

Middle East

In 2011, the United Nations worked to restart talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians with a view to reaching a final settlement under which two States—Israel and Palestine—would exist side by side in peace. The peace effort remained stalled, however, due to several factors, including Israel's continued blockade of Gaza on both land and sea; indiscriminate rocket and mortar fire directed against Israel by Hamas, the ruling political party in Gaza, followed by retaliatory Israeli airstrikes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; renewed Israeli settlement building and settler violence; and the confiscation of land and destruction of Palestinian property by Israelis in the West Bank. The United Nations considered Palestinian Authority (PA) functions in several areas to be sufficient for a viable State government. The two main political parties of Palestine—Fatah and Hamas—signed a unity agreement to work together in bringing a unified Palestinian State to fruition, but ultimately could not agree on several concessions.

On 23 September, Palestine applied for United Nations membership. The Organization took no action with regard to Palestine's application, but the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization granted Palestine full membership in October. Consequently, the United States and Israel cut certain sectors of aid to Palestine.

The Quartet—a coordinating mechanism for international peace efforts, comprising the European Union, the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Nations—met several times over the year. On 23 September, it proposed a timed framework to restart the peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The plan included an agreed agenda and method of procedure; comprehensive proposals on territory and security; and a donors' conference to appeal for sustained support to the Palestinians' State-building actions.

On 18 October, Hamas released Israeli Sergeant Gilad Shalit, who had been held in Gaza without international access since 2006, in exchange for 477 Palestinian prisoners—many of whom had been jailed for involvement in attacks on Israelis. The Secretary-General called Shalit's release and the freeing of Palestinian prisoners a humanitarian breakthrough.

The Security Council held 19 meetings throughout the year on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The panel investigating the May 2010 flotilla incident submitted to the Council

a final report, which questioned the true objectives of the flotilla organizers and acknowledged the threat to Israel's security from militant groups in Gaza. The decision of the Israel Defense Forces to board the vessels far from the blockade zone, however, was deemed excessive, as was its mistreatment of passengers before they were deported.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East faced further challenges due to the displacement of people as a result of the political and social unrest that occurred in parts of the Middle East and North Africa. The Agency addressed the needs of refugees across the region, including Syrian refugees in Lebanon, who had fled Government suppression of popular uprisings, but budget shortfalls prevented it from meeting the increased demand for its services.

In Lebanon, the Government of National Unity collapsed in January. The absence of political authority in the months that followed led to institutional paralysis and a deterioration of security conditions. In June, the Prime Minister-Designate announced the formation of a new Government, which won a vote of confidence in July. The Special Tribunal established to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri indicted four suspects in the attack and ruled in favour of a trial in absentia. In August, the mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was renewed for one year. UNIFIL withstood three direct terrorist attacks in 2011.

Anti-Government demonstrations in the Syrian Arab Republic began in March and increased steadily in geographic scope and size. Dissidents called for the downfall of the regime, echoing slogans heard across the region. The Syrian authorities reacted with a mix of reform measures and progressively more violent repression, which the Secretary-General condemned. In an August presidential statement, the Security Council also condemned violations of human rights and the use of force against civilians by the Syrian authorities; it called for an end to violence and urged all sides to act with restraint and refrain from reprisals. The Secretary-General also urged President Bashar Al-Assad to end the military campaign against the Syrian people and to engage in meaningful reform. Syrian security forces, however, continued to clash with protesters. The resulting death toll eventually surpassed 3,000 people on both sides.

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights was renewed twice in 2011. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization continued to assist UNIFIL and UNDOF by providing unarmed military observers to supervise armistice agreements, ceasefires and related tasks.

Peace process

Diplomatic efforts

In 2011, the United Nations worked to create conditions conducive to a resumption of talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), to be followed by formal negotiations on a two-State solution. The PA, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, pursued a vigorous agenda of State-building and closely consulted with Egypt to forge a coalition agreement among its political factions, including Fatah and Hamas, which controlled Gaza. The accord failed to achieve a plan for a cohesive government, thus preventing national elections and weakening Israel's confidence in the process. Nevertheless, Palestine submitted its application for UN membership in September. In October, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) granted Palestine full membership. Consequently, the United States and Israel cut certain sectors of aid to Palestine. Ultimately, continued rocket and mortar fire emanating from militants in Gaza, the naval and land blockade imposed by Israel, increased settler violence in the West Bank and other incidents reduced the prospects for peace. At year's end, the parties stood further away from a solution, despite significant efforts by the Quartet—a coordinating mechanism for international peace efforts, comprising the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations—and the Arab Peace Initiative [YUN 2002, p. 419]. Although the Palestinian economy experienced an increase in gross domestic product, it continued to rely heavily on aid and the illegal "tunnel economy".

The Security Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, some also including the Palestinian question, at meetings held on 19 January [S/PV.6470], 18 February [S/PV.6484], 24 February [S/PV.6488], 22 March [S/PV.6501], 21 April [S/PV.6520], 27 April [S/PV.6524], 19 May [S/PV.6540], 23 June [S/PV.6562], 30 June [S/PV.6572], 26 July [S/PV.6590], 3 August [S/PV.6598], 25 August [S/PV.6602], 30 August [S/PV.6605], 27 September [S/PV.6623], 4 October [S/PV.6627], 24 October [S/PV.6636], 21 November [S/PV.6662], 20 December [S/PV.6692] and 21 December [S/PV.6693].

Five communications dealing with Council meeting participation were issued during the year: 17 January [S/2011/23], 18 February [S/2011/79], 18 April [S/2011/259], 21 July [S/2011/444] and 20 October [S/2011/653].

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Political and security developments

Communications. On 7 January [A/ES-10/508-S/2011/6], the PA, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, expressed concern over the killings of three Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: a 35-year-old woman died after inhaling tear gas during a peaceful demonstration on 1 January; a 25-year-old man was killed at a military checkpoint in the West Bank on 2 January; and a 66-year-old man was killed in a raid against a home on 7 January.

In a 13 January letter [A/65/692-S/2011/51], Guyana informed the Secretary-General that it formally recognized the State of Palestine.

Security Council consideration. On 19 January [S/PV.6470], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. He reported that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations remained at a deadlock. The Office of the Secretary-General supported the efforts of the United States to engage in substantive parallel talks with the parties. The United States Special Envoy to the Middle East, George Mitchell, visited the region in December 2010, and Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held separate consultations with the United States in Washington, D.C., in January 2011. The continued Israeli search operations in the West Bank undermined the PA, however, in opposition to the strategic goal. All parties needed to refrain from targeting or endangering civilians and cease acts of violence.

Communication. On 1 February [S/2011/49], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, brought to their attention a 31 January incident in which three long-range rockets launched from Gaza exploded in southern Israel near the cities of Netivot and Ofakim, and in the area of Eshkol. In response to the attacks, Israel would exercise its right to self-defence and take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

Quartet meeting. On 5 February [SG/2168], the Quartet—including the Secretary-General, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States Special Envoy George Mitchell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and Quartet Representative Tony Blair—urged Palestine and Israel to overcome obsta-

cles in their own countries to bring about renewed talks. It reaffirmed that negotiations should lead to an outcome that ended the occupation that began in 1967 and resolved all permanent status issues to achieve a two-State solution. The Quartet reiterated its support for concluding the negotiations by September. It would seek to meet separately with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Brussels, Belgium, as well as with representatives of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee, and would consider their views on how to resume negotiations on all core issues, including borders and security. The Quartet considered the implications on the Arab-Israeli peace process of the recent developments in Egypt and elsewhere in the region, and agreed to discuss the issue further in upcoming meetings.

The Quartet encouraged the full implementation of the package of measures announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Blair for the West Bank and Gaza. It regretted the discontinuation of Israel's 10-month moratorium on settlement activity. It reaffirmed that unilateral actions by either party could not prejudice the outcome of negotiations and would not be recognized by the international community. The Quartet condemned rocket fire from Gaza and stressed the need for calm and security for both peoples. It believed that further delay in the resumption of talks was detrimental to prospects for regional peace and security.

Communications. On 9 February [S/2011/65], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, detailed an attack from Gaza on 8 February, in which four mortars struck the area of Sha'ar Hanegev in southern Israel.

On 23 February [S/2011/90], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that earlier that day a Grad-type rocket had been launched towards Be'er Sheva, the largest city in southern Israel. The rocket exploded in the backyard of a house and wounded 10 civilians. The attack followed the launching of three mortars towards a kibbutz in the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council and the detonation of an explosive aimed at Israel Defense Forces (IDF) personnel performing routine activity near the security fence in northern Gaza.

Security Council consideration. On 24 February [S/PV.6488], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, briefed the Council. He said that shifting regional dynamics added uncertainty to the Middle East peace process; progress towards a negotiated solution would contribute to stabilizing the region. There was low confidence and trust among the parties involved in the peace talks, however, as well as in international efforts to help them overcome their differences.

Israel continued to build 2,000 units in the West Bank after the moratorium expired on 26 September 2010. The Special Coordinator said that Israel needed to adhere to the call of the international community, the provisions of international law and the road map to a permanent two-State solution [YUN 2003, p. 464] by freezing all settlement activity, including in East Jerusalem.

The PA advanced its State-building agenda; its established institutions represented the basis of a "State-in-waiting". On 4 February, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Quartet Representative Blair agreed on a package of measures designed to help improve Palestinian livelihoods and support economic growth in the West Bank and Gaza; it was imperative that the measures be implemented in full. On 14 February, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad submitted his Government's resignation, and President Abbas tasked him with forming a new Government. The Special Coordinator noted the Prime Minister's suggestion to form a Government of national unity based on non-violence as a first step towards advancing reconciliation between Palestinian factions. It was critical that the donor community support the PA and the reform agenda, even though the PA had halved its dependence on budgetary assistance since 2008.

Communications. On 24 February [A/65/766-S/2011/103], the Russian Federation and the EU issued a joint statement on the situation in North Africa and the Middle East. They stressed that current upheavals in the region should not be used as a pretext for maintaining an impasse in efforts to establish peace in the Middle East; on the contrary, such efforts should be intensified. The achievement of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was an important component of efforts aimed at stabilization and sustainable development of the region as a whole. Russia and the EU would seek, at the next Quartet ministerial meeting, the adoption of effective decisions encouraging the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to open the way to a comprehensive settlement. They reaffirmed their support for efforts to re-establish Palestinian unity on the basis of principles enshrined in the Arab Peace Initiative.

On 12 March [S/2011/136], Israel transmitted identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President expressing concern over the killing of a family of five, including two young children and a baby, in the Israeli community of Itamar by terrorists on 11 March. Israel expected the PA to cooperate with Israel in apprehending those responsible for the attack and take action to prevent such crimes from occurring in the future.

Quartet statement. On 14 March [SG/2172], the Quartet condemned the murder that day of an Israeli family of five, including three small children, in the West Bank. It welcomed President Abbas' condemna-

tion of the killings and called for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Communications. On 18 March [S/2011/148], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that on 15 March, approximately 40 tons of weaponry were found aboard the cargo vessel *Victoria*, sailing to Egypt from the port of Mersin, Turkey, flying the flag of Liberia. Among the ship's cargo were three containers carrying advanced C-704 anti-ship missiles and their launchers, radar and fire control systems, mortar shells and munitions originating from Iran. The attempt to transfer weaponry from Iran to terrorist organizations in Gaza constituted a violation of several Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], 1747(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 374] and 1860(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 434].

On 19 March [S/2011/162], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that approximately 50 mortars were fired from Gaza into southern Israel that day. The attacks, for which Hamas claimed responsibility, represented an unprecedented increase in projectile fire emanating from Gaza since the end of Israel's Operation Cast Lead in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 434].

Security Council consideration. On 22 March [S/PV.6501], the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. Violent incidents and tensions had increased since February, and there was a lack of results in efforts to restart the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. As agreed on 5 February (see p. 403), Quartet envoys had met separately with Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, and were considering the views of the parties on renewing talks on all core issues, including borders and security.

Israel deployed forces in several areas throughout the West Bank to detain the perpetrators of the 11 March murder of an Israeli family in Itamar (see p. 404) and to contain attempts by Israeli settlers to attack Palestinians and their property in reprisal. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recorded 8 incidents that resulted in injuries to Palestinians and 23 that caused damage to their property. Israeli forces reinstated the Hawwara checkpoint near Nablus and conducted 320 search operations in the West Bank.

On 7 March, Israel announced its intention to demolish all illegal West Bank outposts built on private Palestinian land by the end of 2011. The declaration failed to address the existence of more than 100 other West Bank outposts constructed in violation of international law and Israel's own regulations on settlement building. On 12 March, Israel approved the construction of about 400 housing units in the West Bank as a reaction to the Itamar murders.

On 15 March, demonstrations involving more than 100,000 people calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and the Palestinian political divide took place in most major West Bank cities and in Gaza. Hamas security forces quashed the protests, and the following day suppressed a student gathering, causing several injuries. On 19 March, Hamas forces stormed the bureaux of several international news agencies, attacking journalists, confiscating tapes and destroying equipment.

Despite difficulties, preparations for municipal elections continued. The Palestinian Central Elections Committee organized voter registration in the West Bank from 9 to 15 March, although it could not open offices in Gaza due to Hamas control. President Abbas on 8 March confirmed that local elections scheduled for 9 July would take place on time, but presidential and legislative elections would not be held unless the West Bank and Gaza participated simultaneously.

Communications. On 23 March [S/2011/176], in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, Israel stated that a bomb planted by terrorists exploded at a bus stop outside the International Convention Centre in Jerusalem, killing one woman and injuring more than 40 people. In the previous week, Israel had been the target of 63 mortar shells and four rockets launched from Gaza, for which it held Hamas responsible.

On 7 April [S/2011/227], Israel stated that a school bus travelling near Kibbutz Sa'ad in southern Israel was struck and destroyed by a Kornet anti-tank missile fired from Gaza. Two civilians were wounded during the attack: a 16-year-old boy and the bus driver. The strike was part of a barrage of some 45 mortars and Qassam rockets fired from Gaza into communities in southern Israel. On 10 April [S/2011/231], Israel said that since the 7 April incident, terrorist organizations in Gaza had fired approximately 131 projectiles, including 12 Grad missiles, 70 Qassam rockets and 49 mortars, at communities in southern Israel.

On 8 April [A/ES-10/516-S/2011/229], Palestine, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that a series of Israeli air strikes and artillery fire against Gaza had killed 13 Palestinians and injured a number of others over the previous 24 hours. The Palestinian leadership appealed to the international community to call on Israel to cease its attacks against Gaza.

Security Council consideration. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefing the Security Council on 21 April [S/PV.6520], said that both parties in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process should be concerned that the political track was falling behind the significant progress made by the PA in its State-building agenda. The United Nations

made clear in its 13 April report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians that in the six areas in which it was most engaged with the PA, governmental functions were sufficient for a viable State. The six areas comprised governance, rule of law and human rights; livelihoods and productive sectors; education and culture; health; social protection; and infrastructure and water. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund also reported strong progress in institution-building. Those achievements, however, remained limited to certain areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and did not apply to East Jerusalem, Area C or Gaza.

During the reporting period, Gaza and Israel had witnessed the highest levels of violence since the end of Operation Cast Lead [YUN 2009, p. 434]. The United Nations was alarmed over Hamas' actions to escalate violence, which endangered civilians on both sides and risked a deeper confrontation with Israel. The Secretary-General condemned the firing of rockets from Gaza and called for its cessation. He reiterated his calls for maximum restraint by Israel, and stated that Israel's closure of the Kerem Shalom crossing point to Gaza illustrated the detrimental effects of the violence on the humanitarian situation. Two suspects from the Palestinian village of Awarta were arrested for allegedly perpetrating the murder of the Israeli family in Itamar on 11 March, and a number of others were arrested as alleged accomplices.

Communications. On 2 May [A/ES-10/517-S/2011/280], Palestine submitted identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stating that on 1 May, the Israeli Minister of Finance declared the suspension of the transfer of taxes collected by Israel on behalf of the PA. Israeli officials claimed that the measure was taken in response to the announcement of an agreement regarding Palestinian unity and reconciliation. Palestine said that the suspension of tax revenues and other levies owed to the PA constituted an act of piracy and would have detrimental consequences for the Palestinian civilian population.

