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

Summary record of the 406th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 February 2022, at 3 p.m.

Temporary Chair: Mr. Guterres (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)

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

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.183/2022/L.1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of officers

2. **The Temporary Chair** invited the Committee to consider nominations for the posts of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur of the Committee.

3. The following nominations had been received by the secretariat of the Committee: Mr. Niang (Senegal) for election as Chair; and Mr. Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba), Mr. Nasir (Indonesia), Mr. Gertze (Namibia) and Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) for election as Vice-Chairs. The Committee was still in consultation about the vacant post of Rapporteur and one post of Vice-Chair.

4. *Mr. Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba), Mr. Nasir (Indonesia), Mr. Gertze (Namibia), Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) and Mr. Niang (Senegal) were elected by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Niang (Senegal) took the Chair.*

Statement by the Secretary-General

6. **The Secretary-General** said that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to pose a significant challenge to international peace and security. The promise of the independence of the Palestinian State remained unfulfilled. Political, economic and security conditions across the Occupied Palestinian Territory were deteriorating as Palestinians experienced high levels of dispossession, violence and insecurity.

7. The international community urgently needed to intensify its efforts to resolve the conflict and end the occupation, in line with United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements. The goal remained two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State – living side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both States. There was no plan B.

8. He was encouraged by recent engagement between senior Israeli and Palestinian officials and urged both sides to expand those contacts to encompass underlying political issues. Piecemeal approaches to the question of Palestine would only ensure that the underlying issues perpetuating the conflict remained unaddressed. Unilateral steps and illegal actions driving the conflict must cease. Incitement to violence would lead nowhere

and must be rejected by all. He was concerned by the unabated violence across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including settler violence and military operations that had led to numerous deaths. It was essential that all parties solidify the cessation of hostilities and support economic development in Gaza. Concerted efforts were essential to ensure calm, strengthen Palestinian institutions, restore hope and avoid a deadly escalation of violence.

9. Illegal settlement activity, demolitions and evictions continued, including in East Jerusalem, undermining international humanitarian and human rights law, feeding hopelessness and animosity and diminishing prospects for a negotiated solution. All settlement activity was illegal and must stop. Continued human rights violations against Palestinians significantly impeded their ability to live in security and develop their communities and economy. He called on all parties to preserve the status quo at the holy sites in the Old City of Jerusalem.

10. As the international community worked towards reviving the political process, efforts to improve the economic and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory must be supported. While he welcomed the vital support for the United Nations humanitarian flash appeal, ongoing reconstruction efforts in Gaza and the critical coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response efforts of the United Nations system on the ground, he remained concerned about the dire fiscal situation facing the Palestinian Authority, which was undermining its institutional stability and ability to provide services to its people. Meanwhile, the existential financial crisis of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was affecting the rights and well-being of Palestine refugees across the region. He called on Member States to increase their financial support to the Palestinian people and their contributions to UNRWA, a vital pillar of regional stability.

11. The recent Israeli decision to increase the movement of goods and people in and out of the Gaza Strip was a welcome development. It was important, however, to expand such steps and work towards the full lifting of the debilitating closures, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

12. Time was running short and the international community must not lose sight of the long-sought goal of ending the occupation and realizing a two-State solution. All parties must take concrete steps that would enable a return to the path of meaningful negotiations and, ultimately, a just and lasting peace. The United Nations was committed to supporting Palestinians and

Israelis to resolve the conflict. He called on all to reinforce their shared commitment to that goal.

Statement by the Chair

13. **The Chair** said that his country, Senegal, remained committed to fulfilling the Committee's mandate of working to realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. He expressed appreciation for the remarkable work of the Division for Palestinian Rights and urged it to continue raising public awareness of the Committee's work, to ensure that the Palestinian cause remained a priority. Against an increasingly uncertain backdrop, marked by the stalled peace process and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee was constantly striving to improve and reinvent itself by trying new approaches to fulfilling its mandate.

