



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY AMBASSADOR HELENA YÁNEZ, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE SEVENTY SECOND SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 63: 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 (NEW YORK, 23 October 2017)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, the Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of the documents for our consideration under the Agenda Item 63.

While the G77 and China takes note of the recent report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and appreciates the efforts exerted on it, however it must be noted that we have seen a decline in the quality of this report in comparison to previous reports. We hope that all the comments made during the interactive discussion will be taken into consideration in future reports.

In the 2030 Agenda we acknowledged that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. We called for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

The Group of 77 and China reiterates and reaffirms that the implementation and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda must include and address the severe difficulties faced by countries and peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation and strive to remove the obstacles to their full realization of the right of self-determination and right to development, which adversely affect their economic and social development, as well as their environment and their ability to achieve the sustainable development goals and to ensure that they will not be left behind.

Mr. Chairman,

While recalling Security Council's resolution 2334, we reaffirm that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. Once again we demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and call upon all States, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

We are concerned about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. We are gravely concerned about the extensive destruction by Israel of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard, as well as for the widespread destruction to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks.

The G77 and China reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources. We demand that Israel cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in these territories, and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result from illegal measures taken by Israel.

The G77 and China encourages all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlement activities and the exploitation of natural resources.

I thank you.