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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 26 November, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 31: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/C.4/62/L.8, L.9 and L.19)

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.8: Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects

1. **Mr. Oudin** (France), speaking in his delegation's capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), introduced the draft resolution. It reflected the conclusions of the Working Group on the Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects, adopted by the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee as a whole. The draft was a consensus text and he hoped it would be adopted without a vote.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.8 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

3. **Mr. Oudin** (France), speaking in his delegation's capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the draft resolution. One of the highlights in the text was its endorsement of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, adopted by that Committee at its fiftieth session. Implementation of those Guidelines by Member States would increase the safety of systems deployed in outer space and reduce space debris. The Guidelines highlighted the situation of missions coming to the end of their operations, and called on Member States and international organizations to pursue further research relating to space debris and to review the Guidelines in the light of new developments.

4. The text also noted with satisfaction the establishment of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in keeping with the 2005 Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action, which recognized the importance of space technology for coping with disasters, and with the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters". In that context he expressed regret that the usual consensus relating to resolutions on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space had not been possible with regard to

paragraph 42 of the text. Certain delegations opposed a paragraph the provisions of which would require an increase in the United Nations regular budget, as indicated in the statement of programme-budget implications in document A/C.4/62/L.19. That lack of consensus should not, however, obscure the importance of the Committee's work to develop a clear legal framework for activities in outer space and for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

5. **Mr. Jones** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that, in accordance with rule 129 of the rules of procedure, his delegation requested a separate recorded vote on paragraph 42 of the text. No consensus had been achieved on the text, in particular paragraph 42, and negotiations should continue, given that the adoption of the current paragraph would have programme-budget implications.

6. **Mr. Endo** (Japan) stressed his delegation's commitment to the work of COPUOS and regretted that the draft resolution had been submitted to the Committee without affording Member States the opportunity to continue negotiations in order to achieve consensus. Some elements of paragraph 42 were unacceptable to his delegation. The paragraph would require the Secretary-General to increase the regular budget of the Organization even though General Assembly resolution 61/110 establishing UN-SPIDER, adopted by consensus, made it clear that UN-SPIDER should not give rise to any increase in the Organization's regular budget, a position endorsed in the report of COPUOS, likewise adopted by consensus. He stressed that the sponsors should complete full and exhaustive negotiations before submitting a text for action.

7. *A recorded vote was taken on paragraph 42 of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of

Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Italy, New Zealand, Poland.

8. *Paragraph 42 was adopted by 148 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.*

9. **Mr. Jones** (United States of America) said he regretted the lack of consensus. The current paragraph 42 was unacceptable to his delegation, which, along with other delegations, had expressed their concerns in that regard during informal consultations and in the working group of the whole. He believed the matter could have been resolved through further good-faith negotiations.

10. The current paragraph 42 would result in financial implications for the regular budget, which

would be inconsistent with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 61/110, according to which UN-SPIDER should be supported through voluntary contributions and through a rearrangement of priorities within the framework of the United Nations reform process and, if necessary, a rearrangement of priorities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and that the additional activities should not, as far as possible, have a negative impact on the current programme activities of the Office or result in an increase in the total regular budget of the United Nations.

11. He also noted that COPUOS had further agreed at its fiftieth session that in the event that UN-SPIDER did not receive all the regular-budget resources requested for 2008-2009, the Office would prepare a reduced workplan for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It was on that basis that his delegation had worked with Member States to make progress towards the implementation of UN-SPIDER. It was disturbing that other delegations had disrupted the long-standing tradition of consensus on the text of the draft resolution.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9, as a whole, was adopted.*

13. **Ms. Rodríguez** (Mexico) said she regretted the need for a recorded vote on paragraph 42 of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9. Her delegation had voted against paragraph 42, which fundamentally altered the funding mechanisms for the UN-SPIDER programme, in contradiction to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 61/110, which called for the programme to be funded through voluntary contributions and stipulated that the programme should not lead to an increase in the regular budget.