14. The year 2021 had been particularly difficult for the Palestinian people. The social, economic, humanitarian and political situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, already fragile due to decades of movement and access restrictions imposed by the occupying Power, had been exacerbated by the continued expansion of illegal settlements, including in and around East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. In May 2021, the disproportionate use of force had once again led to significant loss of life and property damage.

15. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupation itself were illegal under international law, as reaffirmed by Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), and constituted an obstacle to peace. While the parameters of a definitive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute had been clearly identified and were known to all actors, the occupation, the settlements, the violence and incitement to violence, and the catastrophic situation in Gaza undermined trust between the parties. The Committee, which was firmly committed to achieving a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, condemned all forms of violence and incitement to hatred, regardless of the perpetrators or their motives. It called on Israel and the international community to ensure that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to live in freedom and dignity in an independent and sovereign State, were respected and maintained.

16. The best way to achieve sustainable peace and security was for the parties to renounce all forms of violence and fait accompli policies and to return to the negotiating table, with a view to reaching a comprehensive solution that guaranteed the right of each party to a sovereign State. To that end, the Committee was committed to engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders, including the parties to the conflict,

parliamentarians and civil society organizations. International engagement in support of the two-State solution must be translated into action. The peace process should be relaunched, with the issues of settlements, the status of Jerusalem, refugees, security and the situation in Gaza squarely on the table. The international community, in particular the Quartet, must provide high-level support to the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. Reaching a definitive solution to the conflict was the only way to address the challenges facing the Middle East, including terrorism, violent extremism, poverty and exclusion. All parties must abstain from unilateral acts that undermined the possibility of relaunching the peace process. The status quo, including the historic and legal status quo of the Aqsa Mosque compound, should be maintained in Jerusalem.

17. The Committee urged Member States to support UNRWA, which continued to face financial difficulties, by providing it with predictable, adequate and sustainable resources to enable it to provide support to Palestine refugees, in particular in the areas of education, health care, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development. The Committee would continue to engage with Member States and regional groups to mobilize broader support for the Palestinian cause. It would support all initiatives aimed at realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, achieving a just solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and realizing the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, along pre-1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian State.

Statement by the Observer for the State of Palestine

18. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the situation of the Palestinian people was dire. In 2021, against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, the occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people had escalated, intensifying their suffering at the hands of the occupying Power, its military forces, extremist settlers and terrorist militias. The extent of the violence had been shocking, with 86 children killed across Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. The Palestinian people continued to be deprived of their rights, including the right to return.

19. The events of 2021 had led Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and leading Israeli human rights organizations to conclude that Israel was imposing an apartheid regime, something which Palestinian human rights organizations had been saying for a long time. The accusations of antisemitism levelled against Amnesty International and Palestinian civil society organizations, which Israel had branded as terrorist organizations,

threatening their vital work and the safety of their personnel, were offensive and dangerous and must be rejected. The policies and practices of Israel would be deemed illegal and inhumane were they pursued by any other State. The conclusions of the human rights organizations were based on facts and analysis of the evidence. The Israeli aggression of May 2021 against Palestinian families in Shaykh Jarrah, Haram al-Sharif, Occupied East Jerusalem and across the West Bank and the military assaults on Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip had confirmed that war crimes and crimes against humanity were being committed against the Palestinian people, including women, children, the elderly, prisoners and refugees.

20. Her delegation once again appealed for action, accountability, justice and peace. Without action, the situation would only get worse and the prospects for justice more remote. Responsible collective action could avert the continued cycles of violence and deprivation of rights that were making living conditions unbearable, and could salvage the prospects for peace. It was time to bring pressure to bear on the Government of Israel, which was the party that continued to obstruct peace, as evidenced by the fact that the Prime Minister himself rejected Palestinian self-determination and statehood and peace negotiations.

