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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address the Fourth Committee for the first time. Allow me also to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson and members of the Bureau on your election and your good work. I assure you of the full support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the work of the Fourth Committee and I am looking forward to our cooperation.

I have the honour to introduce five reports submitted under agenda item 53.

Let me start with the report of the Secretary-General on the **Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories** (document A/66/373), which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/102. The report covers the period of September 2010 to August 2011. It outlines the activities undertaken by the Special Committee during this period and by the Department of Public Information in support of the work of the Special Committee.

The second report, on the **Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories** (document A/66/362), has been prepared in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 65/103. To prepare this report, notes verbale were sent to all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, requesting information about any steps taken or envisaged concerning the implementation of this resolution. No responses were received.

Moving now to the **Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan** (document A/66/364). This report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 65/104. The information in the report has been gathered by UN entities operating in the occupied Palestinian territory and by Israeli and Palestinian non-governmental organisations. It addresses Israeli settlement activities and related violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The report's main recommendations include that Israel should comply with its international legal obligations and its commitments in the Road Map, in particular by ceasing the transfer of its civilian population to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and that all serious allegations concerning criminal acts committed should be investigated - with due respect to the principles of fair trial and due process.

The fourth report of the Secretary-General under this item addresses **Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem** (document A/66/356), in accordance with the General Assembly's request in resolution 65/105. This report contains information from UN agencies, Israeli, Palestinian and international nongovernmental organizations; and media sources. The main concerns addressed include the right to life, in particular the killing and injury of civilians; demolitions; the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas; and arrests and detention of Palestinians by Israel. Its main

recommendations include the need to improve observance of international humanitarian principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions to avoid civilian casualties, and the need to ensure accountability.

The last report that I will introduce today is the report of the Secretary-General on the **occupied Syrian Golan**, prepared pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/106. The report contains a summary of a note verbale received from the Permanent Mission of Syria in response to the Secretary-General's efforts to gather information from Member States regarding actions taken or envisaged to be taken concerning the implementation of the resolution.

With this, Mr. Chairperson, I conclude my introduction of some of the reports submitted under agenda item 53.

Thank you.

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