On 16 May [A/ES-10/519-S/2011/308], Palestine informed the Secretary-General and the Council that on 15 May, thousands of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and elsewhere in the region participated in peaceful demonstrations on the anniversary of Al-Nakba, the dispossession and uprooting of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and land in 1948, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. Israeli security forces responded to demonstrations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the southern Lebanese town of Maroun al-Ras (see p. 459) and the town of Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan (see p. 474) with excessive force, firing tear gas, rubber bullets, stun grenades and live ammunition at unarmed protesters. At

least 17 civilians were killed, including children, and more than 300 were wounded, the majority of whom were Palestine refugees. At the same time, Israel carried out air raids in the Beit Hanoun area of Gaza.

On 19 May [S/2011/322], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that on 16 May a Malaysian-owned ship, *MV Finch*, sailing under the Moldovan flag, challenged Israel's naval blockade of Gaza. The action was sponsored by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF), an organization that had made previous attempts to violate the blockade, including participation in the 2010 flotilla incident [YUN 2010, p. 439]. According to PGPF, the ship was carrying 12 people and 7.5 kilometres of sewerage pipe, which were to be delivered to Gaza. IDF rerouted the vessel to the Port of El Arish in Egypt. Israel said that the attempt to violate the blockade was designed to serve a political agenda, not to advance a humanitarian goal.

Security Council consideration. On 19 May [S/PV.6540], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on two significant events: the conclusion in April, under Egyptian auspices, of a reconciliation accord between Palestinian factions; and clashes in May between Israeli security forces and Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria and the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the largest demonstration of Palestinians in many years. In the absence of negotiations and amid continued Israeli settlement expansion, the PA was preparing to approach the United Nations in September to seek recognition of a Palestinian State. Egypt and the United Nations had assisted in securing relative calm between Israel and Gaza, and security cooperation and performance had been sustained in the West Bank.

An accord unifying the factions of Palestinian leadership was signed by Fatah, Hamas and other groups on 4 May in Cairo. Under the accord, the Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers would agree to a Government of national technocrats. The Government would prepare for simultaneous elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council, the presidency and the Palestinian National Council, organized and overseen by reformed electoral institutions. During the transitional period, the Government would reunify Palestinian institutions and follow up on Gaza reconstruction. President Abbas had reiterated his commitment to the platform of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which had accepted resolutions 242(1967) [YUN 1967, p. 257] and 338(1973) [YUN 1973, p. 213], recognized Israel's right to exist in peace and security and renounced violence and terrorism. The accord also envisaged the reform of Palestinian security forces on a national and professional basis, as well as the establishment of a security committee, with the participation of Egypt.

Some statements made by Hamas suggested that the faction was ready, within the framework of the accord, to submit to national decisions on issues on which it maintained extreme positions. Other statements called on the PLO to renounce its recognition of Israel and stressed that the movement's sole programme was resistance. Nevertheless, the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank remained a vital goal for all interested in peace. The Secretary-General called on all Governments concerned to discourage flotillas bound for Gaza, which could escalate the situation.

Quartet statement. On 20 May [SG/2174], the Quartet expressed its support for the vision of Israeli-Palestinian peace outlined by United States President Barack Obama on 19 May, in which negotiations would result in two States with permanent borders based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps. Security arrangements should be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism; stop the infiltration of weapons and provide border security; and allow a phased withdrawal of Israeli military forces coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized State. The Quartet agreed that moving forward on the basis of territory and security provided a foundation for Israelis and Palestinians to reach a final resolution of the conflict.

Communications. In an 8 June letter to the Secretary-General [S/2011/357], Malaysia, responding to Israel's 19 May letter (see p. 406), stated that PGP had organized a humanitarian mission to deliver pipes to help restore the sewerage system in Gaza. The vessel carrying the supplies, registered as *MV Finch*, was attacked by IDF when it reached Palestinian territorial waters on 16 May.

On 6 June [A/ES-10/521-S/2011/343], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that on 5 June Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory protesting the Israeli occupation were fired at with tear gas, sound bombs and rubber bullets as they approached a military checkpoint in the Qalandiya area between Ramallah and Jerusalem. It was reported that at least 120 civilians were injured. In the occupied Syrian Golan, Israeli forces killed 23 unarmed Palestinian civilians and injured dozens more in a confrontation during a protest near the town of Majdal Shams (see p. 474). The demonstrations marked the forty-fourth year of Israel's military occupation of the Territory, including East Jerusalem.

On 21 June [S/2011/378], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was planning to challenge Israel's naval blockade of Gaza with a flotilla of ships. Reports indicated that the ships were to set sail from several ports in Europe and elsewhere, and would arrive in the vicinity of Gaza around 25 or 26 June.

Security Council consideration. On 23 June [S/PV.6562], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefing the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, said that the Israeli-Palestinian political process remained at a dangerous standstill; the resumption of meaningful negotiations had become urgent. Fatah and Hamas continued to meet under Egyptian auspices to discuss implementation of the 4 May reconciliation accord, but the parties had not reached consensus on the composition of the proposed Government.

Quartet statement. On 5 July [SG/2175], the Quartet expressed its concern about the unsustainable conditions facing the civilian population in Gaza, but also noted that, over the previous year, there had been a marked increase in international project activity, as well as the facilitation of some exports. The Quartet commended Israel's recent approval of materials for the construction of new homes and schools by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, but more needed to be done to increase the flow of people and goods to and from Gaza, including a liberalization of the market in aggregate, steel bar and cement. The Quartet recognized that Israel had legitimate security concerns, and was committed to working with Israel, Egypt and the international community to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition into Gaza. The Quartet urged those wishing to deliver goods to the people of Gaza to do so through established land channels to allow for the inspection of cargo. It called on all Governments concerned to discourage humanitarian flotillas, which risked the safety of their participants and carried the potential for incitement. The Quartet also called for an end to the five-year detention of Israeli Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit, who had been taken prisoner in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 510].

Communications. On 14 July [S/2011/430], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that, since 16 June, terrorists in Gaza had launched more than 15 rockets and mortars into southern Israel, including six attacks in the previous five days. Israel held Hamas responsible for the attacks.

On 19 July [A/ES-10/524-S/2011/439], Palestine, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that Israel continued to use excessive and lethal force against Palestinian civilians, including air strikes on Gaza, causing civilian casualties, as well as the destruction of Palestinian homes and natural resources. Palestine expressed concern over the seizure by the Israeli military of a French civilian boat, the *Dignité-al Karama*, which was sailing to Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid to more than 1.5 million Palestinians. Israel had also attacked eight Palestinian fishing boats, as well as

an international boat that monitored Gaza's coastline. It had increased military raids in the West Bank, including a raid on a summer camp for children.

On 20 July [A/ES-10/525-S/2011/445], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, said that the plight of Palestinian prisoners in Israel continued to deteriorate. More than 6,000 Palestinian civilians, including at least 245 children and 37 women, as well as 19 elected officials, were imprisoned or arbitrarily detained by Israel. The overwhelming majority of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees were routinely subjected to psychological and physical mistreatment, unsanitary and unhygienic conditions, inadequate health care, forced interrogations, denial of due process, solitary confinement and, in many cases, torture. Thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees had been transferred to prisons outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory in direct contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Security Council consideration. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, briefing the Security Council on 26 July [S/PV.6590], reported that both President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu had reiterated their desire to resume peace negotiations. Real security and economic gains had been made, benefiting both peoples. Better governance, increased investment, improvements in movement and access, and donor engagement strengthened the West Bank's economy in a difficult global environment. The training and deployment of thousands of Palestinian security officers and intensified security coordination had dismantled terrorist cells and combated extremist incitement. The agenda, however, would soon reach its limits without more political and physical space, which required Israel to roll back occupation measures, as well as continued donor support. Issues related to settler violence, movement and access limitations, and the route of the barrier wall continued to cause friction between the parties. Civil society groups and political figures called for intensified peaceful protests against the status quo and for the realization of the Palestinian right of self-determination.

The United Nations and the Quartet urged Israel to allow building materials into Gaza for use by its private sector. The illegal tunnel trade in such materials empowered those who controlled smuggling at the expense of the legitimate commercial sector. Israel should also enable exports to foreign countries and the West Bank. The freer movement of people to and from Gaza was vital if Gazans were to enjoy basic rights, normal interaction with the outside world and human dignity.

The Special Coordinator said that the longer reconciliation was delayed between Palestinian factions, the

more hostile developments would push the West Bank and Gaza further apart, with grave consequences for prospects for a viable Palestinian State. In Gaza, Hamas authorities sought to audit international NGOs with on-site inspections. The United Nations urged full respect for the free and independent exercise of those organizations' functions, as well as the work of UN agencies. On 25 June, a bomb was detonated in Gaza near the compound of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories.

Communications. In identical letters of 8 August [A/ES-10/526-S/2011/500] addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Palestine stated that, during the month of Ramadan, Israel had employed indiscriminate and disproportionate force, causing death and injury to civilians. In a 1 August incident, Israeli forces raided the Qalandiya refugee camp in the West Bank, killing two young men. Scores of Palestinian civilians were also injured and many were illegally detained. Over the previous week, Israel had launched multiple air strikes against Gaza, including one that targeted a group of fishermen on the shores of Rafah.

On 9 August [S/2011/504], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that since 14 July terrorists in Gaza had launched 16 rockets and 6 mortars into southern Israel, targeting areas with large civilian populations.

Quartet statement. On 16 August [SG/2176], the Quartet expressed concern over Israel's announcement to advance planning for new housing units in Ariel and East Jerusalem, and reiterated its position on that issue from its statement of 12 March 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 438]. Unilateral action by either party could not prejudice the outcome of negotiations and would not be recognized by the international community. Ultimately, responsibility rested with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to avoid actions by their Governments that undermined the goals all parties sought to achieve.

Communications. On 17 August [S/2011/520], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, drew attention to the escalation of rocket and mortar fire from Gaza targeting Israel. Since 9 August, one rocket and some six mortars had been fired into southern Israel. In the previous month, some 29 rockets and mortars had landed in Israeli communities, and all areas of southern Israel faced the threat of attack.

On 19 August [A/ES-10/529-S/2011/528], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that a series of Israeli military air strikes against Gaza launched on 18 August resulted in the death 10 Palestinians, including two children. More than 20 Palestinian civilians, mainly children and women, were injured.

On 22 August [A/ES-10/530-S/2011/529], Palestine said that the Israeli military attacks against Gaza over the previous two days had raised the death toll among Palestinian civilians to 15 people since the latest attacks began on 18 August; more than 40 people were wounded. Many of the injured sustained severe burns and the loss of limbs. The attacks damaged essential infrastructure, as well as the office of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which had been coordinating and delivering humanitarian aid to the civilian population. Israeli forces raided Hebron and the surrounding area in the West Bank, arresting more than 60 people, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Also on 22 August [S/2011/532], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that terrorists from Gaza infiltrated southern Israel from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt and attacked two public buses and two cars with firearms and explosives on 18 August, killing six civilians and injuring 15 others. When Israeli police arrived, the terrorists opened fire, killing an officer and an IDF soldier, and injuring four members of the Israeli security forces. Since that date, Israel had been subjected to the most severe escalation of rocket and mortar fire from Gaza since the end of Operation Cast Lead [YUN 2009, p. 434], with more than 100 rockets and dozens of mortars fired at major Israeli cities and towns.

Quartet statement. On 22 August [SG/2177], the Quartet condemned the 18 August attacks in southern Israel and all acts of terrorism. It reiterated its concern about the unsustainable situation in Gaza, as well as the risk of its escalation, and called for restraint from all sides. The Quartet also expressed concern about the security situation in the Sinai Peninsula. Recent commitments by Egypt to address the situation were important, and the Quartet encouraged the Government to find a lasting resolution.

Security Council consideration. On 25 August [S/PV.6602], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. He said that the deadlines set the previous year for resolving permanent status issues and completing the Palestinian State-building agenda had arrived. The political deadlock persisted, however, and significant differences remained between the parties regarding the terms framing negotiations.

The Special Coordinator visited Cairo on 21 August and worked with Egypt to restore the fragile calm that had prevailed since April. Without a political breakthrough—and with Israeli settlement activity continuing—the PLO Executive Committee announced, on 28 July, its support for the Palestinian leadership's intention to approach the General Assembly and the Security Council to request Palestinian statehood. On

4 August, the Arab Peace Initiative Committee announced the Arab League's plan to call on UN Member States to recognize a Palestinian State within the 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to submit an application for full UN membership. Although the United Nations had assessed that the PA State-building agenda had laid the foundations of a Palestinian State, those achievements had to be consolidated and bolstered by genuine political prospects for statehood achieved through substantive negotiations. The PA also needed to have the financial means to sustain its State-building and reform agenda; it required \$250 million in additional commitments to meet its obligations. Fatah and Hamas representatives continued to meet on the implementation of the reconciliation accord. On 22 August, President Abbas postponed local elections—originally scheduled for 22 October—without setting a new date, stating that conditions should first be in place for the election commission to work in all of the territory.

Restrictions remained on access for prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque during the month of Ramadan. Israeli authorities initially eased access to East Jerusalem for West Bank Palestinians, allowing about 117,000 Palestinians to enter the city on the second Friday of Ramadan, but restrictions were later tightened again. On 17 August, Israel extended the closure of Orient House and the Chamber of Commerce in East Jerusalem to enforce its ongoing ban on Palestinian Government institutions in the city. Such actions ran contrary to Israel's obligations under the road map.

Communications. On 26 August [A/ES-10/531-S/2011/541], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that air strikes carried out by Israel against civilian areas in Gaza resulted in 11 Palestinian civilians killed and more than 30 people injured.

On 29 August [A/65/939-S/2011/543], Saint Vincent and the Grenadines informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to formally recognize the State of Palestine.

In a 17 September letter addressed to the Secretary-General [A/66/395-S/2011/611], the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, confirmed Venezuela's full support for the recognition of the Palestinian State and Palestine's right to become a free, sovereign and independent country.

Application of Palestine to United Nations membership. On 23 September [A/66/371-S/2011/592], the Secretary-General circulated the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in a letter from President Abbas received that day. President Abbas said that the application was submitted based on the Palestinian people's natural, legal and historic rights, and based on General Assembly resolution 181(II) [YUN 1947–48, p. 247] as well

as the Declaration of Independence of the State of Palestine of 15 November 1988 and its acknowledgement by the Assembly in resolution 43/177 [YUN 1988, p. 208]. Palestine affirmed its commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the vision of two States living side by side in peace and security. Appended to the letter was a declaration, made pursuant to the rules of procedure of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in which President Abbas stated that the State of Palestine was a peace-loving nation, that it accepted the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and undertook to fulfil them. Annexed to the Secretary-General's note was a separate letter dated 23 September from President Abbas to the Secretary-General that provided background information on Palestine's application.

The General Assembly took note of Palestine's application to UN membership in resolutions 66/14 (see p. 435) and 66/17 (see p. 414) of 30 November, and in resolution 66/76 of 9 December (see p. 426). The United Nations, however, took no further action on the matter in 2011.

Quartet meeting. The Quartet—including the Secretary-General, the Russian Foreign Minister, the United States Secretary of State, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Quartet Representative Tony Blair—met in New York on 23 September [SG/2178] and noted the application for membership for a State of Palestine in the United Nations, which was before the Security Council. It reiterated its appeal to the parties to resume direct, bilateral Israeli-Palestinian negotiations without delay or preconditions. To that end, the Quartet proposed that within one month a preparatory meeting be held between the parties to agree on an agenda and a method of proceeding in the negotiation. At the meeting, both sides would commit to the objective that any negotiation would reach an agreement within a time frame agreed to by the parties but not lasting longer than the end of 2012. The Quartet expected the parties to come forward with comprehensive proposals on territory and security within three months, and achieve substantial progress on the proposals within six months. A donors' conference would be held, during which the international community would give sustained support to PA State-building actions developed by Prime Minister Fayyad under the leadership of President Abbas. The Quartet would identify additional steps to support Palestinian statehood and secure greater independence and sovereignty for the PA over its affairs. It called on the parties to refrain from provocative actions.