21. The approach taken to date had failed. It was time to stop yielding to intimidation and exempting Israel from the rule of law. It was time to ensure accountability, including through the International Criminal Court, and the withholding of all assistance and support for the illegal situation. The Palestinian leadership had repeatedly proven that it was a partner for peace. Together with the Palestinian people, it was committed to using all diplomatic, political, peaceful and popular means to oppose and bring an end to the illegal occupation and apartheid regime.

22. Her delegation called on all Member States and all peoples to support the Committee in addressing the root causes of the historic injustice and upholding international law towards achieving a just solution in line with the internationally endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, based on two States along the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of a sovereign and independent State of Palestine living in peace and security alongside Israel, as well as a just solution for the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

23. Her delegation reiterated its appeal for assistance for the Palestinian people, including urgent funding for UNRWA to address humanitarian needs, alleviate

hardship and provide hope and opportunities, in particular for women and young people. Her delegation expressed its appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General, the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, and stood ready to work with all stakeholders to make real progress towards a more just and peaceful future.

Statement by the Bureau

24. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Bureau, said that serious efforts were needed on the part of the international community and the Committee in order to achieve a just and sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel was continuing its relentless war against the Palestinian people. The human rights violations inflicted against the Palestinian people and the defiance of Israel vis-à-vis the international community were more blatant than ever.

25. The year 2021 had been one of the deadliest in over a decade for Palestinians, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The fatalities had included a number of children. It had also been a bad year for home demolitions and the expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel was perpetrating apartheid against the Palestinian people and attacking and criminalizing civil society and humanitarian workers, and yet the international community remained silent.

26. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Bureau had put together a wide-ranging and substantive programme of work that included meetings with governmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, Member States and the wider United Nations system. The Committee would continue to support the Palestinian people in achieving a broad, just and lasting solution to the conflict, on the basis of a two-State solution that would allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination in an independent sovereign State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along pre-1967 lines.

Adoption of the programme of work for 2022 (A/AC.183/2022/L.2)

27. **The Chair**, introducing the draft programme of work for 2022 (A/AC.183/2021/L.2), said that section I of the document outlined the mandates of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as set out in General Assembly resolutions 75/20 and 75/21, respectively. Section II contained an overview of the activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, including the mobilization of the

diplomatic community, raising awareness of the question of Palestine, cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system entities, and the capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine. Section III dealt with the continuing review and assessment of the programme of work.

28. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft programme of work.

29. *It was so decided.*

Recent and upcoming Committee activities

30. **The Chair** said that a number of events had been held in New York and overseas in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, held on 29 November 2021. He welcomed the messages of solidarity received from Heads of State and Government. Instead of the usual exhibit on Palestinian rights, prominent civil society representatives, including Palestinian activists, had been invited to convey their messages in person and by video.

31. On 1 December 2021, at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine, during which the 2021 report of the Committee ([A/76/35](#)) had also been considered, there had been broad support for the realization of the two-State solution, with resolution [76/10](#) on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine adopted by an overwhelming majority. That support was testament to the continued relevance of the Committee's work in support of the Palestinian cause. On 7 December 2021, the Committee had been briefed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and had held an event for civil society organizations active in the occupied territories, including Al-Haq, which had been designated as a terrorist organization by Israel.

32. On 19 January 2022, a statement had been delivered on behalf of the Committee at the Security Council's quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. In the statement, the Committee had highlighted the restrictions faced by civil society organizations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and called for them to be allowed to work unhindered. The Committee had also called for the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the internationally agreed parameters, and for the relaunch of the peace process through the Quartet. The Division for Palestinian Rights issued monthly bulletins on action by the United Nations system and intergovernmental

organizations relevant to the question of Palestine, weekly information notes on activities carried out by non-governmental organizations, and annual compilations of United Nations reports and resolutions on the question of Palestine, which were available on the website of the Committee.

