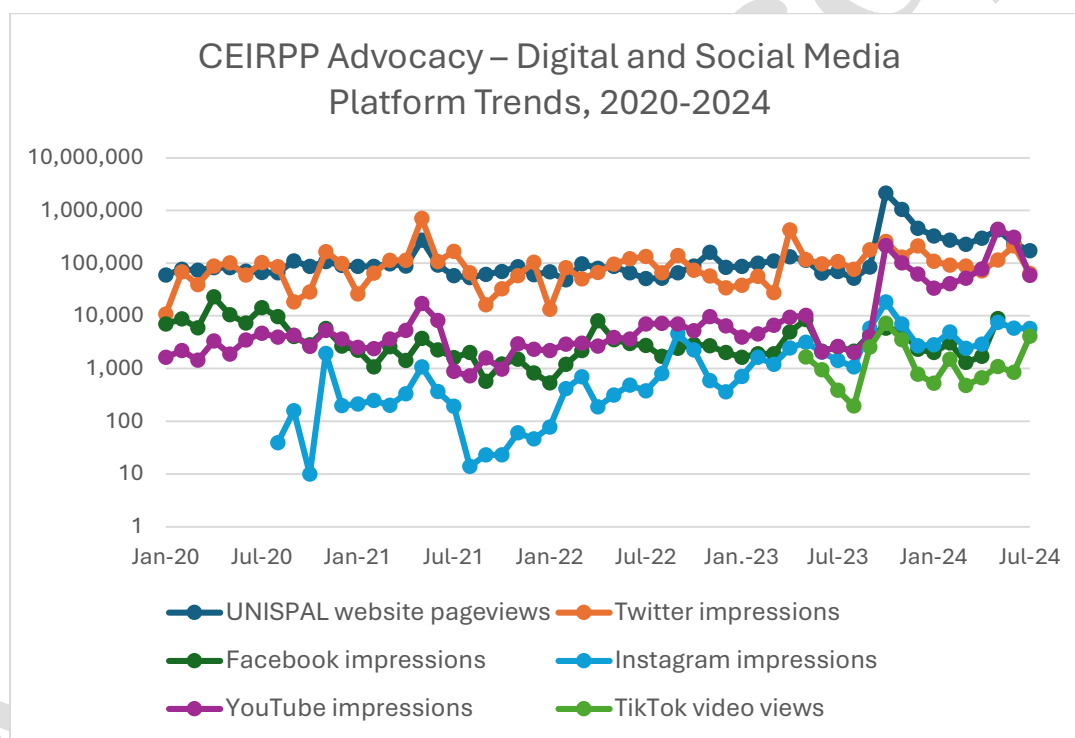
52. On 1 July, the Committee held a symposium, jointly with the OIC, on the theme “Jerusalem and the Gaza conflict: Palestinian Identity and Existence Under Threat of Erasure” at OIC Headquarters in Jeddah. The event was attended by a majority of OIC Member States and other diplomatic representatives. Panellists and participants discussed the plight of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, “colonial” Israeli urban planning and intensification of the Israeli settler project in the OPT – all under the shadow of the Gaza conflict. They urged States to recognize the State of Palestine and hold Israel accountable for its grave violations of international law and human rights law.

53. As mandated by the General Assembly, the Committee commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Solidarity Day) on 29 November at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event featured statements by the President of the General Assembly, President of the Security Council and Deputy-Secretary-General reaffirming Palestinian rights and need for a just and lasting solution. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine read a message from the President of the State of Palestine. The representatives of the African Union, Arab League, Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and Organization of Islamic Cooperation delivered statements. The Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territory and Rev. Peter Makari, on behalf of civil society organizations, also delivered statements. Attended by 105 Member States and 5 NGOs, with 47 States sending solidarity messages³⁷, the event underscored the UN’s longstanding position on Palestine and called on Israel to comply forthwith with international law and cease its violations and oppression of the Palestinian people. Similar commemorations were held at UN Offices in Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.

³⁷ <https://www.un.org/unispal/2023-international-day-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people/>

54. A photo exhibit “Palestine: A Land with a People” was inaugurated at United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was displayed from 29 November 2023 to 6 January 2024. The exhibit depicted the Palestinian people’s journey before, during and after the Nakba, highlighting both their suffering and resilience.