Security Council consideration. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefing the Security Council on 27 September [S/PV.6623], said

that efforts to build robust institutions and revive the Palestinian economy had resulted in security and economic improvements. Incidents of Israeli settler violence increased, including, on 5 September, an arson attack on a mosque—the fifth such attack in the previous two months.

Communications. On 30 September [A/ES-10/533-S/2011/606], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, highlighted recent violations and crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinians, including punitive and humiliating measures, such as solitary confinement, unhygienic conditions and physical and mental abuse, inflicted on thousands of imprisoned Palestinians; daily military raids and arrests; the arrest and detention of Ahmad Attoun, a Palestinian elected official from East Jerusalem; and the continued Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and properties.

On 10 October [A/ES-10/534-S/2011/629], Palestine informed the Secretary-General and the Council President that the situation of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees illegally held by Israel continued to deteriorate. On 27 September, Palestinians held in Israeli prisons and detention centres began a hunger strike to protest oppressive measures by Israel that threatened their lives and deprived them of their basic human rights. The situation of Palestinian prisoners worsened after Prime Minister Netanyahu announced plans to “toughen” conditions on the more than 6,000 Palestinian civilians, including at least 280 children and 38 women, as well as 22 elected officials imprisoned or arbitrarily detained. Acts of violence, lawlessness and terror perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory included the killing of one person and the injuring of two others in a hit-and-run accident; the burning and desecration of mosques; the uprooting, burning and destruction of more than 3,000 olive trees and grapevines; the burning of agricultural land in response to weekly peaceful protests against the construction of the wall; and the flooding of agricultural land with sewage from settlements. Such violations took place in full view of the Israeli forces, which continued to protect settlers.

Security Council consideration. On 24 October [S/PV.6636], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Security Council that on 18 October, Israel and Hamas implemented the first stage of a prisoner exchange agreement. Hamas released Israeli Sergeant Gilad Shalit, who had been held in Gaza without international access since 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 510], in exchange for 477 Palestinian prisoners—many of whom had been jailed for involvement in attacks on Israelis. Palestinian prisoners suspended the hunger strike the day before the prisoner trans-

fer, following the reported agreement to end solitary confinement.

Settler attacks on Palestinians resulted in one death and 19 injuries. On 3 October, a mosque was set on fire in the village of Tuba Zangaria in Israel. Subsequently, Muslim, Christian and Jewish holy sites were desecrated in several towns in Israel.

Communications. In identical letters of 27 October [S/2011/671], addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Israel stated that on 26 October, terrorists in Gaza fired a modified Katyusha rocket into Israel that exploded in the vicinity of Ashdod. On 29 October [S/2011/674], Israel said that major cities were bombarded that day with dozens of rockets and mortars launched from Gaza. The attacks killed one Israeli civilian and injured a number of others. The increasing sophistication of the rockets used in such attacks was a direct result of the smuggling of advanced weapons from Iran and other parties into the area.

On 1 November [A/ES-10/537-S/2011/676], Palestine, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, expressed its concern about the military escalation by Israel against Gaza. Over the previous four days, Israeli air strikes killed at least 11 Palestinians and injured scores of others. Palestine also noted the repeated calls by senior Israeli Government officials, including Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, for a full-scale ground invasion of Gaza, in addition to repeated hostile declarations against the Palestinian people and their leadership.

On 2 November [S/2011/679], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that two boats were headed in the direction of Gaza with the stated intention of violating Israel's naval blockade of the area. Reports indicated that they set sail from a port in Turkey. Launched under the false pretext of providing humanitarian assistance, the flotilla was a provocation clearly designed to serve an extremist political agenda. Israel was not interested in confrontation, but was determined to enforce the naval blockade of Gaza.

In a 4 November letter addressed to the Secretary-General and the Council President [S/2011/690], Turkey stated that the boats headed to Gaza had no connection with Turkey.

On 9 November [S/2011/700], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that on 6 November, two rockets fell on Kibbutz Zikim, injuring a man. The attacks followed a significant escalation of rocket fire over the previous two weeks, during which more than 60 rockets, missiles and mortars were launched into the major cities and communities of southern Israel. There was no question that Hamas and the

other terrorists in Gaza who carried out the attacks were targeting Israeli civilians.

In an 11 November letter to the Security Council President [S/2011/709], Iran, referring to Israel's letters of 27 and 29 October (see above), rejected allegations concerning the smuggling of advanced weapons into Gaza; the allegations were based on false and misleading information.

On 15 November [S/2011/719], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that two long-range rockets were fired that day from Gaza into a kibbutz in southern Israel in the area of Sha'ar Hanegev. One rocket destroyed a farm building, exploding in close proximity to a kindergarten classroom.

Security Council consideration. On 21 November [S/PV.6662], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East. He stated that the Quartet Representative and Quartet envoys met separately with Israeli and Palestinian representatives in Jerusalem on 26 October and 14 November within the framework of the 23 September Quartet statement. Nevertheless, direct negotiations without preconditions, in which the parties would be expected to table territorial and security proposals within 90 days, were not taking place. Provocations continued to damage confidence and made the resumption of direct negotiations difficult. King Abdullah II of Jordan visited Ramallah on 21 November to hold consultations with President Abbas, underscoring his concern at the situation, as well as his support for the PA and the creation of a Palestinian State.

On 1 November, Israel announced the accelerated construction of settlement housing units in occupied East Jerusalem following a 31 October UNESCO General Conference vote to admit Palestine as a member of the organization. On 2 November [SG/SM/13918], the Secretary-General criticized Israeli settlement activity, which ran contrary to international law and the road map [YUN 2003, p. 464], and prejudiced final status negotiations. Israel also reacted to the UNESCO outcome by freezing the transfer of value-added tax and customs revenues it collected on behalf of the PA pursuant to the 1994 Paris Protocol on Economic Relations. Those funds amounted to approximately \$100 million per month—two-thirds of PA annual revenues. The action threatened the State-building gains made by the PA, including the increased good governance and the development of the security forces that upheld law and order in the West Bank. The United States also decided to partially withhold the assistance funds that it had been providing to the PA. In addition to halting its settlement obligations, Israel needed to heed the calls of the Secretary-General and

other international leaders to unfreeze transfers to the PA, in accordance with existing agreements. Donors also were urged to unblock their funding to the PA.

During a speech that marked the seventh anniversary of President Yasser Arafat's death in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 471], President Abbas firmly rejected violence, but called for the widest possible Palestinian non-violent resistance. Nevertheless, violent incidents continued. Citing security concerns, IDF conducted 218 operations, during which 44 Palestinians were injured, including 3 children, and 113 were arrested. Between 29 and 31 October, dozens of Grad and homemade rockets, as well as mortars, landed in Israel. Israel conducted air strikes in Gaza, targeting mainly Islamic Jihad militants. Diplomatic efforts led by Egypt helped to restore relative calm on 1 November. Islamic Jihad released footage purporting to show its possession of sophisticated mobile rocket launchers smuggled into Gaza, highlighting the need for more effective steps to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition. A 14 November Israeli airstrike injured a French consular official in Gaza, as well as his daughter and pregnant wife. The United Nations reiterated the Secretary-General's call for Israel to exercise maximum restraint and minimize the risk to civilians.

In a positive development, Israel, on 8 November, granted four new sets of approvals for construction projects in Gaza, valued at approximately \$5.5 million, to be carried out by the United Nations Development Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Sweden and the United States Agency for International Development.

Communications. On 29 November [S/2011/742], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that on 25 November, a rocket fired from Gaza exploded in the immediate vicinity of Kibbutz Nachal Oz. Over the previous two months, terrorists in Gaza had launched more than 70 rockets and mortars into the major cities, towns and communities of southern Israel, deliberately targeting civilians.

On 12 December [A/ES-10/542-S/2011/768], Palestine, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that Israel was escalating military assaults and human rights violations against the Palestinian people. On 9 December, a missile launched by an Israeli warplane into a civilian area in north-west Gaza City caused the collapse of a family home, killing two people and injuring 12 others. On the same date, Israeli forces in a village north of Ramallah fired tear gas canisters at protesters at close range; one of the protesters was struck by a canister and died of his wounds the following day. Mourners at the funeral were also struck with tear gas canisters fired by IDF; six were arrested, including

four Israelis and two international activists. Earlier in the week, at least 300 Israeli soldiers in armoured vehicles stormed two villages near Ramallah, raiding homes and mosques.

Security Council consideration. On 20 December [S/PV.6692], the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Security Council that credible progress in the search for peace between Israel and the Palestinians had become urgent, but remained elusive because of tensions on the ground, deep mistrust between the parties and volatile regional dynamics. In December, four mosques were set on fire or otherwise desecrated; Israeli extremists stormed an IDF base and blocked roads in the West Bank; and Israeli settlement activity and the demolition of Palestinian structures continued. Palestinian forces maintained close cooperation with Israeli security forces, which led to the arrest of a number of suspected perpetrators of violence against Palestinians and their property.

On 30 November, Israel decided to renew the transfer of tax and customs revenues owed to the PA, which had been withheld after the 31 October UNESCO vote. The Palestinian flag was raised at UNESCO headquarters on 13 December, but the PA had not taken further steps towards membership in other UN bodies or specialized agencies. On 14 December, Quartet envoys and Quartet Representative Blair held a third round of separate meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to help the parties resume direct talks.

The United Nations was concerned about the de facto authorities' intent to tax the Bank of Palestine and the Palestine Islamic Bank, as well as the enforcement of the subsequent travel ban on senior bank staff. The regular functioning of the banking sector remained vital to the Gaza economy. The United Nations also relied on those institutions' financial services for its operations in Gaza. A series of meetings among the Palestinian factions began in Cairo to advance Palestinian reconciliation.

Panel of Inquiry on 2010 flotilla incident

In September, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council the report of the Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 flotilla incident, established in August 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 441] following the incident, in which IDF boarded a six-ship convoy carrying humanitarian aid bound for Gaza, resulting in the deaths of nine passengers and the wounding of many others [ibid., p. 439]. The Panel examined and identified the facts, circumstances and context of the incident, and recommended ways of avoiding similar incidents in the future. In doing so, it neither acted as a court nor adjudicated legal findings.

The Panel found that Israel faced a real threat to its security from militant groups in Gaza, and the naval blockade was imposed as a legitimate security measure to prevent weapons from entering Gaza by sea. The flotilla acted recklessly in attempting to breach the blockade, but most of the flotilla participants did not have violent intentions. Nevertheless, serious questions about the conduct, true nature and objectives of the flotilla organizers existed, and the flotilla's actions needlessly carried the potential for escalation. Turkey and Israel attempted to ensure that events did not endanger lives or international peace and security. Turkish officials approached the flotilla organizers to persuade them to change course if necessary and avoid an encounter with Israeli forces. More could have been done, however, to warn the flotilla participants of the risks involved and to dissuade them from their actions. Israel's decision to board the vessels with such substantial force at a great distance from the blockade zone and with no final warning was excessive and unreasonable; non-violent options should have been used first, and the operation should have been reassessed when resistance became apparent. IDF personnel faced significant, organized and violent resistance from a group of passengers when they boarded the *Mavi Marmara*, which required them to fight for their own protection. The loss of life and injuries that resulted from the takeover of the vessel was unacceptable, however, and no satisfactory explanation for the deaths was provided by Israel. Forensic evidence showing that most of the deceased were shot multiple times, including in the back or at close range, was not adequately explained in the material presented by Israel. Israeli authorities mistreated passengers until they were deported. The mistreatment included physical harassment and intimidation, unjustified confiscation of belongings and the denial of consular assistance.

The Panel recommended that Israel should keep the naval blockade under regular review, bearing in mind its consequences and the fundamental importance of the freedom of navigation on the Mediterranean. It should continue to ease its restrictions on movement of goods and persons to and from Gaza with a view to lifting its closure in order to alleviate the unsustainable humanitarian and economic situation of the civilian population. Humanitarian missions wishing to assist the Gaza population should do so through established procedures and use the designated land crossings in consultation with Israel and the PA. Israel should issue a statement of regret and offer payment for the benefit of the deceased and injured victims and their families. Turkey and Israel should resume full diplomatic relations in the interests of stability in the Middle East and international peace and security.

Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

In a September report [A/66/367-S/2011/585], submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/16 [YUN 2010, p. 446] and covering the period from September 2010 through August 2011, the Secretary-General presented his observations on the state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on international efforts to move the peace process forward. The Security Council considered the situation in Palestine every month under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine".

In an 11 May note, the Secretary-General sought the positions of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the PLO, regarding steps they had taken to implement resolution 65/16. The Secretary-General received replies from Israel and the PLO.

Israel, in a 5 July note, stated that it had voted against the resolution. Although it made significant efforts in 2011 to renew peace negotiations with the PA and foster economic growth and development, Palestinian terrorism continued and the nature of terrorist attacks escalated. During the first five months of the year, 278 attacks were carried out in or emanated from the West Bank, resulting in the deaths of 11 Israeli citizens; 163 terrorist attacks emanated from Gaza. The PA continued its campaign of incitement designed to legitimize terrorism. Hamas, with Iran's support, continued to stockpile weapons of increasing lethality and range. Despite the campaign of violence and incitement, Israel continued to facilitate the entry of large quantities of humanitarian supplies and other products into Gaza, and to ease security-related restrictions in the West Bank. Israel also repeatedly extended an open invitation to restart peace talks with the Palestinians with no preconditions.

In a 27 June note, Palestine said that resolution 65/16 was central to justly and peacefully resolve the question of its future. A strong international consensus existed in support of an independent, viable and contiguous State of Palestine. The pretexts used by Israel to justify its illegal settlement campaign constituted arbitrary preconditions imposed to exact further political gains. Israel's disrespect for the agreed principles of the negotiation process left the Palestinian side without a partner for peace. The Palestinian leadership continued—with significant international support—to develop and strengthen Palestine's institutions in preparation for the State's independence. The leadership also promoted reconciliation and unity among the Palestinian political factions.

The Secretary-General observed that efforts to achieve the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine made little progress during the reporting period, and confidence between the parties in the po-

litical process reached a new low. As settlement activity continued, the PA, with the support of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee, confirmed its intention to approach the General Assembly to call on Member States to recognize a Palestinian State, and to apply for full membership in the United Nations. Israel expressed its strong opposition to such action.

Settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank increased during the reporting period, including 366 attacks, which resulted in the deaths of three Palestinians and the injury of 182. Four Muslim holy sites were desecrated, and arsonists set two mosques on fire. Palestinians attacked settlers on 63 occasions, killing six Israelis and wounding 27. Fourteen Palestinians, including three militants, were killed by IDF, and 1,398 were wounded.

The Secretary-General reported an escalation of tension between Gaza and Israel during the reporting period. Palestinian militants fired 961 rockets and mortar shells, killing two Israeli civilians and injuring 36; one member of the Israeli military was killed and two were injured. IDF conducted 224 air strikes and 122 incursions, killing 43 Palestinian civilians and injuring 350; 70 militants were also killed and 70 were injured. The United Nations expressed concern over the intensification of fighting by Hamas and other militant groups, and called for maximum restraint on the part of Israel. It engaged with Israel and within the Quartet to promote reconstruction in Gaza, further liberalize imports, particularly construction materials, and allow exports. The United Nations called for the free movement of people and a full reopening of land crossings. It put forward programming aimed at revitalizing the private sector and rehabilitating public health infrastructure. By the end of August, Israel had approved \$265 million in UN reconstruction projects.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/17** [draft: A/66/L.18 & Add.1] by recorded vote (167-7-4) [agenda item 37].

Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling further relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544(2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008,

Recalling the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Noting with concern that it has been more than sixty years since the adoption of its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947 and forty-four years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 65/16 of 30 November 2010,

Reaffirming the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Convinced that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

Stressing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Recalling its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Stressing the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, on efforts to resume and advance the peace process and to achieve peace in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole,

Reaffirming also that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the contiguity of the Territory and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and on the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access to the Gaza Strip,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation

Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the need for full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515(2003), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the call in Council resolution 1850(2008) for the parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations, and recalling further in this regard the relevant Quartet statements, including that of 23 September 2011,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal in 2005 from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map, and stressing in this regard the road-map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Recalling the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,

Expressing support for the agreed principles for bilateral negotiations, as affirmed by the parties in the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Understanding reached at the international conference held in Annapolis, United States of America, on 27 November 2007, aimed at concluding a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Reiterating support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, for the advancement and acceleration of a resumed peace process,

Noting the important contribution to the peace process of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including within the framework of the activities of the Quartet,

Noting also the continuing efforts of the Quartet’s Special Representative towards the resumption of the peace process, in particular the efforts to strengthen Palestinian institutions, promote Palestinian economic development and mobilize donor support,

Welcoming the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, at United Nations Headquarters on 18 September 2011, at which, based on relevant reports by the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the donor countries reconfirmed the assessment that the institutions of the Palestinian Authority are above the threshold of a functioning State in the key sectors studied and reaffirmed the necessity of continued donor support for the Palestinian Authority,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, re-

form and strengthen its damaged institutions, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure and commending, in this regard, the implementation of the Palestinian Authority’s August 2009 plan for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State within a twenty-four-month period, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, in their reports to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on 13 April 2011,

Welcoming the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the security sector by the Palestinian Authority, calling upon the parties to continue cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Reiterating its concern over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property and infrastructure, the internal displacement of civilians and the serious deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the continuing prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, widespread damage and destruction to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure, public institutions, including hospitals and schools, and United Nations facilities, and internal displacement of civilians,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Expressing concern over continuing military actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including raids and arrest campaigns, and over the continued imposition of hundreds of checkpoints and obstacles to movement in and around Palestinian population centres by the Israeli occupying forces, and emphasizing in this regard the need for the implementation by both sides of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides,

Expressing the hope for speedy progress towards Palestinian reconciliation for the restoration of Palestinian unity, under the leadership of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and consistent with Palestine

Liberation Organization commitments, and of the situation in the Gaza Strip to that which existed prior to June 2007, and calling for the continuation of the serious efforts being exerted by Egypt, the League of Arab States and other concerned parties towards the achievement of this aim,

Stressing the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to support both parties in resuming, advancing and accelerating the peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Noting the Quartet's determination in the recent period to support the parties throughout the negotiations, which can be completed and resolve all final status issues within one year, and in the implementation of an agreement between the two sides that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Acknowledging the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

2. *Also reaffirms* its full support for the Middle East peace process, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and for the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, stresses the necessity for the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and welcomes in this regard the ongoing efforts of the Quartet and of the League of Arab States;

3. *Encourages* continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

4. *Urges* the parties to undertake, with the support of the Quartet and the international community, immediate and concrete steps in follow-up to the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Understanding reached at the international conference held in Annapolis, including through the resumption of active and serious bilateral negotiations;

5. *Encourages*, in this regard, the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008), for the advancement and acceleration of a resumed peace process;

6. *Calls upon* both parties to act on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in particular adherence to the road map, irrespective of reciprocity, in order to create the conditions necessary for the resumption and accelerated advancement of negotiations in the near term;

7. *Calls upon* the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation and to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000;

8. *Calls upon* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity;

9. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability and fostering the peace process, including the need for the further release of prisoners following the exchange of prisoners in October 2011;

10. *Stresses* the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

11. *Also stresses* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

12. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009);

13. *Reiterates* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access, as well as for commercial flows and all necessary construction materials, which are essential for alleviating the humanitarian crisis, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

14. *Stresses*, in this regard, the urgent necessity for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including through the completion of numerous suspended projects managed by the United Nations and the accelerated implementation of United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities;

15. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Terri-

tory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Territory, including via the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations;

16. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

17. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road-map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

18. *Calls for* the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

19. *Demands*, accordingly, that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion;

20. *Reaffirms its commitment*, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

21. *Stresses* the need for:

(a) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(b) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

22. *Also stresses* the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948;

23. *Calls upon* the parties to resume and accelerate direct peace negotiations towards the conclusion of a final peaceful settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, especially of the Security Council, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative;

24. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/17:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Tonga.

In **resolution 66/146** of 19 December (see p. 681), the Assembly reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent State of Palestine. By **decision 66/557** of 24 December, the Assembly decided that the items on the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session.

Israeli settlements

The issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, remained central to the question of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the peace negotiations. The road map [YUN 2003, p. 464] and the Joint Understanding [YUN 2007, p. 446] reached at the 2007 Annapolis Conference [ibid., p. 445] committed Israel to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since 2001 and, consistent with the 2001 report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee (Mitchell Report) [YUN 2001, p. 409],

to freeze all settlement activity, including “natural growth”.

Communications. In a series of letters issued throughout the year, Palestine brought to the attention of the Secretary-General and the Security Council the ongoing construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around East Jerusalem, as well as other Israeli activities that adversely affected Palestinian civilians living in the Territory [A/ES-10/509-S/2011/9, A/ES-10/510-S/2011/42, A/ES-10/511-S/2011/80, A/ES-10/512-S/2011/113, A/ES-10/513-S/2011/144, A/ES-10/514-S/2011/173, A/ES-10/515-S/2011/224, A/ES-10/518-S/2011/304, A/ES-10/520-S/2011/331, A/ES-10/523-S/2011/414, A/65/929-S/2011/513, A/ES-10/527-S/2011/515, A/ES-10/528-S/2011/521, A/ES-10/532-S/2011/597, A/ES-10/535-S/2011/645, A/ES-10/536-S/2011/665, A/ES-10/538-S/2011/680, A/ES-10/539-S/2011/724, A/ES-10/540-S/2011/761, A/ES-10/541-S/2011/765, A/ES-10/543-S/2011/783]. Israeli violations against Palestinians included the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces and settlers; the demolition of Palestinian homes and structures; the continued blockade of, and airstrikes targeting, Gaza; the deportation of Palestinian civilians; the destruction of the Ma'man Allah Cemetery in Jerusalem; and the continued construction of the separation wall [YUN 2004, p. 452].

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 [A/66/358] (see p. 783) also addressed the issue of Israeli settlements and their impact on the enjoyment of human rights by the Palestinians.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/104 [YUN 2010, p. 451], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/66/364], prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), covering the period from September 2010 to July 2011. The report addressed the continuation of Israeli settlement construction in the occupied Arab territories and its impact on the human rights of the residents, including violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property, and the lack of accountability for such violence. Under phase I of the road map, Israel had committed to freezing all settlement activity from March 2001. The agreement was consistent with the recommendation contained in the Mitchell Report, which stated that Israel should cease all settlement activity, including the “natural growth” of existing settlements [YUN 2009, p. 444].

Settlement activities resumed when Israel's 10-month moratorium on the building of new settlements in the West Bank [YUN 2010, p. 450] expired in September 2010. The most recent figures indicated that 296,586 settlers lived in at least 123 settlements

and 100 “outposts”—settlements not authorized by Israel—in the West Bank, not including East Jerusalem. Nearly 192,000 Israeli settlers occupied 50,000 units in at least 12 settlements in East Jerusalem, which brought the total number of settlers living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to almost half a million. As settlements expanded, Israel continued to restrict land allocation and planning for Palestinian construction, which resulted in the lack of building permits for Palestinians and the constant risk of eviction and demolition. The Human Rights Committee concluded that the planning systems in the West Bank, particularly in Area C and in East Jerusalem, were discriminatory and disproportionately favoured the Israeli population.

The demolition of Palestinian structures increased sharply during the reporting period. Between August 2010 and June 2011, Israeli authorities demolished 149 residences in Area C of the West Bank, displacing 820 people; another 23 residences were demolished in East Jerusalem, displacing 117 people. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that, in the first half of 2011, 342 Palestinian-owned structures, including 125 residential buildings and 20 rainwater cisterns, were demolished; 656 people lost their homes. More than 3,000 demolition orders remained outstanding, including 18 targeting schools. Impunity for settlers that perpetrated violent attacks also continued. IDF not only failed to protect Palestinians, but instances of direct IDF involvement in violence against Palestinians had been documented. Some victims of settler violence attempted to file complaints with the Israeli police—the body responsible for investigating the incidents—but to do so, they usually had to enter Israeli settlements, which required special permits. When violence was committed or was suspected to have been committed by Palestinians against Israeli settlers, however, Israeli authorities often mobilized considerable resources to apprehend the perpetrators. OCHA reported that between September 2010 and June 2011, Israeli forces carried out 3,791 search-and-arrest operations and arrested 2,760 Palestinians.

The Secretary-General recommended that Israel freeze all settlement activities in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and dismantle all “outposts”. Israel should end its discriminatory policies and practices against Palestinians, in particular those that violated Palestinians' right to adequate housing. It should prevent attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Israel should ensure that allegations concerning criminal acts committed by settlers or IDF were subject to independent, impartial and prompt investigations, and that all persons were equal before the law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/66/427], adopted **resolution 66/78** by recorded vote (162-7-4) [agenda item 53].

**Israeli settlements in the Occupied
Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,
and the occupied Syrian Golan**

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/104 of 10 December 2010, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 446(1979) of 22 March 1979, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980, 476(1980) of 30 June 1980, 478(1980) of 20 August 1980, 497(1981) of 17 December 1981 and 904(1994) of 18 March 1994,

Reaffirming the 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 to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Affirming that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting that the International Court of Justice concluded that “the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law”,

Taking note of the recent report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Recalling also the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the displace-

ment of Palestinian families, the exploitation of natural resources and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

Bearing in mind the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the credibility of the peace process, and on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders,

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map, and in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Expressing grave concern in particular about Israel’s construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern in particular about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

Deeply concerned that the wall’s route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploring settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons and the de facto annexation of land,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Gravely concerned about the rising incidents of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by illegal armed Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map, and calling, in this regard, for respect of the road map obligation

upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Taking note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Taking note also of the special meeting of the Security Council convened on 26 September 2008, as well as of the meeting of the Council of 18 February 2011,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure 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 to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

3. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

4. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls, in this regard, for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446(1979) of 22 March 1979, 452(1979) of 20 July 1979, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980, 476(1980) of 30 June 1980 and 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003;

5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

6. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of all acts of violence and harassment by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands, and stresses the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904(1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/78:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic

of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Vanuatu.

Jerusalem

Report of Secretary-General. On 6 September [A/66/338], the Secretary-General reported that as at 31 August, one Member State (Syrian Arab Republic), had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement General Assembly resolution 65/17 [YUN 2010, p. 452] on Jerusalem. Resolution 65/17 stressed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its residents, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/18** [draft: A/66/L.19 & Add.1] by recorded vote (164-7-5) [agenda item 36].

Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem,

Recalling also its resolution 36/120 E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 56/31 of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter

alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling further the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478(1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" on Jerusalem,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its grave concern about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern also, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudice a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

Expressing its grave concern further about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes, the revocation of residency rights and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city,

Expressing its concern about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

Reaffirming that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,

1. *Reiterates its determination* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. *Stresses* that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/18:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Panama, Tonga.

Other matters

Israeli practices affecting human rights of Palestinian people

Report of Special Committee. By a 22 September note [A/66/370], the Secretary-General submitted the forty-third report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Special Committee on Israeli Practices), established by General Assembly resolution 2443(XXIII) [YUN 1968, p. 555]. The report, submitted in response to Assembly resolution 65/102 [YUN 2010, p. 458], described the activities of the Special Committee as well as the situation of human rights in the territories considered by the Committee to be occupied by Israel: the Syrian Golan (see also p. 471) and the Occupied Palestinian Territory of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The report reflected information gathered during the Special Committee's first-ever visit to the Occupied Palestin-

ian Territory, specifically Gaza, after crossing Egypt's border with the territory. Meetings were held in Gaza from 21 to 25 July, during which the Special Committee met with 24 witnesses. The Committee also convened meetings in Jordan (26–28 July). It was unable to convene meetings in the Syrian Arab Republic due to the unrest that took place there during the reporting period, but engaged with interlocutors in the occupied Syrian Golan by way of teleconferences. Owing to the continuing practice of non-recognition of and non-cooperation with the Special Committee by Israel, the Committee was unable to directly access all of the occupied territories within its mandate or consult with Israeli authorities.

The Special Committee observed that Israel's blockade of Gaza, which had been in place for more than four years, punished the civilian population. The blockade neither undermined support for the *de facto* authorities in Gaza, nor enhanced Israel's security. Israeli-enforced restrictions on freedom of movement within Gaza—in particular their impacts on the agricultural and fishing industries—and Israel's regulations on the importation of materials necessary to reconstruct or build houses, schools and other infrastructure destroyed by Israel during the 2008–2009 Gaza conflict [YUN 2009, p. 434] were among the most urgent concerns that emerged during the Special Committee's meetings in Gaza. Gaza's private-sector economy had nearly come to a halt: 90 per cent of factories in Gaza had closed due to the lack of access to raw materials; 90,000 Gazans had lost their jobs in Israel owing to the blockade; and real wages for those who did have jobs decreased by 30 per cent. It was widely acknowledged that a significant amount of goods, including building supplies and medicines, entered Gaza through underground tunnels, and their provenance and quality were unregulated. Some smuggled materials were found to be carcinogenic. In that context, concern was expressed regarding the trustworthiness of smuggled medicines.

The Special Committee called on Israel to take immediate action to reverse indicators of poor children's health in Gaza and to desist from its policies and practices that denied thousands of children their right to education. Israel was urged to consider the potential consequences for the children of Gaza being raised in an environment characterized by deprivation and lack of opportunities.

The Special Committee expressed concern over Israel's continued detainment of thousands of Palestinians—many for extended periods of time—under conditions that appeared to violate international law. It was also alarmed by allegations concerning the treatment of detained children, and noted that such treatment would amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Commit-

tee called on Israel to bring its policies and practices concerning the arrest, detention and sentencing of minors and other Palestinians in line with international laws and standards.

The Special Committee expressed alarm concerning allegations that Israel enforced restrictions of movement within certain areas of Gaza, including its fishing areas, and the implementation of a so-called “buffer zone” in Palestinian territory adjacent to Israel through the use of live fire. The Committee reiterated its call for Israel to lift its illegal siege of Gaza and ensure a consistent and sufficient supply of food, medicines and other basic supplies and services, in line with Security Council resolution 1860(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 434]. Israel also needed to clarify the restrictions it intended to administer on the freedom of movement within Gaza and should not enforce restrictions through the use of live weapons fire.

Regarding the West Bank, the Special Committee expressed dismay that many of Israel's policies and practices, including the confiscation of Palestinian land, demolition of Palestinian homes, displacement of Palestinian civilians and expansion of Israeli settlements, continued to take place on a widespread and systematic basis. It called on Israel to desist from confiscating land in the West Bank and return it to its rightful owners; and cease the demolition of homes and provide reparation to those whose homes had been demolished. The Committee also stressed the need for Israel to cease building settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to dismantle all those previously built. It called on Israel to end violence against Palestinians by Israeli settlers, and to ensure access to water for Syrians in the occupied Golan on terms equal to those available to Israeli settlers.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/105 [YUN 2010, p. 455], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/66/356] on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, covering the period from 20 August 2010 to 30 June 2011. The information contained in the report was based on data gathered by OHCHR and other UN entities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as information obtained from Israeli and Palestinian sources, NGOs, human rights defenders and the media. The report examined themes identified in resolution 65/105, including the right to life and security, particularly the killing and injury of civilians; displacement and other practices affecting the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; the firing of rockets and mortars against Israeli civilian areas; restrictions on the freedom of movement and goods; and arrests and detention.

The majority of casualties related to armed conflict occurred in Gaza. The most intense escalation of incidents since the end of Gaza conflict in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 434] occurred in April, when IDF attacks on targets in Gaza resulted in the death of 23 Palestinians, including nine civilians. The killing of non-combatants raised questions regarding IDF respect for the basic provisions of international law when carrying out an offensive. The Secretary-General recommended that Israel ensure that any IDF attack respected the principles of conduct of hostilities, namely distinction, proportionality and precautions. Field commanders should evaluate the timing of attacks and the military advantage expected to be gained from responding immediately to the launch of rockets or mortars when appropriate means were not available to mitigate the risk to civilians.