14. Her delegation had nevertheless joined in the consensus on the draft resolution as a whole, in keeping with its commitment to disaster mitigation, given Mexico's vulnerability to such events. Her delegation remained committed to international disaster-mitigation efforts and to UN-SPIDER, and hoped that coordination between such efforts and UN-SPIDER would avoid duplication of efforts and ensure maximum benefits for Member States.

15. **Mr. Endo** (Japan) said he regretted that the draft resolution had been submitted for action in spite of the desire of certain Member States to pursue further consultations with a view to achieving consensus. It was disappointing that the sponsors had not respected

the wishes of those States. Some elements of paragraph 42 were unacceptable to his delegation and it disassociated itself from the consensus. His delegation was committed to the work of COPUOS and regretted that paragraph 42 contradicted General Assembly resolution 61/110 in that it would lead to an increase in the regular budget.

16. **Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura** (Brazil) said that his delegation had voted in favour of paragraph 42, the text of which provided a good basis for compromise, and supported the consensus on the draft resolution as a whole. He nevertheless stressed that UN-SPIDER should rely mainly on voluntary contributions for its funding. Furthermore, the Secretariat should make every effort to use existing resources to support the programme, including through rearranging the priorities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, without prejudice however to its other programme activities.

17. He recalled that the report of COPUOS (A/62/20) stated that, in the event that UN-SPIDER did not receive all the regular budget resources requested for 2008-2009, the Office for Outer Space Affairs would present to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee a reduced workplan for the period 2008-2009. His delegation also believed that UN-SPIDER should have a flexible structure capable of operating effectively through a network of regional support offices to be designated in cooperation with Member States.

18. **Mr. Sangchai** (Thailand) said he regretted the failure to reach agreement on the funding of the UN-SPIDER programme, established the previous year by consensus. As a tsunami-affected country, Thailand fully recognized the value of using satellite information to assist countries affected by natural disasters. The UN-SPIDER programme was intended to benefit all Member States, in particular the many developing countries that did not have the space-related capability to create effective disaster-prevention and disaster-management plans and would strengthen Member States' disaster-management capacity-building. As a member of COPUOS, his delegation had therefore voted in favour of the UN-SPIDER plan of work for 2007, the platform programme for the period 2007-2009 and the plan of work for the period 2008-2009.

19. **Mr. Mir** (United Kingdom) stressed the importance of the work of COPUOS for both space-faring and non-space-faring nations. He welcomed in

the particular the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation had not, however, voted in favour of paragraph 42, adoption of which would lead to an increase in the regular budget, contrary to General Assembly resolution 61/110, adopted by consensus. Given the current demands on the United Nations regular budget, it was inappropriate to depart from the terms of that resolution. His delegation therefore took it that the recommendations contained in paragraph 42 had been adopted on an exceptional basis and expected that in future, UN-SPIDER would be funded in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/110.

20. **Mr. Jones** (United States of America) said that his delegation dissociated itself from the consensus on the adoption of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9.

Agenda item 32: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
(continued) (A/C.4/62/L.10-L.13)

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.10: Assistance to Palestine refugees

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.11: Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.12: Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.13: Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

21. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee), said that draft resolutions A/C.4/62/L.10-L.13 had no programme budget implications.

22. **Mr. Tugio** (Indonesia), introducing the four draft resolutions, on behalf of the sponsors, said that they were largely the same as those adopted at the previous session, except for minor changes to reflect recent developments. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to carry out its difficult mandate in spite of financial constraints and continued Israeli military action against the Palestinian people. Those actions had worsened the humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip.

23. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.10, he drew attention to the first, second, fifth through eighth, and tenth preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 1, 2 and 4, and said that, in paragraph 5, the mandate of the Agency was extended by the General Assembly. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.11, he emphasized paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. Turning to draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.12, he singled out the ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth preambular paragraphs for attention, as well as paragraphs for attention, 1, 2, 6, 8 and 10 to 12. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.13, he emphasized the first, fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 1, 2 and 5.