55. Through strategic use of digital resources, the Committee continued to inform and engage a growing international audience, enhancing global understanding of the question of Palestine and combating misinformation and disinformation, particularly after October 2023. The graph below illustrates the growth trends of digital tools supporting the Committee's advocacy and awareness-raising efforts. The Committee’s website received 5,6 million pageviews during the reporting period, becoming a key information source. Since January 2020, there has been a steady growth in webpage visits, social media channels’ followers, and mailing list subscribers, now totalling 16,564. The mailing list and website were crucial for distributing multilingual CEIRPP publications (see para. 58) and statements, while the Committee’s digital platforms, including X, (25,000+ followers) and YouTube (over 11,800 subscribers, 1.5 million views), became key sources on CEIRPP activities and updates.



Source: UNISPAL, DPR/DPPA, July 2024

56. The United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, UNISPAL, now in its 30th year of operation, remains an indispensable resource for diplomats, researchers and the public, averaging 500,000 page views per month. It contains more than 44,000 documents – and growing - and is the largest, most comprehensive online repository on the subject. The collection ranges from the latest United Nations documents to rare records dating back decades. Moreover, aside from English, documents are increasingly being disseminated in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

57. 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 UNISPAL website. Other enhancements to the website aim at making it increasingly accessible to everyone, including through multilingualism and for persons with disabilities.

58. Further to its monitoring mandate, the Committee continued to produce 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.

59. On 1 September 2023, the Committee launched the groundbreaking [study](#) entitled “*The Legality of the Israeli Occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*”, produced by the Irish Human Rights Centre of the National University of Ireland, Galway. This legal analysis, commissioned by the Committee following its convening of successive legal seminars, empowered advocates with the knowledge and international legal tools to pursue justice, accountability, and the rights of the Palestinian people. Translated into Arabic, French, and Spanish, the study was accessed over 53,609 times on the UNISPAL database. It was circulated as a General Assembly document ([A/78/378](#)), Security Council document ([S/2023/694](#)) and was submitted to the ICJ, contributing to Court’s Advisory Opinion issued on 19 July 2024 (see para. 22).

60. The Committee’s publications were disseminated to a growing mailing list of subscribers, including research libraries, universities political figures, members of the diplomatic community, students, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and journalists. All the publications of the Committee are posted on its website.

61. With OIC support, the Committee distributed 2,724 UN exhibit booklets worldwide, including to Member States and UN offices, registered 9,362 views of the electronic versions, and initiated translations into French and Spanish to broaden outreach.

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

62. The Committee continued to cooperate with intergovernmental organizations. It jointly organized with the OIC an annual International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem. The African Union, Arab League and OIC regularly attended Committee meetings as observers and participated in its work. The Chair participated in key events of the OIC while the Bureau held consultations with ASEAN. (see para. 44)

63. 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 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.

64. The Committee continued to collaborate with NGOs in promoting Palestinian rights, inviting civil society representatives, including those from Palestine, and Israel, to all public events (see paras. 48 to 53). As customary, a civil society representative was also invited to speak at the Committee’s commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. (see para. 53)

E. Capacity-development

65. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/23, the Committee continued to offer training opportunities aimed at enhancing the capacity of officials from the State of Palestine through both in-person and online modalities.

66. In collaboration with UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Committee supported the participation of six officials (four female and two male) from the State of Palestine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Palestinian International Cooperation Agency in a training course entitled "The art of speechwriting" from 16 October to 5 November 2023. The course strengthened the individual capacity of diplomats working in roles requiring refined skills in speechwriting and public speaking.

67. From 30 October to 8 December, the Committee conducted its annual six-week capacity-development programme for two Palestinian career diplomats (male and female), focusing on multilateral diplomacy, peace, security, and global developments shaping the agenda of the United Nations, offering insights into the organization's formal and informal processes, including the 78th session of the General Assembly.

Advance Copy

Chapter VI

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

68. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/24 of 30 November 2022, the Department of Global Communications (DGC) continued the implementation of its special information programme on the question of Palestine.

69. DGC organized its annual Training Programme for Palestinian Broadcasters and Journalists in New York and Washington D.C. from 30 October to 1 December, renamed “Shireen Abu Akleh” training programme, following her killing on 11 May 2022. Four Palestinian journalists participated this year and attended briefings with UN officials, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Al Jazeera, the Washington D.C. International Film Festival and the Middle East Institute.