During the reporting period, Palestinian armed groups fired 325 rockets and 389 mortar shells at Israel. In April, a missile attack resulted in the death of a 16-year-old Israeli boy. The launching of such weapons ran contrary to international humanitarian law, which prohibited random attacks, the targeting of civilians, the use of inherently indiscriminate arms and acts aimed at spreading terror in the general population. Palestinian armed groups needed to comply with international law and cease such indiscriminate attacks.

Excessive use of violent measures in policing operations by Israeli security forces in the West Bank continued. Unarmed civilians were injured or killed at checkpoints during routine patrols or arrest operations. In three OHCHR-documented cases, 13 fishermen were arrested and their boats confiscated, although they had not travelled beyond the three-nautical-mile buffer zone and posed no threat to Israeli naval forces. OHCHR also recorded 26 cases in which IDF shot and injured Palestinians who were collecting rubble and scrap metal within a distance of between 200 and 1,000 metres from the Green Line. The Secretary-General recommended that Israel prevent further incidents of excessive use of force.

Israel continued its policy of revoking the permanent residency status of Palestinians residing in East Jerusalem if they lived outside Israel or East Jerusalem for seven years, or obtained permanent residency in another country. The requirement of “loyalty to the State of Israel” for East Jerusalem residents to maintain their residency was analogous to compelling residents to swear “allegiance to the hostile power”, which violated the Hague Regulations. Israel had to end its policies resulting in the forcible transfer of civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and should desist from revoking the residency status of those living in East Jerusalem.

OCHA reported a sharp rise in the number of demolitions of homes and other buildings in the first half of 2011. The 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the

Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) prohibited the destruction of homes in the occupied territory except when rendered absolutely necessary by military operations; no such operations had taken place in the West Bank for years. The Secretary-General stated that Israel should cease the demolition of houses and other structures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and modify planning and zoning rules to ensure adequate housing for the Palestinian residents of Area C and East Jerusalem. He recommended that Israel comply with the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning the construction of the wall [YUN 2004, p. 1273], in particular by halting construction of the barrier and dismantling or rerouting the constructed section to the Green Line.

According to NGO sources, approximately 5,500 Palestinians were held in Israeli detention as at June. The vast majority was held in prisons and detention centres outside the occupied territory, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The frequent and extensive use of administrative detention by Israel also infringed on the right to a fair trial. Taking into account the observations of the Human Rights Committee, the Secretary-General recommended that Israel conduct an independent review of its administrative detention policy with a view to terminating it and removing its derogation regarding article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [YUN 1966, p. 423].

Report of Special Rapporteur. By a 13 September note [A/66/358], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur, Richard Falk, on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (see p. 783).

(For information on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, see p. 681, and on the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel, see p. 782).

UN Register of Damage. On 27 June, in accordance with General Assembly resolution ES-10/17 [YUN 2006, p. 529], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [A/ES-10/522] covering the period from 19 June 2010 to 10 June 2011. During that period, the Board held four meetings in Vienna to review 1,426 claim forms that had been translated and processed by the office staff, and included in the Register most of the losses set out in those forms. As at 10 June, the Board had reviewed 3,255 claim forms; it included in the Register most of the losses set out in 2,977 forms.

Israel continued to consider that any claims related to damage caused by the building of the wall should be

addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. The Register, however, maintained constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities and did not experience any difficulties with access, freedom of movement, security, delivery of needed materials or issuance of required visas.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/427], adopted **resolution 66/79** by recorded vote (159-9-4) [agenda item 53].

Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/105 of 10 December 2010 as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and stressing the need for their implementation,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling, in this regard, its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the 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 other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

Stressing also the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned in particular about the critical humanitarian and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, widespread destruction and damage to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities and the internal displacement of civilians, as well as about the firing of rockets into Israel,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel,

the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Also expressing deep concern about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, checkpoints, several of which have been transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, and about the consequent violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and the negative impact on their socioeconomic situation and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Further expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, lack of proper medical care, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment of any Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture,

Expressing concern about the possible consequences of the enactment by Israel, the occupying Power, of military orders regarding the detention, imprisonment and deportation of Palestinian civilians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling, in this regard, the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties implement the agreements reached, and, in this regard, recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Taking note of the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the security sector by the Palestinian Authority, calling upon the parties to continue cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard;

3. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. *Further demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a peaceful settlement;

5. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among children, massive damage and destruction to homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, and internal displacement of civilians;

6. *Expresses grave concern* at the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;

7. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009);

8. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

9. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

10. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and, in this regard, to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population

and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/79:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Vanuatu.

Work of Special Committee

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/102 [YUN 2010, p. 458], the Secretary-General issued a September report on the work of the Special Committee [A/66/373]. The Special Committee made its first trip to the Occupied Palestinian Territory—specifically to Gaza—by crossing Egypt's border with the territory. Various UN agencies, especially OHCHR, as well as the offices of the resident coordinators in Egypt and Jordan, provided support to the Special Committee during the implementation of its mandate. The Special Committee collected testimony from 53 victims, witnesses and human rights organizations during its mission.

The News and Media Division of the UN Department of Public Information ensured the wide dissemination of information about the Special Committee's work. The Committee's meetings and statements were covered by eight press releases in English and French.

The English and French platforms of the UN News Centre posted 14 stories about the work of the Special Committee throughout the year and circulated them through a subscriber base of tens of thousands of readers. UN Radio provided regular segments and feature stories in eight languages—Kiswahili and Portuguese, in addition to the six UN official languages—on the work and events associated with the Special Committee, as well as related issues, such as Israeli settlement activity, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. The UN Webcast provided coverage of 65 open UN meetings, briefings and events related to the Palestinian question. The UN Television Section produced two videos on women's issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/427], adopted **resolution 66/76** by recorded vote (86-9-75) [agenda item 53].

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443(XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 65/102 of 10 December 2010, and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, including resolution S-12/1, adopted by the Council at its twelfth special session on 16 October 2009,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Taking into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling, in this regard, General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Gravely concerned about the continuing detrimental impact of ongoing unlawful Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in the death and injury of civilians, the widespread destruction of property and vital infrastructure, ongoing settlement ac-

tivities and construction of the wall, the internal displacement of civilians, the imposition of collective punishment measures, particularly against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians,

Gravely concerned in particular by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and stressing the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties to the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and thus an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, as well as the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population, the destruction and confiscation of properties, measures of collective punishment, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli

violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/76:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Economic and social situation

A May report [A/66/78-E/2011/13] on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan was prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/31 [YUN 2010, p. 460] and General Assembly resolution 65/179 [ibid., p. 463].

The report stated that Israeli settlements, their infrastructure and the territory zoned for their expansion were the largest factors shaping the system of access restrictions applied to the Palestinian population in the West Bank. Palestinian land and structures were at risk of confiscation for Israeli purposes, such as construction of the wall and the roads serving its settlements. In some areas, Israeli settlers unilaterally established and enforced the restricted areas, and in others the Israeli military erected fences around settlements and declared them special security zones.

The blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip following the forceful takeover of Gaza by Hamas in June 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 441] remained in effect, and movement in and out of Gaza remained difficult for its population; a limited number of people who required urgent medical care and those accompanying them could enter Israel with permits. The December 2010 announcement by Israeli authorities of an easing of export restrictions remained mostly unimplemented. Palestinians had limited access to surface water resources, such as the Jordan River, and Israel extracted 80 per cent of the estimated potential of the aquifers under the West Bank. Israel also overdrew more than half of the potential water by means of deep wells without regular consultation with the PA. Such action led to a drop in water tables and the continued drying up of Palestinian wells.

In the occupied Syrian Golan, the Israeli control and the closed crossing into the Syrian Arab Republic

created obstacles to economic development and the normalization of the social fabric. Syrian citizens who wished to maintain their Syrian Arab identity faced restricted prospects of earning a living.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 49], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2011/41** [draft: E/2011/L.47] by roll-call vote (43-3-3) [agenda item 11].

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/179 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 2010/31 of 23 July 2010,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 252(1968) of 21 May 1968, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming the 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 other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Stressing the importance of the revival and acceleration of serious and credible negotiations within the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), 425(1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544(2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Commending, in that regard, the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Gravely concerned, in that regard, about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by illegal armed Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the right to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of the wall, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights, which have caused the further displacement of the Palestinian population in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, including through the accelerated construction of settlements, the construction of the wall, the confiscation of land and the continued imposition of checkpoints, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socio-economic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about Israeli military operations and the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian personnel and food, medical, fuel, construction material and other essential supplies, via the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a

permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access to the Gaza Strip, although grave hardships continue to prevail as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials,

Deploing the heavy casualties among civilians, including hundreds of children and women, the internal displacement of thousands of civilians and widespread damage to homes, vital civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools, food supply installations, economic, industrial and agricultural properties and several United Nations facilities in the Gaza Strip, which have a grave impact on the provision of vital health and social services to Palestinian women and their families and on their socio-economic living conditions, all caused by the military operations in December 2008 and January 2009,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socio-economic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Gravely concerned at various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Commending the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, which is to be completed by the end of August 2011, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, and emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure and to ameliorate economic and social conditions,

Welcoming in that regard, and calling upon the international community to continue its strong support for, the plan of the Palestinian Authority entitled "Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State", for constructing the institutions of a Palestinian State by September 2011,

Stressing the importance of national unity among the Palestinian people, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860(2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closures system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including, in particular, in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

12. *Also reaffirms* that the ongoing construction by Israel of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obliga-

tions mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

13. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of the revival and accelerated advancement of negotiations of the peace process on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), 425(1978), 1397(2002), 1515(2003), 1544(2004) and 1850(2008), the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the establishment of the independent Palestinian State and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

17. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2012.

ROLL-CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2011/41:

In favour: Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Canada, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 91], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/66/449], adopted **resolution 66/225** by recorded vote (167-7-6) [agenda item 61].

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/179 of 20 December 2010, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/41 of 28 July 2011,

Recalling also its resolutions 58/292 of 6 May 2004 and 59/251 of 22 December 2004,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the 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 other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Expressing its concern about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its grave concern about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

Expressing its concern about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip in the recent period, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people,

Taking note, in this regard, of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

Aware also of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the need for the resumption and accelerated advancement of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008, for the achievement of a final settlement on all tracks,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of settlements therein in the context of the road map, and calling in this regard for respect of the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Stressing the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion, and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian

people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all actions harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/225:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, 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, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan,

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Panama, Tonga.

Fourth Geneva Convention

The applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) to the Israeli-occupied territories was reaffirmed during the year by the General Assembly and several other UN bodies, including the Special Committee on Israeli Practices.

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in a September report [A/66/362], informed the General Assembly that Israel had not replied to his June request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement resolution 65/103 [YUN 2010, p. 464], which demanded that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and that it comply with its provisions. The Secretary-General had also drawn the attention of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to resolution 65/103, which called on them to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention's provisions. No Member States replied to his request for information on steps taken to implement the resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/427], adopted **resolution 66/77** by recorded vote (164-7-2) [agenda item 53].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 65/103 of 10 December 2010,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and also recalling General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that Israel is in breach of several of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, held on 15 July 1999, as well as the Declaration adopted by the reconvened Conference on 5 December 2001 and the need for the parties to follow up the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention, as well as the continuing efforts of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions in this regard,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/77:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu.

Issues related to Palestine

General aspects

In 2011, the General Assembly, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and other UN bodies addressed issues related to Palestine, and several UN programmes and agencies continued to provide assistance to the Palestinian people.

Committee on Palestinian Rights

As mandated by General Assembly resolution 65/13 [YUN 2010, p. 466], the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) reviewed and reported on the Palestine question and made suggestions to the Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General. The Committee continued to mobilize the international community in support of the Palestinian people, in cooperation with UN bodies, Governments, intergovernmental and civil

society organizations and others. The Committee's report [A/66/35] covered the period from 7 October 2010 to 6 October 2011.

The peace process that began with the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference [YUN 1991, p. 221] remained deadlocked, while the broader region underwent dramatic changes. The September target date for the conclusion of an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement passed without a breakthrough. The Committee emphasized that the status quo was unsustainable and called for a resumption of negotiations towards the two-State solution on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference, the road map [YUN 2003, p. 464] and the Arab Peace Initiative [YUN 2002, p. 419]. The Committee was opposed to all settlement activities by Israel, which harmed the peace process and contravened international law. The Committee called on the Quartet to translate the principles articulated by United States President Barack Obama on 19 May (see p. 407) into comprehensive final status parameters.

Progress towards the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians required a dismantlement of the Israeli occupation and its associated regime of settlements, checkpoints, the separation wall, demolitions, land confiscations and expulsions, which had intensified, particularly in East Jerusalem and in Area C. The financial situation of the Palestinian Authority (PA) should be stabilized to enable it to sustain its State-building momentum; the Committee condemned any illegal seizure by Israel of PA revenues.

The Committee remained concerned by systematic violations of humanitarian and human rights law, which particularly affected women, children and prisoners. The Committee reiterated its call for an unconditional end to attacks against civilians, including rocket fire from Gaza and air strikes on populated areas in Gaza, settler violence and the shooting of unarmed protesters. Israel should lift the Gaza blockade in accordance with Council resolution 1860(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 434]. The Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention should guarantee the protection of civilians in all situations and ensure accountability for violations of international law.

The Committee continued to advance international awareness of the various aspects of the question of Palestine, the peaceful settlement of the question and the worldwide support for the rights of the Palestinian people through its programme of global meetings and conferences: United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine (Vienna, 7–8 March); United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (Montevideo, Uruguay, 29–30 March); United Nations Meeting of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-

Palestinian Peace (Montevideo, 31 March); United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People (Helsinki, Finland, 28–29 April); and United Nations International Meeting in Support of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process (Brussels, Belgium, 28–29 June).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/14** [draft: A/66/L.15 & Add.1] by recorded vote (115–8–53) [agenda item 37].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181(II) of 29 November 1947, 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 3236(XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375(XXX) and 3376(XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution 65/13 of 30 November 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Affirming its support for the Middle East peace process on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report, including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the Middle East peace process

for the achievement of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and thereafter;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194(III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

6. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee in the performance of its tasks;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/14:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra

Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Division for Palestinian Rights

The Division for Palestinian Rights in the UN Department of Political Affairs conducted research and monitoring activities and responded to requests for information and briefings on the question of Palestine, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 34/65 D [YUN 1979, p. 379]. The Division also prepared publications for dissemination, including reports on international meetings and conferences, under the guidance and auspices of the Committee on Palestinian Rights. It administered and continued to develop the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine and the "Question of Palestine" web portal. The Division also enhanced its annual training programme for PA staff. The Committee, in its annual report [A/66/35], requested the Division to continue its substantive and secretariat support, the programme of research, monitoring and publications, and other informational activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/15** [draft: A/66/L.16 & Add.1] by recorded vote (114-9-54) [agenda item 37].

Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Taking note, in particular, of the action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution 65/14 of 30 November 2010,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 65/14;

2. *Considers* that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a most useful and constructive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard, and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

4. *Requests* the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, organize international meetings and conferences in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community, liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, develop and expand the "Question of Palestine" website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, prepare and widely disseminate publications and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine and develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. *Also requests* the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/15:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Special information programme

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 65/15 [YUN 2010, p. 469], the UN Department of Public Information continued its special information programme on the question of Palestine, which included the organization of its annual training programme for Palestinian journalists and the International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East (Budapest, Hungary, 12–13 July). UN Radio provided regular coverage of issues and events connected to the question of Palestine in the six official UN languages, as well as Swahili and Portuguese. The UN News Centre published some 300 stories in English; 144 press releases were issued in English and French, including summaries of meetings and press conferences, in addition to statements by the Secretary-General and other UN officials.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/16** [draft: A/66/L.17 & Add.1] by recorded vote (168-8-3) [agenda item 37].

Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 65/15 of 30 November 2010,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

Affirming its support for the Middle East peace process on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 65/15;

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2011–2012, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and the peace process, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the peace process;

(b) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning the relevant recent developments in that regard, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine

displayed in the General Assembly building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and the peace process and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular to strengthen the annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;

4. *Encourages* the Department to formulate ways for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/16:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Honduras, Tonga.