24. He expressed the hope that the draft resolutions would receive the broadest possible endorsement, reflecting the international community's firm and continuing support for the humanitarian work of UNRWA and for the Palestine refugees.

25. **The Chairman** invited Committee members to take action on the four draft resolutions, one by one.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.10: Assistance to Palestine refugees

26. **The Chairman** said that Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had become sponsors.

27. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana,

Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.10 was adopted by 160 to 1, with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.11: Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

29. **The Chairman** said that Bangladesh, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had become sponsors.

30. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize,

Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Canada.

31. Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.11 was adopted by 158 to 6, with 1 abstention.*

* The delegation of Argentina subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.12: Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

32. **The Chairman** said that Bangladesh, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had become sponsors.

33. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian

Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.12 was adopted by 159 to 6, with 1 abstention.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.13: Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

35. **The Chairman** said that Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had become sponsors.

36. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco,

Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.13 was adopted by 158 to 6, with 1 abstention.**

Agenda item 33: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*)

(A/C.4/62/L.14-L.18)

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.14: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.15: 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

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

* The delegation of the Netherlands subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17: Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.18: The occupied Syrian Golan

38. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba), introducing the five draft resolutions on behalf of the sponsors, said that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, had continued to deteriorate as a result of human-rights violations committed by Israel. Member States must send Israel a clear message to cease its illegal policies and to respect human rights.

39. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.14, she drew attention to the third, fourth, eighth, ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 8 (a). In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.15, she singled out the seventh and ninth preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 1 to 3 and paragraph 5 for attention. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16, she emphasized the thirteenth and fifteenth preambular paragraphs, as well as paragraphs 1, 2 and 5. In draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17, she drew attention to the eleventh and seventeenth to nineteenth preambular paragraphs, as well as paragraphs 1, 2, 7 and 13.

40. She noted that, except for appropriate updating of dates and figures, draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.18 was identical to those adopted in previous years, which had always received almost universal support. It sent a strong message against foreign occupation and the acquisition of territory by force and, in particular, the unlawful annexation by Israel of the Syrian Golan.

41. She hoped that members would give their broad support to the five draft resolutions.

42. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the programme budget implications of paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.14, said that a provision of \$297,000 for the Special Committee had been included under Section 23 (Human rights) in the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009. Hence, adoption of the draft resolution would not entail any additional appropriation. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, which reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate main committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary

matters and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

43. With regard to draft resolutions A/C.4/62/L.15-L.18, he said that they had no programme budget implications.

44. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that certain paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17 had been drafted so as to hold the Palestinians, not Israel, responsible for their own suffering. The wording of the draft also sent a political message to Israel that encouraged it to continue in its practices towards the Palestinian people.

45. Accordingly, his delegation could not accept the nineteenth preambular paragraph and paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. Nonetheless, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution because it understood that implementation of those paragraphs was directly linked to Israeli compliance with the other paragraphs.

46. He said that, in view of the intra-Palestinian violence that had occurred in the Gaza Strip, his delegation had wanted to include language urging the factions to engage in direct dialogue and to restore Palestinian national unity. For its part, his country would make every effort to help them achieve that goal.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.14: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

47. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Guinea, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

48. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan

Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

49. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.14 was adopted by 85 votes to 8, with 70 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.15: 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

50. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

* The delegation of Burundi subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to abstain on the draft resolution.

51. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Angola, Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi.

52. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.15 was adopted by 155 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

53. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

54. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Tonga.

55. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16 was adopted by 154 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17: Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

56. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Malaysia and Senegal had joined the sponsors.

57. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands,

New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, Malawi, Tonga, Uganda.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17 was adopted by 148 votes to 8, with 7 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.18: The occupied Syrian Golan

59. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Malaysia, Somalia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

60. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti,

Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Tonga, United States of America.

61. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.18 was adopted by 154 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions.*

62. **Mr. Salgueiro** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union attached great importance to the human rights of the Palestinian people and of all other people in the region and called on all the parties to the conflict to respect those rights. Following its practice in previous years, it had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.17, while recognizing the need for a balanced approach to the matter. It strongly condemned the firing of rockets into Israel. He reaffirmed the European Union's support for the international ministerial meeting currently opening in Annapolis and hoped that it would lead to meaningful final-status negotiations.

63. **Mr. Bowman** (Canada) said that his delegation remained concerned about the disproportionate attention given by the Committee to the Middle East situation and the number of draft resolutions singling out Israel. The debate in the General Assembly should be fair-minded, reflect the responsibilities of all the Member States concerned and serve to advance efforts to arrive at a negotiated two-State solution. Canada had reiterated its support for draft resolutions touching on the key issues. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.15, as Israel had violated the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly through its settlements on the West Bank, and had for that reason also voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16. Some of the language used in the draft resolutions was unbalanced, however, particularly in draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.16. His delegation had abstained on draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.11 as it failed to mention that the issue of displaced Palestinians needed to be addressed in the context of a comprehensive solution. He called on all Member States to contribute to the search for peace and to resist any further polarization of the situation.

64. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolutions A/C.4/62/L.16 and L.17, in accordance with its longstanding position. His country had always been unwavering in its support for the Palestinian people and stood behind their legal, democratic Government. Noting that some parts of the draft resolutions could be construed as interference in their domestic affairs, he stressed that the internal difficulties of the Palestinian people should be addressed by the Palestinians themselves. The support of the international community for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people was of critical importance, since there could be no solution unless those rights were fully recognized and restored. One reason why efforts to resolve the situation had failed was that a particular permanent member of the Security Council had adopted an unbalanced attitude to the question, particularly with regard of the right of return of Palestinian refugees, the continued occupation of Palestinian territory by Israel and Israel's persistent violation of the rights of the Palestinian people.

65. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, by adopting the draft resolutions under agenda items 32 and 33, the international community had rejected the principle of the forcible acquisition of territory. It had

also sent Israel a clear message that it should end its occupation of Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and had reaffirmed that Israel's attempts to annex the Golan or to impose its laws thereon were null and void and without international legal effect. The adoption of the draft resolutions had also confirmed the importance of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, and he called on all Member States to continue their support for the Special Committee.

66. Although his country had repeatedly stated its commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace and had launched, in conjunction with the other Arab States, the Arab Peace Initiative, Israel had responded either by evading or ignoring any peace proposals and had continued to violate international humanitarian law.

67. With regard to the delegations that had abstained, he urged them to vote in favour of the draft resolutions in the plenary Assembly.

68. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for Palestine) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolutions, in view of the ongoing plight of the Palestine refugees and the concomitant need for the assistance of UNRWA. It was clear from the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Committee's own discussions that the situation of Palestine refugees remained critical. Every effort must be made by the international community to address that situation, especially through strong support for UNRWA from the donor community.

69. The draft resolutions just adopted on Israeli practices addressed the serious violations of human rights by the occupying Power, which had caused the Palestinian civilian population great suffering, and reaffirmed the applicable principles and rules of international law. Adherence to international law offered a peaceful means of resolving the situation. That did not mean, however, that Palestine did not support the current efforts to achieve peace in the region, which also required the international community's commitment to international humanitarian and human-rights law, as reflected in the aforesaid draft resolutions, and in past resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular its resolution 194 (III) on the inalienable right of return of Palestine refugees. Human-rights violations were not compatible with

peace, which therefore required that they should cease, in accordance with international law.

Completion of the Committee's work for the main part of the sixty-second session

70. **The Chairman** declared that the Fourth Committee had completed its work for the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.