33. In March 2022, the Committee planned to hold a virtual event on apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, featuring prominent human rights organizations including Amnesty International. The Committee was also planning to hold a virtual panel on the margins of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women. He encouraged new delegates to attend the upcoming annual briefing on the Committee's mandate and programme of work. The Bureau would shortly be restarting its outreach to Member States to advocate a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

Statements by members and observers of the Committee

34. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Observer for Egypt) said that the gains made since the Madrid Peace Conference, the Oslo Accords and Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), all of which had confirmed the importance and relevance of the two-State solution, were under threat owing to the absence of negotiations between the two parties. Neither side wanted the status quo to remain. Ongoing Israeli violations at holy sites, which had led to loss of life, must stop, as must settler activity in East Jerusalem, the expulsion of Palestinian families from Shaykh Jarrah and Silwan, home demolition policies and attacks targeting civilians, including children. The freedom of non-governmental organizations must also be respected.

35. The role of the Committee was to support and raise awareness of the just cause of the Palestinian people. Recalling the role played by the United Nations in helping a number of States to gain independence, he called on the Committee to emphasize the need to end the Israeli occupation and the blockade of the Gaza Strip, improve the situation on the ground and accelerate reconstruction in order to restore trust between the two parties and pave the way for peace negotiations based on international law, United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the two-State solution. His delegation reiterated the right of the Palestinian people to an independent State within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. His Government was ready to provide the necessary support to Palestine and had already provided \$500 million in assistance for the people of Gaza.

36. **Mr. Hmoud** (Observer for Jordan) said that the international community must continue to highlight the suffering of the Palestinian people, the difficult conditions they faced under the Israeli occupation and the grievous injustices inflicted on them, which were an affront to human norms and moral values. The Committee had a crucial role to play in efforts to alleviate such suffering and injustices.

37. His delegation supported the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination and to establish an independent, sovereign and viable State on the basis of the 4 June 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital. His delegation remained committed to a peaceful and negotiated settlement on the basis of the two-State solution and in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Jordan would continue, under the Hashemite custodianship, its efforts to safeguard and maintain the Islamic and Christian holy sites in East Jerusalem, while supporting the steadfastness of Jerusalemites and preserving the legal and historical status quo in the holy city.

38. There could be no peace in the region as long as the occupation continued. The international community must therefore step up its efforts to break the stalemate in the peace process and support measures aimed at rebuilding trust and preventing escalations and violations that could undermine peace prospects.

39. **Mr. Ladeb** (Tunisia) said that his delegation reiterated its support for the mandate of the Committee and its efforts to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, in particular the right to self-determination. His delegation supported the end of the Israeli occupation and efforts to achieve a just and viable solution to the Palestinian question, through the establishment of a sovereign State of Palestine within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. His delegation rejected the practices of the occupying Power, in particular the violations of international law and human rights-related conventions and treaties.

40. His delegation welcomed the Committee's programme of work for 2022. The Committee's policy of openness in its interactions with Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and organizations representing women and young people had helped to raise international awareness of the just Palestinian cause and the serious violations of international law committed by the occupying Power. His delegation commended the Committee's efforts to bolster international solidarity to help the Palestinian Authority to face challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. His delegation would work

with the Committee and other stakeholders to contribute to the organization of international events and activities related to the Palestinian question.

41. **Mr. Tirumurti** (India) said that his delegation remained committed to the peaceful resolution of the Palestine question. India supported a negotiated two-State solution leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine, within secure and recognized borders, living side by side in peace with Israel. His country's development partnership with the Palestinian Authority in support of nation-building and its financial assistance to UNRWA were a reflection of that commitment.

42. His delegation was deeply concerned by recent developments in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza, including violent attacks on civilians, acts of destruction and provocation, and the announcement of new settlement units. The Security Council, in its resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), had called for steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, demanded that all settlement activities cease and called on all parties to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues. Unilateral measures that unduly altered the status quo on the ground, undercut the viability of the two-State solution and posed challenges to the resumption of peace talks must be eschewed.