70. DGC continued to update the web page on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in the six official languages, and provided technical support for UNISPAL’s website.

71. The UN social media accounts, with over 71 million followers in all six official languages as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, continued to promote the Committee’s events, including via a dedicated [Trello board](#). DGC issued 256 press releases, in English and French, related to the question of Palestine, including statements and messages by the Secretary-General, and ensured live or on-demand coverage of General Assembly, Security Council and the CEIRPP) meetings (see Chapter V).

72. UN News published over 5,500 stories, and audio pieces across the six official languages as well as Hindi, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Urdu, generating 6.7 million pageviews from 4.2 million users. DGC also provided on-the-ground insights into the tragic situation in Gaza and developments in the West Bank through interviews and features. One such feature was The Arabic News feature: “An unconquerable determination amidst the devastation of war: Tahani Abu Daqqa is a Palestinian businesswoman who dedicates her life to helping her community in Gaza”.³⁸ The interview highlighted humanity and resilience in the midst of the violence, available on UN News Arabic dedicated [webpage](#) on Gaza as well as the [Trello card](#).

73. UN Photo and the UN Photo Library covered and processed over 1,400 relevant images, and more than 800 images were posted on the UN Photo website, while UN Video created over 110 video packages, which were distributed across UN platforms. UNifeed published some 500 news video packages, aired by media outlets in 110 countries, including Al Jazeera, the BBC, CNN, and i24 News. These include covering humanitarian updates from UN agencies in the field and the Secretary-General’s annual Ramadan trip to Egypt and Jordan in March.

74. The permanent exhibit “The United Nations and the Question of Palestine,” part of the United Nations guided tour route, continued to raise awareness to over 180,000 visitors, along with five briefings educating 123 students.

75. In connection with Solidarity Day event (see para. 53), DGC facilitated the launch of the exhibit titled “Palestine: A Land with a People,” displayed at UN Headquarters. In addition, United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) around the world, including in Canberra, Manama, Mexico City, Moscow, Pretoria, Nairobi and Sana’a commemorated the Day by organizing events and disseminating the SG’s message, including in local languages. On 30 November, the UNIC (Nairobi), in collaboration with the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Kenya as well as

³⁸ [The Arabic News feature](#)

the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), marked the Day at the UN complex, with over 500 participants attending a documentary screening and exhibition on Palestine culture. UNIC supported the event by inviting the media and providing moderation, photography, and social media services.

76. On 17 May, DGC held a “Meet the Author Event: The United Nations and the Question of Palestine.”, about a book by Mr. Ardi Imseis, professor of international law, on the history of international law and the UN on the question of Palestine since 1947.

77. Following the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza, UNICs have provided daily media monitoring to the Secretary-General’s Spokesperson and supported the UN Communications Group (UNCG) Crisis Cell on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory established by DGC. The Centres also translated and disseminated press releases and messages by the Secretary-General and the CEIRPP. The Italy Desk of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC), published over 100 articles in Italian on the crisis, facilitating interviews and translating Op-Eds. UNICs also supported UN high-level visits, such as the visits of the Secretary-General and several high-level officials, to the region, including Rafah. Media briefings were arranged, attracting significant international and national media coverage.

Chapter VII

Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

78. 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, and the recent United Nations decisions.

A. Action by the Committee in response to the conflict and humanitarian crisis

79. The Committee strongly condemns Israel's military campaign in Gaza that has resulted in over 40,000 Palestinian dead and injured more than 92,000 men, women, children and elderly as of August 2024. It condemns the 7 October 2023 attacks by armed Palestinian groups that resulted in the deaths of 1,200 Israelis, injury to about 5,400 and the abduction of 255 others as hostages into Gaza.

80. The Committee strongly condemns Israel's disproportionate and indiscriminate military campaign that disregards human life and has led to mounting death, severe suffering of Palestinians, including mass displacement, starvation and spread of disease, widespread destruction of the Gaza Strip, and extensive trauma among the population. The Committee calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, strict adherence to international humanitarian law to protect civilians, release of hostages and prisoners, and an independent investigation into all human rights violations and war crimes perpetrated.

