

A/AC.183/1988/CRP.1/Rev.1

24 February 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE
OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988

I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

1. The Committee's mandate for 1988 is contained in General Assembly resolutions 42/66 A and B, the relevant parts of which are paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 42/66 A and paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 42/66 B.
2. In paragraph 3 of resolution 42/66 A the Committee is requested to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.
3. In paragraph 4 of resolution 42/66 A the Committee is authorized to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations, and to make such adjustments in its approved programme of seminars and of symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as it may consider necessary, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session and thereafter.
4. In paragraph 5 of resolution 42/66 A the Committee is requested to continue to extend its co-operation to NGOs in their contribution to heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and in creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations.

5. With regard to paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 42/66 B, which deals with the work programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee is expected to provide the Division with the necessary guidance in discharging the tasks referred to therein.

II. ACTION CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

6. As in 1987, the Committee decided that during the year 1988 it would maintain its past activities and increase its contacts and co-operation with Governments and with NGOs in intensified efforts towards greater and more positive international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/66 D, the Committee also decided, in its activities during 1988, to continue, as a matter of the utmost priority, to exert all efforts to promote the early convening of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East, while urging the understanding and further co-operation of all concerned for the resolution of a problem of such fundamental importance to the maintenance of international peace and security. In light of the grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Committee also decided to give the highest priority to the need for ensuring the safety and protection of Palestinians under Israeli occupation, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. The Committee further expressed the greatest concern at legislation adopted by the United States affecting the promotion in the United States and the United Nations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and decided to exert all efforts to counteract that legislation.

8. As in the past, the Working Group was re-established to assist in the preparation and expedition of the work of the Committee. Its membership is as follows: Afghanistan, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, India, Malta, Pakistan, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Meetings of the Working Group would be open to all members and observers of the Committee. H.E. Mr. Alexander Borg Olivier (Malta) was designated Chairman and Mr. Pramathesh Rath (India) as Vice-Chairman of the Working Group.

9. In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 42/66 A, the Committee will continue to monitor events directly relating to the question of Palestine and to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and, through its Chairman, to convey its considered views on such developments to the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, as appropriate. As in the past, the Bureau may, whenever urgent action is required, through its Chairman, draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Assembly and/or of the Security Council to developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

10. In response to paragraph 4 of resolution 42/66 A and in accordance with past practice, the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to address a letter to all Member States emphasizing the need for positive action with regard to the holding of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East as

well as the need for ensuring respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories and reiterating the receptiveness of the Committee to the participation of and suggestions by all Member States in carrying out its work.

11. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 42/66 B, dealing with the programme of work of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee considered: (a) seminars to be held in 1988; (b) NGO preparatory meetings, symposia and the international meeting to be held in 1988; (c) the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 1988; and (d) studies and publications to be prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights during the 1988-1989 biennium.

12. The Committee decided that any adjustments which might become necessary in this programme of meetings would be decided upon in light of developments in the course of the year, in accordance with the authorization given in paragraph 4 of resolution 42/66 A.

13. The Committee further decided that it would continue to strive to make the most effective use of the limited resources allocated to it in carrying out its mandated programme of work.

A. Seminars

14. In the normal rotation, regional seminars are due to be held in 1988 in Africa, Europe and North America.

15. With regard to the seminar in North America, the Committee at its 146th meeting on 27 November 1987, in adopting a preliminary calendar for 1988, decided to combine this seminar with the North American NGO symposium, as done in the past, and to hold these meetings consecutively in New York from 27 June to 1 July 1988. In accordance with past practice, the seminar will be of two days' duration, followed by a three-day symposium.

16. With regard to the European seminar, the Committee at the above-mentioned meeting gratefully accepted the offer of the German Democratic Republic to host this seminar at Berlin. The Committee also decided that the seminar would be held from 25 to 29 April 1988.

17. With regard to the African seminar, the Committee was grateful for the agreement by the Government of Egypt to provide the venue for this seminar, as well as for the African NGO symposium, at Cairo, at a date yet to be decided.

