

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement of
The Delegation of Egypt**

Before the Third Committee

on

Agenda Item 67:

“Right of Peoples to Self-determination”

Mr. Chairman;

The Charter of the United Nations has established the right of peoples to self-determination as an inalienable right that represents an essential foundation for realizing the right of peoples in determining their political, economic and social systems, and to choose their constitutional, parliamentary, and legislative systems that are best suit to meet their needs and priorities, taking into consideration their cultures and their relations with the outside world. The right to self-determination is one of the main pillars in all international conventions and treaties in the field of human rights, and in comes at the forefront of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and is re-emphasized by the Universal Declaration of the Granting of Independence to the States and peoples under foreign occupation for the year 1960, and the historic resolution of the General Assembly in 1962 granting sovereignty to peoples over their natural resources, as well as in the International Convention of the United Nations to combat employment, training and financing of mercenaries for the year 1989.

Despite the significant process and achievements of the United Nations Organization over the past sixty-five years to achieve the hopes of peoples for a life of dignity based on the principles of democracy, good governance, sustainable development and full respect for all human rights, however, it still struggles with ensuring equal rights, the full and unconditional respect for the right to self-determination of peoples, which is a prerequisite to ensure the effectiveness, full enjoyment and respect of all human rights.

Mr. Chairman;

There is no doubt that the choice of the President of the Assembly for "Good Governance at the international level" as the main theme for our discussions during the 65th session of the General Assembly, underscores the need to strengthen our efforts in order to establish the required pillars, realize the needed objectives and priorities necessary to ensure the realization of this principle at international, regional and national levels, enabling member states and the United Nations to fully realize the right of self-determination.

Despite all efforts exerted by the united nations and its different organs to end decolonization and to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples since 1960, decolonization remains incomplete and more effective efforts from the international community are needed to achieve it. The existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, and International Human Rights Instruments.

In this regard, it is imperative that the international community intensifies its efforts to promote sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of non-self governing regions and peoples, as well as those under foreign occupation and colonialism, and to increase assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, and provide full compensations for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation, in order to fulfil the right of all people who, were or are stil subjected to colonial rule of occupation, to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation.

Furthermore, the United Nations must ensure that economic and other activities carried out by the administering powers do not affect the interests of the peoples of non-self-governing territories, but instead to promote development and assist them in the exercise of their legitimate right to self-determination. This also applies to the cultural and heritage identity of the colonized peoples which contributes to humanity's universal heritage.

Mr. chairman;

We have carefully considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-determination," and look forward to the inclusion next year of specific recommendations on how to enable the Human Rights Council to perform its role in investigating and dealing with Israel's human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This is particularly necessary in light of the findings of the report by Judge Goldstone and the balanced report by the Special Rapporteur, which identify gross violations in Gaza that mount to war crimes and run counter to Israel's commitments as the occupying power according to international law, on top of which comes the Fourth Geneva Convention. These violations contribute to the dangerously deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and severely curtail the ability of the Palestinian people to enjoy their legitimate right to self-determination to the fullest, and to realise their aspiration for the establishment of their Independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Accordingly, we reiterate the importance of invigorating the role of the United Nations to ensure respect of the human rights of the Palestinian people, along with other Arab peoples that are suffering from occupation and are being systematically subjected to incessant violations and intrusions. We aspire for a larger UN engagement in a more serious manner, through its role in the Quartet and confidence building efforts, all the way through to the attainment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace... A peace that is founded on the Terms of Reference of the Peace Process launched in Madrid, most important of which is the Principle of "Land for Peace", the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap... A genuinely negotiated peace on all tracks, in order to realise the full withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, and to ensure the enjoyment of the right to self-determination and all other human rights to all peoples, without exception.

Mr. Chairman;

As we are concluding our Second International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism in 2010, and declaring the third international decade from 2011-2020, it is incumbent upon the United Nations to reaffirm its commitment to implement the 1960 Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, through concrete steps to liberate all peoples from each and every form of foreign domination, and to guarantee their enjoyment of the right to self-determination.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.