Assistance to Palestinians

UN activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/134 [YUN 2010, p. 472], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/66/80-E/2011/111] on assistance to the Palestinian people from May 2010 to April 2011. The report described the work of the United Nations, in cooperation with the PA, donors and civil society, to support the Palestinian population and institutions. It assessed the aid received by the Palestinian people, the needs still unmet and proposals for responding to such needs.

Key elements of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 434] remained unfulfilled. Hamas retained de facto control of Gaza, and Israel continued its closure of the territory. The flow of construction materials entering Gaza through the tunnels between Gaza and Egypt was significantly higher than the amount entering through Israeli-controlled crossings. Additional strictures on land and sea access put in place by the Israel Defense Forces following Israel's Operation Cast Lead [YUN 2009, p. 434] denied Palestinians almost all access within 1,000 to 1,500 metres of the border. Inaccessibility to 35 per cent of Gaza's agricultural land and 85 per cent of the maritime space affected 178,000 people.

Israeli authorities continued to ease the movement of Palestinians between urban centres in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem. Approximately 500 closure obstacles were in place inside the West Bank, 50 fewer than at the beginning of the reporting period. The volume of people travelling through the Erez crossing point—the only passage for the movement of people between Gaza and the West Bank via Israel—rose slightly. Access and operational space for humanitarian agency staff remained restricted. Between May 2010 and March 2011, 512 reported incidents of delayed or denied access of UN staff at Israeli checkpoints resulted in a loss of approximately 344 working days.

Despite restrictions, the United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance, including food aid, to more than 1 million people; water and sanitation support to more than 1.5 million; and health and nutrition services to nearly 2.5 million. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provided free education to more than 260,000 students in 325 schools in Gaza and the West Bank and vocational training to 1,840 youth from the West Bank. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported a PA initiative focused on remedial learning programmes to around 20,000 children. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNRWA implemented a skills development

programme targeting refugee shelter construction in Gaza. ILO and the United Nations Development Programme promoted entrepreneurship and self-employment, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization provided technical assistance for the national teacher education strategy. The World Bank-funded Social Safety Net Reform Project merged with European Union-funded programmes to provide 63,000 poor households with cash transfers. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supported the PA Ministry of Agriculture in devising a national strategy for Palestine's agricultural development sector. The United Nations enhanced PA efforts to collect revenue and accelerate customs clearance procedures. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (see also below) continued to support the modernization of Palestinian customs through training on automated systems.

UNICEF, with the Ministry of Health, maintained high immunization coverage across the Occupied Palestinian Territory through procurement of the polio vaccine for the protection of 42,000 children and the provision of logistical support for acquiring other vaccines. The World Health Organization (WHO) helped fill gaps in pharmaceutical supplies in Gaza and contributed medical equipment, spare parts and technical assistance to maintain, repair and improve existing equipment.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) helped train 350 women from municipalities, health centres and non-governmental organizations on mental health, gender-based violence and human rights. It supported four community-based networks through which more than 35,000 vulnerable women benefited from 2,100 outreach sessions. UN-Women assisted the Mehwar Centre, which hosted and protected an average of 25 women per month, along with their children, from violence and honour killings. UNICEF support included the finalization of a national strategy and action plan based on the amended Palestinian "Child Law" and advocating a non-violence policy in 93 schools in the West Bank and 20 schools in Gaza.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, along with other UN agencies and civil society, participated in the revision of the Palestinian penal code, with the aim of ensuring that new legislation would be in accordance with international standards. The PA announced in 2011 that civilians would no longer be tried in military courts. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime developed general and specialized prison staff training, strengthened information management systems, created vocational programmes for inmates and worked to improve prison health.

The PA budgetary external financing requirement for 2011 was estimated at \$1 billion, down more than 16 per cent from the previous year, reflecting the improved capacity of the PA to collect revenue. The 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process requested \$576 million for critical humanitarian activities; as at 1 March, only 7 per cent of the requested funds had been received. A low response rate, against the backdrop of low financing in 2010, threatened the ability of UN agencies and their partners to provide critical assistance to the Palestinian people.

UNCTAD assistance to Palestinians

The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, at its fifty-eighth session (Geneva, 12–23, 28 September) [TD/B/58/9], considered a secretariat report [TD/B/58/4] on assistance to the Palestinian people: developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The report stated that although the Territory's economy grew by 9.3 per cent in 2010, that growth was driven by donor support and did not alter worsening long-term development prospects caused by the ongoing loss of Palestinian land and natural resources, isolation from global markets and fragmentation. A modest relaxation of the Israeli blockade of Gaza enabled an improvement in the economy, but restrictions on imported raw materials constrained private-sector recovery and thwarted public investment in infrastructure. Gaza's manufacturing output declined by 4 per cent in 2010. Agricultural output rose significantly, although 35 per cent of Gaza's agricultural land and 85 per cent of its maritime space remained inaccessible to farmers and fishermen. Despite growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010, poverty and food insecurity remained high throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Using the consumption-based definition of poverty, 26 per cent of Palestinians in the Territory lived in poverty in 2010. According to the World Food Programme, 50 per cent of Palestinian households in the Territory were affected by food insecurity. The unemployment rate remained at around 30 per cent; unemployment stood at 47 per cent in Gaza, compared with 20 per cent in the West Bank. Palestinian youth under 30 were particularly vulnerable, with unemployment at 43 per cent.

The restrictions imposed on the movement of goods to, from and within the West Bank and Gaza stifled the emergence of an export sector capable of contributing to economic development. Improvements in living standards could not be achieved without building a dynamic, high-value-added export sector. Israel absorbed about 90 per cent of Palestinian exports and was the source for approximately 80 per cent of imports. A significant portion of Palestinian imports from Israel were produced in a third country and

re-exported to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The World Bank estimated that such products, known as “indirect imports”, accounted for about one third of goods officially reported as Palestinian imports from Israel. The cost to the Palestinian treasury of not receiving tax revenue on indirect imports was estimated at around \$480 million per year, equivalent to more than 25 per cent of public revenue; it accounted for a 10 per cent loss in GDP and 30,000 jobs per year. A mechanism to distinguish bona fide Israeli imports from indirect imports should be explored.

The PA carried out strict fiscal reforms to control the budget deficit, improve budgetary discipline and sustainability, and lessen dependence on donor aid. The recurrent budget deficit, on a cash basis, fell to 15 per cent in 2010 from 24 per cent in 2009. The decrease resulted from a combination of spending controls, including the containment of public employment and wages, as well as enhanced revenue collection. Tax revenue grew by 57 per cent in 2010; total public revenue grew by 22 per cent to \$1.9 billion, while expenditure was reduced by 4 per cent. Donors financed \$1.3 billion of the PA budget shortfall, or 42 per cent of total spending, indicating persistent fiscal weakness. The goal of achieving a sustainable budget deficit would remain elusive unless Israel lifted all restrictions on movement and access, and Palestinians gained access to their natural resources. Israeli control over the tax and customs clearance revenue made fiscal planning difficult, undermined the PA ability to pay the private-sector agents who supplied it with goods and services, and threatened its capacity to pay the salaries of more than 150,000 public employees.

The viability of a future independent Palestinian State depended on reintegrating the economy of East Jerusalem within the broader national economy and allowing it to resume its historic, pivotal economic role. The rehabilitation and restructuring of the fragmented East Jerusalem economy required a significant national effort to reconnect it to the Palestinian territory through better integration of trade, labour and financial markets. Impediments in access to finance and credit faced by Palestinians and businesses in East Jerusalem reduced long-term investment prospects. Palestinian banks did not operate in the Jerusalem Municipality, and the few Israeli bank branches in East Jerusalem failed to cover Palestinians’ basic needs.

The UNCTAD programme of technical assistance to the Palestinian people included activities in four areas: trade policies and strategies; trade facilitation and logistics; finance and development; and enterprise, investment and competition policy. Progress was made under the Programme to Modernize and Strengthen Institutional and Managerial Capacities of the Palestinian Authority Customs Administration, Phase III; the project included the training of 48 customs em-

ployees. As a result, Palestinian Customs was able to implement new procedures and interface more effectively with the Israeli customs system. UNCTAD implemented the Development Account project entitled “Promoting Subregional Growth-oriented Economic and Trade Policies towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Arab Countries of West Africa and North Africa”, which benefited the Occupied Palestinian Territory and four other countries. UNCTAD also introduced the United Nations Chief Executives Board Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which aimed to develop the Palestinian trade sectors within a flexible framework of humanitarian interventions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 86], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/118** [draft: A/66/L.27 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 70 (b)].

Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/134 of 15 December 2010, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,

Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

Recalling further all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Gravely concerned at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

Welcoming, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in

the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Expressing grave concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Underlining the importance of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009, in addressing the immediate humanitarian situation in Gaza and in mobilizing donors to provide financial and political support for the Palestinian Authority in order to alleviate the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by the Palestinian people,

Recalling the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, and the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010,

Welcoming the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in New York on 21 September 2010 and on 18 September 2011,

Welcoming also the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming further the implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan 2008–2010 and the presentation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary of the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in 2011,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

Welcoming recent steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

Acknowledging the recent measures announced by Israel regarding access to the Gaza Strip, while calling for full implementation and complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for

the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

Welcoming the action of the Special Representative of the Quartet, Tony Blair, charged with developing, with the Government of the Palestinian Authority, a multi-year agenda to strengthen institutions, promote economic development and mobilize international funds,

Stressing the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009,

Stressing also the importance of the regular opening of the crossings for the movement of persons and goods, for both humanitarian and commercial flows,

Noting the active participation of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

Welcoming the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, of the performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and stressing the need for its implementation and compliance with its provisions,

Commending the efforts within the Quartet made by the United States of America, the European Union, the United Nations and the Russian Federation in pursuing vigorously a two-State solution, noting the commitment of the Quartet to remain actively involved and the need for strong international support to promote the peace process, and calling for the resumption and acceleration of negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides towards a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions and the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States—Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State—living side by side in peace and security,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Expressing grave concern about continuing violence against civilians,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine

Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians in September 2010 and September 2011, and the outcome of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, at which donors pledged approximately 4.5 billion United States dollars to support the needs of the Palestinian people;

7. *Recalls* the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, and the Palestine Investment Conferences;

8. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza;

9. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden-sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

10. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

13. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socio-Economic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

14. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

15. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

16. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

17. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

18. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

19. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

20. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995, including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance to the growing refugee population in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Reports of Commissioner-General. The UNRWA Commissioner-General, in his later report on the work of the Agency in 2011 [A/67/13], stated that Palestine in the five fields of UNRWA operation experienced varying political, economic and security conditions against the backdrop of incidents in the Middle East and North Africa. Refugees had to contend with the impact of the continuing global economic downturn and persistent funding shortfalls, which precluded UNRWA from meeting their basic needs.

In Gaza, poverty remained high, with 54 per cent of the population food insecure and more than 75 per cent—or 1 million Gazans—dependent on international aid. Although GDP grew approximately 23 per cent and unemployment dropped to 33 per cent in 2011, those gains were largely driven by the "tunnel economy"—trade conducted by means of the tunnels to Gaza—as opposed to production and trade. Following negotiations, Israel granted UNRWA the ability to import construction materials for a number

of projects. Of the total construction project portfolio, projects worth \$167 million were approved.

UNRWA maintained its crisis operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory under an emergency appeal for \$379 million, of which donors funded \$153.7 million, or around 40 per cent. In Gaza, the Agency improved its targeting and programme responses and reduced its emergency food assistance caseload from 714,000 refugees in the first round of assistance to 690,000 in the third round. It provided school meals to approximately 213,000 children per month and short-term job opportunities for 31,972 refugees. UNRWA health centres received an additional 80,000 patient visits in 2011 as compared with 2010.

At the end of 2011, the registered Palestine refugee population in Gaza stood at 1,167,572, of whom 780,000 had received food assistance from UNRWA. Through the UNRWA cash-for-work scheme, 8,000 jobs were created on a short-term basis, injecting an estimated \$28 million into the local economy and benefiting approximately 32,000 refugees directly. The reconstruction of Gaza was a priority, and efforts were made to accelerate the implementation of a \$667 million rebuilding plan. UNRWA completed construction of three health centres, six schools and 33 housing units. Overall, ongoing projects injected \$54 million into Gaza's economy and created the equivalent of 5,200 jobs. Thirty-eight projects awaited Israeli approval at year's end, including four fully funded housing projects and 32 schools.

In the West Bank, where the registered Palestinian refugee population numbered 727,471, UNRWA field management undertook a community engagement programme aimed at enhancing service delivery and improving refugee self-reliance, and a year-long process to improve the database of food-insecure and vulnerable refugees. It transferred community mental health in schools and clinics from the Agency's emergency funding process to its framework of core activities, and transferred shelter rebuilding into project funding.

The registered Palestine refugee population in Syria stood at 486,946. Since the outbreak of protests in Syria and the conflict that followed (see p. 468), living conditions for Palestine refugees in that country had deteriorated significantly. The devaluation of the Syrian pound negatively affected livelihoods, exacerbated by a rise in the cost of basic commodities and services and a contraction of the wage labour market. UNRWA installations were temporarily closed in Dera'a, Douma, Hama, Homs and Khan Dunoun. Under conditions of conflict, UNRWA expanded humanitarian aid, prioritizing livelihood support to the elderly, female-headed households and families with special needs. It implemented a cash assistance programme for 3,500 households. At the end of the year, 17,000 households needed urgent cash as-

sistance, a significant escalation over the Agency's normal social safety net programme.

Living conditions for the 436,154 registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon remained abject; they suffered high unemployment and poverty rates. The unity Government of Prime Minister Saad Hariri fell in January, leading to five months of political uncertainty and delays on refugee issues. In June, Prime Minister Najib Mikati formed a new Government (see p. 455) and called for full funding of UNRWA operations and the rebuilding of the Nahr el-Bared camp. As part of the first completed phase of the camp's reconstruction, UNRWA delivered 369 new shelters to refugee families in September and completed three new school buildings. Funding shortfalls challenged progress, however, and prolonged hardship for the 27,000 refugees displaced from the camp since 2007. At year's end, pledges amounting to \$15.2 million were received against an appeal for \$18.5 million to meet the basic needs of the displaced refugees awaiting reconstruction of the camp. Pledges amounting to \$165.7 million were received against an appeal for \$348 million for the reconstruction of the camp.

Jordan hosted the largest population of Palestine refugees—1,979,580 at the end of the year. UNRWA continued to identify efficiencies and savings to address funding shortfalls, while implementing health and education reform strategies. At five health centres, the Agency introduced the e-health system, which aimed to digitize the health records of patients at all UNRWA clinics, and a new appointment system, which helped reduce clinic overcrowding and delays at peak times; the reforms benefited more than 250,000 patients per year.

Israeli authorities, raising security concerns, continued to inhibit the freedom of movement of UNRWA personnel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Restrictions included closures of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; prohibition of local staff from travelling in UN vehicles across the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza; cumbersome procedures for obtaining permits for local staff to enter Israel and East Jerusalem; and searches of UN vehicles unless an occupant held an identification card issued by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Movement constraints imposed by the Israeli Government on the West Bank resulted in the loss of 163 staff days. Transit charges imposed by the Israeli authorities on shipments entering Gaza forced UNRWA to pay \$344,744 in 2011.

Contrary to the 1946 General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations [YUN 1946–47, p. 100], Israeli military and security forces entered UNRWA premises on two occasions. On another occasion, Israeli forces threw a percussion grenade inside the yard of the UNRWA Hebron boys' school while class was in session. In six incidents, Palestinians threatened or attacked Agency staff,

including one attack in which staff members were held at gunpoint. Twelve incidents of unauthorized entry into UNRWA installations also occurred, including two incidents of live fire. In Gaza, students at, or adjacent to, UNRWA schools sustained gunshot wounds from unknown sources in three instances, and Agency outposts were struck by missiles or hand grenades fired by unidentified Palestinian groups on two occasions.

The Commissioner-General submitted to the General Assembly the annual report [A/66/13 & Add.1] on the work of UNRWA for 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 474], which included comments on the report contained in a letter from the Chair of the UNRWA Advisory Commission dated 22 June 2011 [ibid., p. 475].