18. With regard to the topics to be addressed by the regional seminars, the Committee decided to continue to emphasize the urgent need for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East; the role of the PLO; and the need for mobilizing public opinion in the region concerned. The Committee further decided to stress the situation created by the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territories. Accordingly, the

Committee decided that the European seminar would establish the following three panels:

(a) The uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories: the urgency of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C;

(b) The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(c) The question of Palestine and European public opinion.

19. With regard to the need for mobilizing public opinion in the various regions, the Committee decided to pay particular attention to ways and means of improving the outreach function of the seminars and their effectiveness. The Committee further decided to request the Department of Public Information to prepare, for each seminar, a paper describing its public information activities in the region concerned.

B. Non-governmental organizations' preparatory meetings, regional symposia and international meeting

20. The Committee decided that NGO regional symposia would be held in Africa, Europe and North America in 1988. Provision was also made for two preparatory meetings (for the North American symposium and the International Meeting, respectively) and an International Meeting of NGOs.

21. As mentioned above, the Committee decided to hold the North American symposium in New York, immediately following the North American seminar i.e., from 29 June to 1 July 1988. The Preparatory Meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at New York on 1 and 2 February 1988 and developed a programme for the Symposium consisting of the following two panels:

(a) The uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories: the urgency of convening the International Peace Conference in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C;

(b) Implications of United States legislation affecting the promotion in the United States and the United Nations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In addition, the work of the Symposium would be carried out in several workshops under the general topic "Overcoming obstacles and organizing in North America".

22. The Committee also decided to hold the European symposium and the International NGO Meeting consecutively at Geneva from 29 August to 2 September 1988. The symposium will be of two days' duration and the International Meeting of three days' duration. The Committee decided to hold the preparatory meeting for the International NGO Meeting on 21 and 22 March 1988 at Geneva.

23. The Committee also decided to hold the African NGO symposium, as already mentioned, in conjunction with the African seminar at Cairo, Egypt, at a date to be decided.

C. Studies and publications of the Division for
Palestinian Rights

24. The Committee took note with appreciation that the Division for Palestinian Rights, in accordance with its mandate, would continue to prepare the following publications, under the guidance of the Committee:

(a) Monthly bulletins covering action by the Committee, other United Nations organs, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of Palestine;

(b) Reports of regional seminars, regional NGO symposia and international NGO meetings, and special bulletins on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

(c) Compilations on an annual basis of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council;

(d) Monitoring of Arabic, English and Hebrew press and media on developments relating to the question of Palestine and issuance of monthly reports for the use of the Committee.

25. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the study on the need for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East was being finalized and endorsed the Division's proposal to give priority in 1988-1989 to updating a number of existing studies, in particular as follows:

(a) The study on "The origins and evolution of the Palestinian problem" (three parts issued in 1978, 1979, 1984 respectively) will be updated by adding part IV, covering the period to the end of 1987, to the existing three volumes. Part IV is currently under preparation;

(b) "The question of Palestine" (1979);

(c) "The Palestine question: a brief history" (1980);

(d) "Acquisition of land in Palestine" (1980);

(e) "Israel's policy on the West Bank water resources" (1980);

(f) "Israeli settlements in Gaza and in the West Bank (including Jerusalem)", part I (1982) and part II (1984);

(g) "The question of the observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 in Gaza and the West Bank including Jerusalem occupied by Israel in June 1967" (1979).

26. In addition, the Committee requested the Division to prepare a compilation of papers on the legal aspects of the question of Palestine presented at seminars organized under the auspices of the Committee. The Division was also requested to investigate the feasibility of issuing the updated version of the study on "The Palestine question: a brief history" in German, Italian and Swahili. The Committee requested that a pamphlet be prepared on the work of the Security Council Commission established under resolution 446 (1979), similar to those already published by the Department of Public Information on the work of other United Nations organs dealing with the question. A suggestion was made to consider preparing a subject index to the studies published by the Division.

D. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

27. The Committee decided that the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People should be observed on Tuesday, 29 November 1988. The Committee further decided to establish a small task force to assist it in developing a programme for the observance of maximum effectiveness and impact.

28. As in the past, the Committee again decided to invite the PLO to provide an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters during the week of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.