

African Statement
(Follow up to the 9th Special Session)

Mr. President,

The African Group would like to express its concern at the status of implementation of the resolution of the Council's 9th special session on: "The Grave Violations of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including the recent aggression in the occupied Gaza Strip".

The Group is of the view that concrete steps are still needed to ensure the full implementation of the resolution.

Operative paragraph 11 the resolution requested the High Commissioner to report on the violations of human rights of the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, Israel, by:

(a) Strengthening the field presence of the Office of the High Commission in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, and deploying the necessary personnel and expertise to monitor and document Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians and the destruction of their properties.

(b) Submitting periodic reports to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution.

We would appreciate having clarifications on the concrete and tangible steps taken by the OHCHR to implement those requirements, including the reasons for the delay in the submission of the periodic reports requested by the Council and issuing it in the six UN official languages.

Operative paragraph 14 of the resolution requested Israel to fully cooperate with the Council's Fact Finding Mission. We would like to ask the High Commissioner on the steps her office has taken to ensure Israel's cooperation with the mission, including

clarifications for the state of silence of the Office towards the Israeli refusal to cooperate with the Mission. ~~We wonder if the reaction of the Office would have been the same had it been a developing country that refused to cooperate with a fact finding mission urgently dispatched by the Council.~~

Operative paragraph 16 of the same resolution requested the Secretary General of the United Nations to investigate the latest targeting of facilities of UNRWA in Gaza, including schools, which resulted in the killing of tens of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and to submit a report to the General Assembly thereon.

It is noteworthy that the report was prepared by the UN but was not officially submitted to the General Assembly. In light of the horrific contents of the report, indicating the targeted shelling by Israel of 7 UN facilities and the killing of civilians taking shelter in these facilities, the African Group renews its request for the Secretary General to officially submit the report to the General Assembly to allow an open discussion and assessment of its contents.

Thank you.