81. The Committee stresses that Israel's aggression on Gaza has consistently failed to distinguish between civilians and combatants, as well as civilian and military objects, and breached its obligations as an occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Committee also stresses that the indiscriminate launching of rockets towards Israeli population centres by Palestinian armed groups is prohibited by international humanitarian law. The Committee reminds all parties that attacks on densely populated areas, hospitals, places of worship, and schools and UN premises constitute war crimes and must cease forthwith and that there must be accountability for all such grave breaches. The Committee urges full adherence by all parties to their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as General Assembly Resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22, and Security Council Resolutions 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023), 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024) and the relevant Human Rights Council resolutions (A/HRC/55/L.30, A/HRC/55/L.13, A/HRC/55/L.14, and A/HRC/55/L.28)³⁹.

82. The Committee is alarmed by the humanitarian catastrophe caused by Israel's military campaign which has resulted in multiple displacement of the entire population of Gaza and over half a million Palestinians facing famine. It calls for international solidarity and support for immediate humanitarian efforts in Gaza and urges Member States to pressure Israeli authorities to allow safe unimpeded access for aid organizations bringing food, water, medicine, fuel and other essential supplies to Palestinians and to stop any actions obstructing aid to the Palestinian people.

83. The Committee urges the international community to protect the Palestinian civilian population, including by establishing safe humanitarian zones and providing adequate shelter for displaced populations and fundamental humanitarian and hygiene needs. The Committee strongly condemns Israeli invasion and attacks on the last remaining refuge centres for displaced Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including the repeated attacks on UNRWA facilities sheltering

³⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/le-conseil-adopte-cinq-resolutions-dont-celle-demandant-quun-cessez-le-feu>

the displaced and refugee camps across Gaza. It deplores Israeli evacuation orders that continue to inflict displacement and suffering on Palestinians and cause fear and trauma to spread among the population that is being repeatedly forced to flee for safe in a place where nowhere is safe. The Committee reminds that refugee centres are crucial lifelines for humanitarian aid, providing essential food, medical care, and shelter and must be treated as safe zones and respected in accordance with international law.

84. The Committee demands action to address war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza, including by investigating the weaponization of starvation as a method of warfare and other war crimes prohibited under international law. The Committee also denounces the Israeli military offensives aimed at obstructing humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians, who, after enduring months of bombings, disease, and hunger continue to endure collective punishment, potentially involving acts of genocide.

85. The Committee demands enhanced safety for aid workers by requiring Israel to establish and respect safe corridors and ensure the protection of humanitarian personnel, including UNRWA staff, and continuous aid delivery.

86. The Committee expresses its deep concern about escalating settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which risk further destabilizing the area and increasing violence. 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 made 2024 the deadliest year on record for children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

87. The Committee condemns the expansion of illegal settlements and outposts and the continued suffering and dispossession of Palestinian communities, who face an ongoing Nakba, driven by Israeli state policy and acts of terror by extremists. The Committee calls on Israeli government officials to halt their provocations, rhetoric and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

B. Action by the Committee in response to human rights

88. 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.

89. The Committee condemns the punitive measures imposed by the Government of Israel to perpetuate the occupation, weaken the Palestinian Authority and repress the Palestinian people. The Committee calls on Israel to immediately reverse its punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority, disarm Israeli settlers and immediately stop settler violence and all settlement activities 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.

90. The Committee demands that the United Nations and the international community take additional measures to ensure accountability in response to Israel not abiding by 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. The Committee commends the Member States who have imposed sanctions against Israeli settlers involved in violence against Palestinians and urges other Member States to act accordingly to ensure accountability.

91. The Committee urges Israel to adhere to its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and to fully respect the status quo at Jerusalem's holy sites, including Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, acknowledging Jordan's special custodian role. It condemns Israel's attempts to change the historic and legal status of the holy sites and East Jerusalem as well as

to alter its demographic composition and character, in violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

92. The Committee commends the Secretary-General and relevant humanitarian mechanisms for their response to Israel's continued and escalating aggression and violence, including the disproportionate use of military force in densely populated civilian areas in Gaza and the West Bank. It underscores the seriousness of the Secretary-General's 2024 report on Children and Armed Conflict ([A/78/842-S/204/384](#)) regarding grave violations against Palestinian children and the inclusion of the Israel Defence Forces and armed Palestinian groups for these violations.

