



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

### Summary record of the 288th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 5 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Badji. . . . . (Senegal)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

1. *The agenda was adopted.*
2. **The Chairman** welcomed the new Permanent Observer for Palestine, Mr. Mansour, to the Committee. He also informed the Committee that, as part of the 2005 training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority, two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be working with the Division for Palestinian Rights for the duration of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

### **Developments in the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

3. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for Palestine) said that Palestine viewed the dismantling of illegal Israeli settlements and the pullout of the Israeli occupying forces from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank as an important step forward in efforts to reverse Israel's colonization of Palestinian territory. However, the pullout had been planned and executed unilaterally without consideration for Palestinian concerns and interests and many critical issues remained unresolved. To ensure that living conditions in Gaza improved and to translate Israel's unilateral action into a positive and constructive development, it was essential to reach agreement on all outstanding issues, including the need to ensure freedom of movement and a permanent link between the West Bank and Gaza.
4. Agreement must also be reached on how to move forward. The Sharm el-Sheikh understandings must be implemented without delay. Commitments under the road map must be honoured and dialogue and negotiations on final status issues must be resumed immediately. The international community should address the issue of ongoing illegal settlement activities and the continued construction of the separation wall by the occupying Power with a view to achieving their definitive cessation, because if Israel was allowed to continue with those activities, the two-State solution and the peace process as a whole would have little chance of succeeding.
5. During the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, Palestine would be focusing on a number of

priorities, including the package of resolutions on the question of Palestine adopted annually by the General Assembly, which reflected the long-standing position of the international community on various aspects of the situation and were also indicative of the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine until it was completely resolved. Palestine would continue to assert the need for Israel to respect and implement United Nations resolutions and would work with its friends and partners to reaffirm the essential principles contained in those resolutions and to increase support for them.

6. In view of Israel's continued violations of its obligations under the road map, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Palestine would work for the implementation of the Arab Ministers' decision to resume the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly with a view to adopting coercive measures to enforce a complete cessation of settlement and construction activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Security Council should remain seized of the question of Palestine and should continue to monitor the situation on the ground by means of the monthly briefings. A political resolution by the Council might be possible in the context of the proposed Russian conference.

7. Lastly, in the context of the reform of the United Nations and the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, Palestine took the view that mandates that were regularly submitted to the General Assembly, including mandates and programmes relating to the question of Palestine, should not be subject to review by the Secretariat, since the very fact that they were submitted for renewal on an annual or biennial basis meant that they were thoroughly reviewed by Member States. Palestine would be following closely efforts to establish a Human Rights Council and a Peacebuilding Commission and was particularly interested in how the latter might contribute to future peacebuilding efforts in the Middle East.

### Consideration of the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/AC.183/2005/CRP.2)

8. **Mr. Camilleri** (Rapporteur) introduced the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/AC.183/2005/CRP.2), which covered the work of the Committee since October 2004. The draft report outlined the Committee's objectives and its general perspective on the events of the previous year. It summarized the action taken by the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information and also reviewed, in some detail, the situation on the ground. Paragraphs 70 to 76 of the draft report contained the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee. In accordance with established practice, the Secretariat would continue to update the draft report, in consultation with the Rapporteur and as necessary, in order to reflect any new developments that might take place before it was forwarded to the General Assembly.

9. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft report for submission to the General Assembly.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for Palestine) commended the draft report, which dealt accurately and sensitively with a number of delicate issues. He was confident that the Committee would continue to discharge its responsibilities with regard to the political situation as it unfolded in Palestine. It was to be hoped that the Palestinian people would move progressively closer to accomplishing their goal of an end to the Israeli occupation of lands occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, so that Palestine could sit in the General Assembly not as an observer but as an independent, equal Member State.

### Other matters

12. **Mr. Hamidon Ali** (Malaysia), reporting to the Committee in his capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement had, at their annual meeting in New York on 20 September 2005, expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people and emphasized the need for the members of the Quartet to ensure the full implementation of the road map for the viable creation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine. Meanwhile, the Non-

Aligned Movement Committee on Palestine, whose members were the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Palestine, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, had met on 19 September to discuss the latest developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the continuing construction of the separation wall, the recent Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the illegal construction of new settlements in the occupied territories and refugees' right of return. The Ministers had agreed to call on the international community and the Quartet to make every effort to salvage the road map; to call on Israel to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice; and to coordinate the Non-Aligned Movement's position with regard to the proposed convening by Switzerland of the Diplomatic Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention in connection with the construction of the wall, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15.

13. The ministerial delegation on Palestine, comprising the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia (as Chairman), Algeria, Cuba, India, Palestine and South Africa, had held a meeting with members of the Quartet and with permanent members of the Security Council. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs had also met with their counterparts from China, France and the Russian Federation, and with the Secretary-General, who had all expressed their commitment to the road map and, in response to the concerns expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement, had said that Israel's withdrawal from Gaza had been a positive move but that they would encourage Israel to make further concessions on, inter alia, the withdrawal of illegal settlers and of Israeli forces from all the occupied territories and to dismantle both the wall and the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

14. Lastly, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement Troika, represented by Cuba, Malaysia and South Africa, had met their Troika counterparts from the European Union, represented by Austria, the United Kingdom, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, in order to convey to them the concerns of the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the Middle East peace process.

*The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.*