43. The international community must send a strong signal against any step that would prevent the possibility of durable peace between Israel and Palestine and encourage the parties to focus on constructive measures that could pave the way for the resumption of direct negotiations on all final status issues. India had consistently called for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine based on the internationally agreed framework, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for statehood and the legitimate security concerns of Israel.

44. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia) said that he welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to promoting just and lasting peace in Palestine based on the two-State solution and in line with international parameters. Although the Committee had been established in 1975, its goal of helping the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights remained elusive. The situation on the ground was precarious and the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had warned that without the prospect of the realization of the two-State solution, there would be a dangerous collapse and instability.

45. The Committee must strengthen its engagement and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders. It should continue to be innovative, mobilizing the international

community to help realize the aspirations of and protect the Palestinian people. The international community must work together to advance the peace process and support the attainment of the two-State solution based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and international law. Indonesia reaffirmed its unequivocal solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unwavering commitment to support an independent State of Palestine.

46. **Mr. Jardali** (Observer for Lebanon) said that the activities organized by the Committee had helped to keep the Palestinian question in the spotlight. His delegation welcomed the Committee's efforts to engage with civil society to discuss the prospects for achieving peace, ensuring self-determination for the Palestinian people and realizing the two-State solution, and commended the work of civil society organizations in Palestine, which had drawn international attention to the daily struggles of Palestinians and exposed Israeli practices such as home demolitions, the uprooting of Palestinians from their homes, arbitrary detention, aggression and settlement activity in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

47. Holding the occupying Power to account and ending impunity was an important condition for bringing peace to the region. Amnesty International, in a report entitled "Israel's apartheid against Palestinians", had categorized as crimes against humanity such crimes as the deliberate oppression and domination of Palestinians, the dispossession of Palestinian land and property, administrative detention, torture and unlawful killings. Despite international efforts, the reality on the ground for Palestinians had worsened over the previous 70 years. Israeli military campaigns of aggression in Gaza and the expansionist settlement policy of Israel were coupled with disregard for international law and international humanitarian law. The only way forward in the Middle East was through a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on international legality, the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 2334 (2016) reaffirming the principle of land for peace, and an end to the occupation.

48. Israel was attempting to cover up the reality of its occupation by accusing international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations of bias in order to prevent them from helping Palestinians on the ground. The international community must not accept that false narrative. Such organizations must be allowed to continue to do their work without facing harassment or disruption.

49. The outcomes of the international ministerial conference on UNRWA convened by Jordan and Sweden in Brussels in November 2021 had demonstrated the international community's recognition of the role played by UNRWA in the lives of Palestinians in the Middle East. His delegation emphasized the importance of supporting UNRWA both politically and financially, particularly at a time when the Agency was facing increased political attacks aimed at discrediting it and when Palestinians were experiencing deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, aggravated by the pandemic, in Palestine and in host countries. His delegation called on the members of the international community to fulfil their financial pledges and increase their financial support for UNRWA to ensure that the Agency's core budget needs for 2022 and beyond were met in a sustainable and predictable manner.

50. **Ms. Özgür** (Turkey) said that arbitrary arrests, illegal settlements, forced evictions, home demolitions and attempts to change the status of Jerusalem and Haram al-Sharif were detrimental to the prospect of a two-State solution. Inter-Palestinian reconciliation was integral to achieving peace in the region. Her delegation would continue to support unity among the Palestinian parties and urged other Member States to do the same.

51. The international community should support the Palestinian economy. Millions of Palestine refugees relied on the assistance provided by UNRWA and its services must be provided in a sustainable, uninterrupted manner. Turkey would continue to support the Agency's vital work, both financially and politically.

52. Her delegation supported the two-State solution leading to the establishment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Resuming peace negotiations was a priority. To that end, the work of the Quartet must be revitalized.