93. The OHCHR report of 31 July 2024 (see para. 17) that thousands of Palestinians have been detained in Gaza, West Bank and Israel, including since October 2023, in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law deeply worries the Committee. The Committee strongly condemns the deaths, disappearances, torture, sexual violence, and inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, including men, women, and children. It also denounces the actions of Israeli extremists who advocate for the right to rape Palestinian prisoners.

94. The Committee deplores the killing and silencing by Israeli forces of Palestinian journalists and media professionals in Gaza and the West Bank, who are central to exposing the atrocities, violations and genocide acts being perpetrated in the Occupied Territory.

95. The Committee welcomes the ICJ's Provisional Order in response to South Africa's application, which mandates Israel to act within its scope of Article II to "take all actions within its power to prevent acts of genocide" under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Committee also highlights the extreme vulnerability of civilians in Gaza due to repeated Israeli military assaults and demands that Israel ensures its forces do not commit further genocidal acts.

96. The Committee welcomes the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor's actions aimed at holding Israeli leaders and Palestinian armed group leaders accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity for their actions in the Gaza conflict. It calls on the ICC to act on the Prosecutor's request.

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

97. The Committee welcomes the landmark Court's Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 and calls on the General Assembly and Security Council to urgently implement it, including through the adoption of modalities required to bring an end to the unlawful Israeli occupation and a halt to all new settlement activities and evacuate existing settlers, to make reparations for damages in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to support the realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to self-determination. The Assembly supported by Council should formulate a roadmap for ending the unlawful occupation, including through the specification of the obligations of all States as affirmed in the Advisory Opinion, with clear benchmarks and monitoring of its implementation. The Committee supports the call for all Member States to uphold international law and reject Israel's unlawful presence in the OPT and refrain from actions that assist or sustain it.

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, including East Jerusalem, and to abide scrupulously by its international legal obligations. Such illegal colonization measures violate the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and 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 its capital, 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 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 the occupied territory 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, General Assembly and Human Rights Council for the cessation of all such illegal activities, including expropriation of and encroachment on Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian homes and properties.

100. The Committee urges the Government of Israel to refrain from seizing Palestinian land, stop conducting demolitions, including of donor-funded structures, and end all forced evictions and forcible displacement of Palestinians.

101. The Committee concurs with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel that discrimination against Palestinians, the ongoing occupation, and associated abuses – such as unlawful killings, forced displacement, and denial of rights – resemble apartheid and are primary causes of the conflict. The Committee calls for urgent action to safeguard Palestinian human rights and condemns political attacks on the Special Rapporteurs and the Commission, which undermine their efforts to document abuses, advocate for Palestinian rights, and promote accountability.

D. Action with the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court

102. 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. It calls on the international community to uphold the political, legal, humanitarian and moral obligations highlighted by the dangerous crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which led Secretary-General to invoke Article 99 of the United Nations Charter.

103. The Committee urges the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure the speedy implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace affirmed in relevant United Nations resolutions, including Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and Assembly resolution [77/25](#). This includes by ensuring that Member States and intergovernmental organizations take tangible measures to implement their obligations under these resolutions, particularly distinguishing between Israel and the territory that have remained under its occupation since 1967. Additionally, Member States must refrain from aiding, assisting or recognizing Israel’s unlawful presence of the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as reaffirmed most recently in the ICJ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024.

104. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit his reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), [2728 \(2024\)](#) and [2735 \(2024\)](#) in written format and, pursuant to the applicable paragraphs of these resolutions, to include references to the implementation of the provision by Member States. Pursuant to these resolutions, 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.

105. The Committee calls on the Security Council to demand the immediate implementation of resolution [S/RES/2735 \(2024\)](#) for the three-phase ceasefire deal and an immediate halt to

Israeli military actions. It calls on the Security Council to act urgently to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, which has been delayed for too long. The Committee expresses concern over the Security Council's failure to halt atrocities in Gaza, including the killing of non-combatants, including men, women, children, youth and the elderly and strongly condemns the silence that normalizes these acts. It acknowledges efforts by States, including Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to broker a cease-fire and the release of hostages and urges the completion of these efforts to stop the suffering in Gaza.