Advisory Commission. The UNRWA Advisory Commission, in its later comments on the Agency's report on 2011 activities [A/67/13], expressed concern about the volatile situation in Gaza and the loss of life there. The restrictions on access and the outbreaks of violence in Gaza disproportionately affected the refugees and contributed to the increased need for UNRWA services. Gaza reconstruction projects amounting to \$167 million were approved, but UNRWA continued to face challenges in receiving the approvals for rebuilding refugee shelters. In Gaza and the West Bank, the separation barrier, closures and other movement restrictions, and the destruction of homes and farms, hindered economic development, as well as the Agency's ability to carry out its mandated tasks. The Commission called for the removal of all Israeli restraints regarding the movement on UNRWA staff and goods.

The Commission noted the decline in living conditions for Palestine refugees in Syria since March, especially those in close proximity to the areas experiencing violence, and expressed its concern about the safety of refugees. It was also concerned about the security of UNRWA staff in Lebanon and stressed the need to help refugees in that country expand their opportunities and improve their living conditions. The Commission urged the international donor community to mobilize resources to ensure proper service delivery to Palestine refugees.

Report of Conciliation Commission. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/98 [YUN 2010, p. 476], the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine submitted, in August, its sixty-fifth report [A/66/296], covering the period from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011. The Commission, which was established by Assembly resolution 194(III) [YUN 1948–49, p. 203] to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and payment of compensation, stated that it had nothing to report since the submission of its sixty-fourth report in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 476].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/426], adopted **resolution 66/72** by recorded vote (160–1–8) [agenda item 52].

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 65/98 of 10 December 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 302(IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the fact that, for more than six decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Affirming the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

Acknowledging the essential role that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has played for over sixty years since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

Expressing grave concern in particular at the critical humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find

a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), and reiterates its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2012;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services for the well-being and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, including with regard to increased expenditures arising from the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation and instability in the region, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those mentioned in recent emergency appeals;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate;

6. *Decides* to invite Luxembourg, in accordance with the criterion set forth in General Assembly decision 60/522 of 8 December 2005, to become a member of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/72:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan,

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States, Vanuatu.

Also on 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/426], adopted **resolution 66/74** by recorded vote (165-7-2) [agenda item 52].

Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 212(III) of 19 November 1948, 302(IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 65/100 of 10 December 2010,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,

Taking note of the letter dated 22 June 2011 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to the Commissioner-General,

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency, caused in part by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as its rising expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency-related and development programmes,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,

Recalling also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Gravely concerned about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees,

Gravely concerned also about the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women; widespread destruction and damage to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities; and internal displacement of civilians, including refugees,

Commending the extraordinary efforts by the Agency to provide emergency relief, medical, food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance to needy and displaced families in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009,

Expressing regret over the continued restrictions that impede the Agency's efforts to repair and rebuild thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and calling upon Israel to ensure the unimpeded import of essential construction materials into the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access there,

Expressing concern about the severe classroom shortage in the Gaza Strip and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children as a result of the constraints on the ability of the Agency to construct new schools due to Israel's ongoing restrictions impeding the entry of necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the urgent need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including through the completion of suspended projects managed by the Agency, and for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities,

Urging the continuing disbursement of pledges made at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009, to accelerate the reconstruction process,

Noting with appreciation the completion of the first phase of the project to rebuild the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, commending the Government of Lebanon, donors, the Agency and other concerned parties for the important progress made and for the continuing efforts to assist affected and displaced refugees, and emphasizing the need for additional funding to complete the reconstruction of the camp and end the displacement of its twenty-seven thousand residents without delay,

Aware of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Deploring the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency, including damage caused to the Agency's "Summer Games" recreational properties, during the reporting period,

Deploring also, in particular, the extensive damage and destruction of Agency facilities in the Gaza Strip caused during the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, including schools where civilians were sheltered and the Agency's main compound and warehouse, as reported in the summary by the Secretary-

General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,

Deploring further, in this regard, the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference and the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property,

Deploring the killing and injury of Agency staff members by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since September 2000,

Deploring also the killing and wounding of refugee children in the Agency schools by the Israeli occupying forces during the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009,

Deeply concerned about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

Aware of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all of the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions and unstable circumstances faced during the past year;

3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for over sixty years since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;

7. *Commends* the Agency's six-year Medium-Term Strategy, which commenced in January 2010, and the continuing efforts of the Commissioner-General to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

8. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its reform efforts, and urges it to continue to apply maximum efficiency procedures to reduce operational and administrative costs and to maximize the use of resources;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and further urges all Member States to carefully consider its proposal for support by the Secretary-General of the institutional strengthening of the Agency through the provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations;

10. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

11. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the fulfilment of pledges made at the International Donor Conference for the Recovery and Reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared Palestine Refugee Camp and Conflict-affected Areas of Northern Lebanon, held in Vienna on 23 June 2008;

12. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue making progress in addressing the needs and rights of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, respectively;

13. *Commends*, in this regard, the Agency's "Summer Games" initiative providing recreational, cultural and educational activities for children in the Gaza Strip and, recognizing its positive contribution, calls for full support of the initiative;

14. *Expresses concern* about the relocation of the international staff of the Agency from its headquarters in Gaza City and the disruption of operations at the headquarters due to the deterioration and instability of the situation on the ground;

15. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

16. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

17. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

18. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease the levying of taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

19. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, while noting the commencement of several projects in this regard;

20. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the Agency in the modernization of its archives through the Palestine Refugee Records Project, including the completion of phase I, and encourages the Commissioner-General to finalize the remaining components of the Project as rapidly as possible and to report on the progress made to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

22. *Also notes with appreciation* the success of the Agency's microfinance programme, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

23. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the Agency and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

24. *Urges* all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency in order to address the serious financial constraints and underfunding, especially with respect to the Agency's regular budget deficit, noting that financial shortfalls have been exacerbated by the current humanitarian situation on the ground that has resulted in rising expenditures, in particular with regard to emergency services, and to support the Agency's valuable and necessary work in assisting the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/74:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica,

Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu.

UNRWA financing

In 2011, UNRWA expended \$989.8 million against its cash and in-kind General Fund amounting to \$1,226.7 million for the 2010–2011 biennium, with operations, projects and appeals funded by donors. The largest type of expenditure amounted to \$572.6 million under the unrestricted regular budget, accounting for 57.9 per cent of total expenditure. Restricted fund activities, emergency activities and other initiatives accounted for 3.9 per cent, 22.4 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively. Education remained the largest programme, accounting for \$333.8 million (58 per cent) of the unrestricted regular budget expenditure, followed by health at \$98.7 million (17 per cent), support services at \$95.7 million (17 per cent), relief and social services at \$37.8 million (7 per cent) and infrastructure at \$6.6 million (1 per cent).

An addendum to the Commissioner-General's report on UNRWA work in 2010 [A/66/13/Add.1] provided information on the 2012–2013 programme budget, which amounted to \$2,011.4 million.

Working Group. The Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA held three meetings in 2011, on 15 and 30 September and 6 October [A/66/520]. The Working Group stated that in December 2010, UNRWA reduced its programme requirements for 2011 by \$53.2 million to \$568 million. Against that reduced budget, the Agency expected a deficit of \$47.6 million at the end of 2011, representing approximately one month's operating costs of \$48 million. The Working Group noted with concern the exceptionally large funding gap anticipated for the UNRWA General Fund for 2011 and the 2012–2013 biennium. It reiterated that it was the responsibility of the international community to ensure that UNRWA services were maintained at an acceptable level and that fund-

ing kept pace with the changing needs and growth of the refugee population. The structural nature of the Agency's financial crisis, whereby its General Fund was underfunded year after year, led it to finance its annual deficit partly by spending its working capital, which was virtually depleted. The Working Group reiterated its concern that if adequate resources were not provided, the achievements of the comprehensive reform of the Agency's work could be risked and its capacity to implement its mandate jeopardized. It was also concerned by the lack of funding for UNRWA projects; in particular, it was alarmed by the lack of funding received for the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared camp in Lebanon, the Agency's largest project to date. It called on donors, including countries of the Middle East region, to support the reconstruction and relief operations until the camp was rebuilt.

UNRWA launched an appeal for \$379.7 million in December 2010 to address the urgent needs of Palestinian refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. By September 2011, it had received pledges of only \$145 million, which fell short of meeting the basic needs of the 1.9 million registered refugees, or approximately half of the total population of Gaza and the West Bank, whose living conditions continued to decline.

Management capacity

In response to General Assembly resolution 64/89 [YUN 2009, p. 469], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [A/65/705] on strengthening UNRWA management capacity. The report presented UNRWA financial needs in the context of its regional role; described the shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding, as manifested in the Agency's eroded working capital reserve; and highlighted efforts to strengthen its donor base.

UNRWA initiated programme cycle management and a reform of its human resource operations; modernized and streamlined working methods and structures; launched a strategic approach to resource mobilization aimed at strengthening the donor base and tapping into new sources of funds; and strengthened the relationship between its headquarters and the fields of operation. A plan for sustaining change, the next phase of the reform process, was introduced in 2010, representing the Agency's commitment to maintaining the momentum of reforms and ensuring a higher quality of services to refugees. UNRWA established a Department of External Relations and Communications as an initial step towards strengthening resource development and advocacy, and to broaden the Agency's global visibility. It needed to implement an enterprise resource planning system that would support compliance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and improve procure-

ment data management. UNRWA was working towards IPSAS implementation by 2012.

The backlog of shelters that UNRWA had been unable to repair or rebuild due to lack of funds had risen to over 25,000, affecting some 150,000 persons. UNRWA staff provided the key means of programme delivery, but also accounted for the largest single cost element of the General Fund. Staff numbers had risen in line with the steady growth in the number of refugees and the need to improve the quality of UNRWA services. International and area staff members were threatened in all fields of operation. The Commissioner-General determined that the safeguarding of headquarters facilities and a small number of other exposed locations had to be ensured, and complementary measures were required to improve staff safety.

Donors had shown a high degree of solidarity with the Palestine refugees over the decades, but rarely—if ever—had the level of funding met the Agency's planned programme expenditure. Without sustained investment in the quality of services provided, much of the progress made by UNRWA in assisting the Palestine refugee population to meet the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51] would be undermined and reversed. The management reform process begun in 2005 needed to be maintained and deepened to ensure that UNRWA was able to utilize donor resources efficiently and fulfil its mandate. Extrabudgetary contributions from traditional and non-traditional donors had to rise significantly over the following five years to enable the Commissioner-General to implement the Agency's medium-term strategy over the 2010–2015 period, thus providing refugees with improved basic services. The Assembly was requested to take note of the perilous cash-flow situation faced by UNRWA; ask the Secretary-General to propose increased funding from the regular budget on an incremental basis over the next four bienniums, starting with an extra \$5 million for 2012–2013; and decide that the approval of such increases was subject to justification in the context of proposed programme budgets and consideration by the Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 April [meeting 86], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/65/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 65/272** by recorded vote (123-1) [agenda item 51].

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 302(IV) of 8 December 1949, by which it established the United Nations Relief and Works

Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 65/100 of 10 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the efforts of the Working Group to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency,

Reiterating its deep concern about the critical financial situation of the Agency, caused in part by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as its rising expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions in the region and their significant negative impact on the provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency-related and development programmes,

Reiterating that the effective functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation,

Recognizing the need to maintain and extend the Agency's management reform process in order to enable the Agency to effectively deliver services to the Palestine refugees, most efficiently utilize donor resources and reduce operational and administrative costs, and encouraging in this regard the Agency's efforts to sustain change,

Recalling its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it decided that expenses for salaries of international staff in the service of the Agency which would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate,

Recalling also the recommendation of the Working Group at its extraordinary meeting in June 2009 that the General Assembly review, at its next session, the basis for its decision in resolution 3331 B (XXIX) to provide funding to the Agency for international posts so as to enable the Agency to meet contemporary demands from stakeholders and the Assembly itself,

Stressing the need to continue supporting the institutional strengthening of the Agency, including the need to reinforce the Agency's resource mobilization and advocacy capacities as well as the need for more predictable funding, through the provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, in accordance with the requests made in its resolutions 64/89 of 10 December 2009 and 65/100 of 10 December 2010,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

2. *Takes note* of the grave financial situation faced by the Agency, including recurrent budgetary shortfalls due to underfunding and rising costs;

3. *Calls upon* the Agency to continue its management reform process in order to enhance its ability to raise and efficiently utilize resources, reduce operational and administrative costs, and implement change for more effective delivery of services to its beneficiaries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the institutional strengthening of the Agency through

the provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations;

5. *Stresses* that approval of funding for the biennium 2012–2013 and for future bienniums, taking into consideration the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General, is subject to justification in the context of the proposed programme budget for the relevant bienniums and consideration thereof by the General Assembly;

6. *Reiterates its appeal* to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency in order to address the serious financial constraints and underfunding, especially with respect to the deficit in the Agency's General Fund, and to support the Agency's valuable and necessary work in assisting the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

7. *Urges* the Commissioner-General to continue his efforts to sustain and increase the support of traditional donors and to enhance income from non-traditional donors, including through partnerships with public and private entities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 65/272:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Displaced persons

In August [A/66/222], the Secretary-General submitted, in response to General Assembly resolution 65/99 [YUN 2010, p. 480], a report on persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities; the resolution called for the accelerated return of such persons to their homes in the territories occupied by

Israel. The Secretary-General stated that, based on information obtained from the UNRWA Commissioner-General for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, 207 refugees registered with the Agency had returned to the West Bank and 158 to Gaza from places outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The number of displaced registered refugees known by UNRWA to have returned since June 1967 amounted to about 33,639. The Agency was unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants who had returned. It kept records only of registered refugees, and the records might be incomplete, particularly with respect to the location of such refugees.

On 9 and 11 May, the Secretary-General sought information from Member States on action taken or envisaged to implement resolution 65/99. In an 8 July note, Israel stated that although it voted against resolution 65/99, as it had done on similar resolutions in the past, it reaffirmed its intention to continue facilitating UNRWA humanitarian services. Israel remained concerned, however, by the political motivation of the resolutions and the one-sided view they presented, which did not reflect the reality on the ground. It supported a consolidation of UNRWA resolutions, a removal of extraneous political language and an application, in the Palestinian context, of the standard principles guiding the United Nations with respect to the treatment of refugees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/426], adopted **resolution 66/73** by recorded vote (163-7-3) [agenda item 52].

Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252(ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237(1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259(1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 65/99 of 10 December 2010,

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010,

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Stresses* the necessity for an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calls for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 on the return of displaced persons;

3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its sixty-seventh session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/73:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Panama, Vanuatu.

Palestinian women

In a report to the 2011 session of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2011/6], submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/6 [YUN 2010, p. 482], the Secretary-General summarized the situation of Palestinian women and reviewed the UN assistance they received between 1 September 2009 and 30 September 2010 with regard to education and training; health; economic empowerment and livelihoods; violence against women; power and decision-making; and institutional arrangements.

The consequences of years of occupation and conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, as well as multiple political and economic crises, continued to be felt, particularly in Gaza, where Israel's Operation Cast Lead [YUN 2009, p. 434] had undermined social services, infrastructure and homes. At the end of 2009, the participation of women in the formal labour force in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was among the lowest levels globally: 15.2 per cent in the West Bank and 9.1 per cent in Gaza. Imposed movement restrictions and the lack of a means of transport constituted crucial barriers to employment, and many women—in particular middle-aged women and women with low levels of education—turned to a range of informal activities to earn money, including petty trading, agriculture and livestock production. High unemployment levels among women led to significant levels of food insecurity. UNRWA offered short-term opportunities through its emergency job-creation programme, in which 35 per cent of all beneficiaries were women. The Agency's Microfinance and Microenterprise Department in Gaza disbursed 1,126 business loans to female entrepreneurs and gave 12 women grants to create income-generating projects. Although the quality of education available to women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory varied, access to and participation in education was increasing. During the 2009/10 academic year, girls represented 47.9 per cent of the total student population in schools run by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip and 57.5 per cent in the West Bank. Illiteracy remained a serious obstacle hindering women's economic and political empowerment; 75.6 per cent of all illiterate adults were women. UN entities implemented initiatives to improve the access of women and girls to education, training and recreational activities. Through the UNRWA Department of Education, 533 female students benefited from technical and vocational training at the Ramallah Women Training Centre, and 357 benefited in Gaza. The United Nations Development Fund for Women—later a part of UN-Women—provided 100 girls and women in the Jordan Valley with literacy classes, computer training and English language

courses. UNICEF offered educational and recreational activities to more than 20,000 young women.