53. **Ms. Gui Dan** (Observer for China) said that the question of Palestine, which had been on the agenda of the United Nations for 75 years, lay at the heart of the Middle East issue. In order to advance the Middle East peace process, the international community should adhere to the two-State solution, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace. Her delegation hoped that Palestine and Israel would take the recent high-level interactions as an opportunity to build momentum, gradually rebuild mutual trust and restart dialogue on an equal footing as soon as possible.

54. The Palestinian factions should be encouraged to achieve internal reconciliation through consultation and dialogue and to develop a unified negotiating position.

The Palestinian Authority should be given enhanced authority, including the power to exercise sovereign functions in such areas as security and finance, and should have effective control over the occupied territories.

55. Her delegation called on the international community to provide assistance to Palestine through multiple channels to ease the financial crisis and to help Gaza to recover and rebuild, and to support the work of UNRWA. The parties concerned should lift the blockade and siege on Gaza as soon as possible, safeguard the legitimate rights of the people in the occupied territories and put an end to settlement expansion, evictions, forced demolitions, violence against civilians and other actions that undermined mutual trust and fuelled conflict.

56. The League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and countries with significant influence should play a more active role. The Security Council should also shoulder its responsibilities with a renewed sense of urgency and take action in favour of a just and lasting solution. Her delegation called for the holding of an international peace conference, led by the United Nations, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all stakeholders in the Middle East peace process.

57. China supported the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital; the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel; and the joint development of the Arab and Jewish peoples. Her delegation would work with the international community to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue and achieve security, stability, development and prosperity in the Middle East.

58. **Mr. Hossain** (Observer for Bangladesh) said that his delegation had always supported the just cause of the people of Palestine and advocated the establishment of an independent, viable and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, under a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. Despite the efforts of the international community, 2021 had been a horrific year for the Palestinian people, with continued military atrocities, detentions and arrests, the expansion of illegal settlements, attacks by settlers and home demolitions. The occupying Power had killed at least 324 Palestinians, including 86 children, and Palestinians were restricted from accessing jobs, health care and other services. The Committee must redouble its efforts to ensure that Israeli occupation forces and settlers were held to account for their crimes. The aggressions and illegal activities continued precisely because of the

international community's failure to hold Israel to account.

59. The economic situation of the people in the occupied territories remained volatile owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the blockade. His delegation welcomed the Committee's support for the Humanitarian Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and hoped that the Committee would contribute to efforts to mobilize support for UNRWA. The Committee should pay particular attention to the ill-treatment of children and to ensuring that they received the necessary assistance, including mental and psychosocial support.

60. His delegation welcomed the Committee's advocacy and outreach work with the international community and civil society and hoped that such collaboration would continue, with a view to increasing political support and humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. The Committee should also work in partnership with other members of the United Nations family and international human rights mechanisms. The Committee should work for all rights holders and victims of human rights violations, in particular those belonging to marginalized or vulnerable groups. The ability of all Palestinians in the occupied territories to exercise their rights must be guaranteed by the Israeli authorities. Investigations must be conducted into Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories.

61. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation supported the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, within the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and its admission as a full member of the Organization. The two-State solution was the only way to put an end to the decades-long conflict.

62. With mistrust among world powers reaching fever pitch, measures must be taken to reduce tensions and generate confidence, with a view to creating an environment conducive to the resumption of political dialogue and credible, serious and direct negotiations aimed at achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security. Accordingly, his delegation called on the occupying Power to comply with its obligations under the relevant United Nations resolutions, stop violating international law and perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Palestinian people, put an end to its

colonial and apartheid policies, and refrain from unilateral acts.

63. It was time to adopt measures aimed at providing international protection to the Palestinian civilian population and ensuring that those responsible for the heinous crimes committed were brought to justice. The international community must redouble its efforts to put an end to the current situation of international impunity which had been facilitated over time by a permanent member of the Security Council and encouraged the crimes of Israel. His delegation would participate constructively in the work of the Committee with a view to achieving a just, peaceful, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine and putting an end to the Israeli military aggression.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.