106. The Committee urges further efforts to implement the Security Council resolution [2720 \(2023\)](#) mandate concerning the Office of the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator to expedite the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and calls for Member States to support its efforts.

107. The Committee notes that any initiatives aimed at resolving the conflict in Gaza and the ending the prolonged occupation to achieve a just solution to the question of Palestine must, first and foremost, consider 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.

108. The Committee commends the ongoing efforts of the ICJ and the ICC in upholding international law and humanitarian principles in matters related to the question of Palestine and which are crucial for ensuring accountability, justice, and the protection of Palestinian rights.

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

109. The Committee calls upon regional organizations, in particular the Arab League, European Union, Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and OIC to take a politically active role in stopping the annexation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by Israel, and pursuing concrete efforts, including accountability measures, to bring an end to the occupation and achieve a just solution to the question of Palestine. It further notes that any comprehensive resolution to the Palestinian question will require a regional approach, such as set out in the Arab Peace Initiative.

110. The Committee fully supports the ongoing efforts by 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 recent efforts of Algeria, China and Egypt to promote Palestinian unity, recognizing this as essential for ending the conflict and advancing the resolution of the question of Palestine.

111. The Committee recognizes the crucial role of global civil society in advocating for Palestinian rights and an end to the immense suffering in Gaza, urging Member States to heed public demands and take decisive action in line with international legal obligations. It condemns threats against CSOs and NGOs delivering aid in Gaza, and calls on Israel to reverse policies restricting civil society access and hampering their vital work, and to ensure safe access for humanitarian workers.

F. Action by Member States and regional organizations

112. The Committee calls on Member States and regional organizations to act, collectively and individually, in line with international law to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to fulfil its responsibilities to safeguard Palestinian civilians under international law, stop the assault on Gaza and the violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and to end its unlawful occupation as rapidly as possible.

113. The Committee considers unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and embassy relocations there as invalid, as they violate Security Council resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980), and 2334 (2016), and commends those who have reversed such recognition, recalling the affirmations in the ICJ Advisory Opinion on this matter.

114. The Committee welcomes UN General Assembly resolution [A/ES-10/23 \(2024\)](#), reaffirming the Palestinian right to self-determination and an independent State, and urges the Security Council to recommend Palestine's admission as a full UN member, aligning with this broad international consensus. It further welcomes recent recognitions by States of the State of Palestine and urges those yet to do so to take decisive action now as a duty to uphold the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

115. The Committee encourages the OHCHR to continue updating the database of business enterprises engaged in certain activities in relation to illegal Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and stresses the importance of the database for accountability measures.

116. The Committee reaffirms its strong support for UNRWA and its indispensable role in providing services to millions of Palestine refugees, many now sheltered in its facilities in Gaza. The Committee urges continued political support for UNRWA's General Assembly mandate and urges donors to increase funding for UNRWA, emphasizing the Secretary-General's affirmations of the Agency's critical role and accountability. The Committee demands that Israel reverse its classification of UNRWA as a terrorist organization, and stop its campaign to delegitimize the Agency, as it undermines the Agency's crucial humanitarian efforts in Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the other fields of operation in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

117. The Committee calls on Member States to support the fiscal stability of the Palestinian Government and strengthen Palestinian institutions, to improve economic and social conditions in Palestine, especially during this time of suffering and deprivation due to Israel's actions.

118. Recognizing the vital role of legislative bodies in garnering support for the peaceful resolution of the Palestine question, the Committee calls for parliamentary diplomacy to help bring an end to the Gaza conflict, bring an end to the Israeli occupation and find a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

G. Action by the Secretariat and other United Nations entities

119. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to continue providing secretariat support across all aspects of its General Assembly mandate and facilitating synergy, collaboration and cooperation with UN entities working on the Palestinian question. The Committee appreciates the Division's support and adaptation of its communications and outreach tools, including multilingual website and social media, audiovisual content from its activities, to aid the Committee's advocacy and awareness raising in the dynamic context in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

120. The Committee encourages enhanced collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communication's Special Information Programme for broader outreach. It encourages the Department to re-institute its dedicated web portal on the Israel-Gaza crisis.

121. The Committee also welcomes continuous improvements for targeted capacity-development projects for Palestinian officials, promoting inclusivity, gender balance, and South-South cooperation.