Concerns persisted regarding Palestinian women's maternal and child health due to mobility constraints and insufficient infrastructure. Food insecurity contributed to micronutrient deficiency and high levels of anaemia in infants and pregnant women. Post-traumatic stress and other psychological and behavioural disorders were an emerging health priority. Around 30 per cent of children screened at UNRWA schools reportedly suffered from mental health problems. Poverty and movement constraints left women unable to care for their children and relatives, which led to mental health problems, including anxiety and depression.

Palestinian women continued to be exposed to violence related to the Israeli occupation and factional tensions, as well as domestic violence, so-called "honour killings" and trafficking. Women and girls were reluctant to come forward to human rights organizations, the police and courts due to the lack of awareness of assistance mechanisms to help them, as well as the stigma attached to reporting abuse. The Palestinian Basic Law—the main statute underlying essential rights—established that Palestinians had equality without distinction based on sex, but gender-based discrimination persisted in a range of legal areas, including the penal code. A draft national strategy to combat violence against women promoted a legal structure and institutional mechanisms to protect women from violence, as well as improved social protection and health services for women victims of violence.

Palestinian women participated in both formal and informal realms of political life. In 2009, they represented 20 per cent of PA ministers. With the factional split and the freeze of the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006 [YUN 2007, p. 462], however, efforts to promote women's active political participation, including in peacebuilding and negotiation, drastically decreased. They were often excluded from strategic meetings and decision-making processes, the internal reconciliation process and permanent status negotiations.

UNRWA served as the main comprehensive health-care provider for Palestine refugees, focusing on primary health care and prevention; other UN entities supported access to reproductive health services. WHO expanded a pilot project aimed at improving the quality of maternal and newborn health from two hospitals to eight in Gaza. The initiative increased a mother's stay after childbirth from one hour to up to six hours, allowed for medical checkups on mothers and newborns, encouraged breastfeeding and offered basic health education. UNICEF delivered micronutrient supplements to more than 50,000 pregnant women and 55,000 children. UNRWA delivered food

aid to 7,838 pregnant women and nursing mothers, and family planning services were provided to 23,141 clients. UNFPA supported clinical and psychosocial services to 30,000 women in the most underprivileged areas of the West Bank and Gaza through four local women's health centres.

The Secretary-General concluded that despite improvements in education for women, there was little positive evidence of their social, economic and legal empowerment. The recent easing of movement restrictions should be continued. All parties needed to ensure women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives, including permanent status negotiations. UN entities should support the Palestinian Development Plan for 2011–2013, including its cross-sectoral national gender strategy. Stereotypical attitudes and practices that affected educational and training choices needed to be addressed, including through the revision of school curricula. UN partners should systematically address the bottlenecks preventing women's economic advancement, including the lack of access to productive resources and opportunities; limited connection to the transportation of goods; and lack of capacity for advancement resulting from insufficient education and training opportunities. In addition to ending impunity and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, legal frameworks should mandate support for victims and survivors, prevention measures and training for officials. Palestinian authorities and UN entities should collaborate to provide services for female survivors of violence, and the legal framework needed to be harmonized with the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [YUN 1979, p. 895].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 July 2011 [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2011/27], adopted **resolution 2011/18** by roll-call vote (24-2-21) [agenda item 14 (a)].

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,
Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Recalling also its resolution 2010/6 of 20 July 2010 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern also about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard

to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration into the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon*, in this regard, the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, and affirms its support for the plan of August 2009 of the Palestinian Authority for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

ROLL-CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2011/18:

In favour: Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Venezuela, Zambia.

Against: Canada, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Property rights

In response to General Assembly resolution 65/101 [YUN 2010, p. 484], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/66/318] on Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues. Denmark and Israel had replied to his request for information from Member States on action taken or envisaged in relation to the implementation of resolutions 65/98, 65/99, 65/100 [YUN 2010, pp. 476, 480 & 477] and 65/101.

In a 2 June note, Denmark stated that, as part of its continuous support to UNRWA, it expected to contribute in 2011 an amount similar to its 2010 core contribution of 70 million Danish Kroner (DKr). It had given an additional DKr 5 million for the relief and recovery of the Nahr el-Bared camp in Lebanon in 2010. Regarding resolution 65/101, which urged States to provide the Secretary-General with information concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, Denmark reported on the overall political and developmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It also monitored those issues through its support of human rights organizations in the field.

Israel, in its 8 July reply, reiterated its support for the humanitarian activities of UNRWA; it would continue to facilitate the extension of the Agency's humanitarian services to its beneficiaries. Despite a threat to its security, Israel had fostered conditions for Palestinian economic development and cooperation, including by liberalizing the system by which civilian goods entered Gaza and easing restrictions in the West Bank. Israel favoured the application, in the Palestinian context, of the standard principles guiding the United Nations with respect to the treatment of refugees. Specifically, the UNRWA mandate should define entitlement to its services in a manner consistent with the standard UN policy on refugees, and should include promotion of the UN goals of resettlement and local integration of refugees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/426], adopted **resolution 66/75** by recorded vote (165-7-2) [agenda item 52].

Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 65/101 of 10 December 2010, as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394(V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

Noting the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report, and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Expressing its appreciation for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution 194(III),

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993, to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;

3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/75:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Vanuatu.

Lebanon

Political tension in Lebanon increased markedly during 2011, fuelled by speculation and public pronouncements concerning the proceedings of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the collapse of the Government, ongoing tensions with Israel and the increase of Palestinian and Syrian refugees.

Unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic (see p. 468) affected Lebanon in mid-May through the influx of an estimated 4,000 persons fleeing violence in Syrian border towns. Israel and Lebanon made some progress in marking the Blue Line divisions between the countries, but the Syrian border remained amorphous due to the presence of paramilitary groups and disagreement among the parties. Hizbullah, the country's largest and most heavily armed paramilitary group, asserted its intention to stockpile weapons to defend the country against Israel, while Israel protested the continued harbouring of Hizbullah in Lebanon. Demonstrations along the Blue Line took place throughout the year and escalated to deadly ends in

one major incident, resulting in several deaths and many wounded. The aiming and discharge of weapons among the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces occurred in many instances, but were mitigated by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Security Council renewed UNIFIL's mandate for another year and encouraged the resumption of the Lebanese National Dialogue to resolve all border issues, thus affirming Lebanon as a sovereign and unified State.

Political and security developments

The Secretary-General, reporting on political developments in Lebanon in April [S/2011/258], stated that one minister from President Michel Sleiman's bloc and 10 ministers from the opposition resigned from the Cabinet on 12 January, forcing the collapse of the Government of National Unity. The following day, President Sleiman requested that the Government continue to function in a caretaker capacity. On 25 January, President Sleiman requested Prime Minister-Designate Najib Mikati to form a new Government. The absence of political authority in the months that followed generated institutional paralysis and a deterioration of security conditions in the country. Political polarization deepened and Lebanon grew increasingly susceptible to the regional political tumult. Developments in neighbouring Syria deepened political and sectarian divisions. The divide between the two major political blocs—the 8 March and 14 March Alliances—increasingly revolved around the question of Syria, and demonstrations both in favour and against the Syrian regime took place in several Lebanese cities.

In October [S/2011/648], the Secretary-General reported that on 13 June, then Prime Minister-Designate Mikati announced the formation of a new Government, which won a vote of confidence on 7 July.

Security Council consideration. The Security Council considered the situation in Lebanon, UNIFIL and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506] and 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583] in meetings held throughout the year.

On 23 June [S/PV.6562] the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefing the Council on the situation in Lebanon, said that the Secretary-General expected the new Government to reiterate its commitment to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and Lebanon's international obligations. The United Nations continued to monitor developments along Lebanon's northern border. The influx of Syrian nationals into Lebanon, which reached an estimated 4,000 persons in mid-May, had virtually stopped, a development attributable to Syria's placement of additional security measures along

the border. The United Nations coordinated closely with Lebanon on the provision of assistance to the displaced, as well as on matters of protection and the determination of their status.

The Under-Secretary-General, speaking before the Council on 25 August [S/PV.6602], stated that on 3 and 4 August, the Lebanese Parliament held its first session since the formation of the Government on 7 July; it adopted a law that defined the maritime zones under Lebanon's sovereignty. The President of the Palestinian Authority (PA), Mahmoud Abbas, visited Lebanon from 16 to 19 August; he inaugurated a new Palestinian embassy in Beirut, marking the upgrade of the diplomatic representation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon and Palestine's efforts to seek Lebanon's support for recognition as a State at the United Nations in September.

On 21 November [S/PV.6662], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, reported to the Council that developments in Syria continued to stoke political tension in Lebanon. Lebanon's 12 November vote against the League of Arab States proposal to suspend Syrian membership became a divisive issue between the coalition in power and the opposition. The situation along Lebanon's border with Syria also remained a concern. The Syrian army planted landmines on its side of the border in areas most commonly used as illegal crossing points into Lebanon.

On 24 October [S/PV.6636], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs told the Council that on several occasions in October, the Syrian army opened fire across the border, carried out incursions into Lebanon and raided houses to capture fleeing nationals and army deserters. On 6 October, Syrian troops killed a Syrian national on Lebanese soil.

In **resolution 66/192** of 22 December (see p. 991), the General Assembly requested Israel to assume responsibility for compensation to Lebanon and other countries affected by the oil slick on Lebanese and Syrian shores caused by military action in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1215].

Communications. In communications received throughout the year, Lebanon reported on Israeli acts of aggression by air, land and sea, as well as violations of the Blue Line and, consequently, of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity [A/65/709-S/2011/48, S/2011/52, A/65/722-S/2011/61, A/65/729-S/2011/71, A/65/754-S/2011/83, A/65/771-S/2011/115, A/65/785-S/2011/139, A/65/805-S/2011/174, A/65/798-S/2011/198, A/65/799-S/2011/199, A/65/860-S/2011/358, A/65/892-S/2011/426, A/65/922-S/2011/490, A/66/363-S/2011/581, A/66/390-S/2011/605, A/66/508-S/2011/608, A/66/494-S/2011/624, A/66/498-S/2011/620, A/66/515-S/2011/657, A/66/535-S/2011/677, A/66/589-S/2011/756, A/66/595-S/2011/776, A/66/622-S/2011/791, A/66/650-S/2011/801].

Implementation of resolution 1559(2004)

The Secretary-General submitted his thirteenth and fourteenth semi-annual reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506], which called for strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government; the withdrawal of all remaining foreign forces from Lebanon; and the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias.

Report of Secretary-General (April). In April [S/2011/258], the Secretary-General, in his thirteenth semi-annual report, stated that, owing to the political crisis and institutional paralysis in Lebanon, there had been no progress towards the implementation of the remaining provisions of resolution 1559(2004) since his twelfth report in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 486]. The Secretary-General was concerned by the increased tension in the country generated, inter alia, by speculation over the proceedings of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (see p. 466). He urged political leaders to transcend sectarian and individual interests and promote the interests of the State. Resolution 1559(2004) and other Council resolutions pertaining to Lebanon remained the best guarantee for the country's long-term prosperity and stability as a democratic State.

Armed groups defying State control were incompatible with the objective of strengthening Lebanon's sovereignty and political independence, the protection of the country's unique pluralistic system and the rights of Lebanese citizens. The Secretary-General condemned the use of illegal weapons in Lebanon and appealed to parties within and outside the country to cease efforts to transfer and acquire weapons and to build paramilitary capacities outside the State's authority. Foreign financial and material support for Lebanon should be channelled transparently through the Government. He called on the leaders of Hizbullah to complete the group's transformation into a solely Lebanese political party and to disarm in a manner consistent with the 1989 Taif Agreement [YUN 1989, p. 203] and resolution 1559(2004); regional States were called on to assist in that transformation. The Secretary-General called on Lebanese leaders to reconvene, under the auspices of President Sleiman, the National Dialogue, the main mandate of which was to develop a national defence strategy that would address the issue of weapons outside State control.

There had been no progress regarding the dismantling of Palestinian military bases outside refugee camps. Paramilitary infrastructures of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) and Fatah al-Intifada remained beyond State authority. The bases, most

of which straddled the Lebanon-Syria border, undermined Lebanese sovereignty and challenged the country's ability to manage its borders.

More needed to be done to improve the dismal living conditions of Palestine refugees in Lebanon, without prejudice to an overall resolution of the refugee questions within the framework of a comprehensive peace agreement. The Secretary-General called on the Government to alleviate the situation in refugee camps, and on Member States to offer assistance to consolidate political dialogue and security in the camps. The Secretary-General urged the international community to continue to equip and train the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). He urged Lebanon's neighbours to support the sovereignty and political independence of the country, and called on all parties to abide by resolutions 1559(2004), 1680(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 571] and 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583].

Communication. On 5 May [S/2011/286], Syria, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, said that references made in the Secretary-General's thirteenth semi-annual report on the implementation of resolution 1559(2004) (see above) were an explicit acknowledgement that Syria had fulfilled all obligations incumbent on it under the resolution. Syria did not accept references made in the report to the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, which was a bilateral matter. It said that the real obstacle to the final delineation of the border was Israel's continued aggression and its occupation of the Syrian Golan and the Shab'a Farms. The Palestinian presence in Lebanon was governed by Lebanese-Palestinian agreements that did not concern Syria. The Palestinian positions located along the Syrian-Lebanese border that were noted in the report lay within Lebanese territory; therefore, Syria would not intervene in the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (October). In October, the Secretary-General submitted his fourteenth semi-annual report [S/2011/648] on the implementation of resolution 1559(2004).

He stated that the 68 Members of Parliament who voted in favour of the new Government in July represented the new majority, composed, *inter alia*, of Hizbullah, the Amal movement, the Free Patriotic Movement and others. Sixty Members of Parliament of the 14 March Alliance boycotted the vote to protest what they termed a coup by Hizbullah to reverse the results of the 2009 parliamentary elections [YUN 2009, p. 476]. In their opinion, Hizbullah and Syria had imposed the new Government on the country.

The Secretary-General reported that implementation of resolution 1559(2004) had not progressed over the previous six months. He condemned the possession and use of illegal weapons in Lebanon, in particular in populated areas. Hizbullah's arsenal

of weapons posed a key challenge to the safety of Lebanese civilians and to the Government monopoly on the legitimate use of force. The issue had become even more urgent against the backdrop of the ongoing political upheavals across the region. The absence of progress on the disarming and disbanding of militias placed Lebanon in violation of its international obligations. Lebanon had to revitalize efforts to address the challenge posed by the continued presence of arms outside the authority of the State, and the Secretary-General called on President Sleiman and Prime Minister Mikati to take action in that regard. He encouraged the President and the Government to implement past decisions taken by the National Dialogue, including the dismantling of Palestinian military bases maintained outside the refugee camps by the Damascus-headquartered PFLP-GC and Fatah al-Intifada. Mindful that the two militias maintained close regional ties, the Secretary-General renewed his call on Syria to assist in the process.

The Secretary-General, recalling that two thirds of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon lived in dire poverty, called on the Government to implement amendments to the Labour Code and Social Security Law, adopted in 2010, to improve the employment prospects of refugees.

The political crisis in Syria (see p. 468) further hindered progress towards the delineation and the demarcation of the border between that country and Lebanon; the Secretary-General urged the two countries to move forward on the issue. He also urged Lebanon to implement a comprehensive border management strategy, which would enable better control of the country's international borders and prevent illegal arms transfers. The Secretary-General called on Syria to cease the violent incursions and raids into Lebanese towns and villages by Syrian security forces that resulted in death and injury, and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, in accordance with resolution 1559(2004). Such incursions and the crisis in Syria carried the potential of igniting further tensions inside Lebanon and beyond.

Security incidents during the reporting period highlighted the need for Lebanese security forces to do more to prevent and respond to violence. Increased support for LAF and the Internal Security Forces remained critical. The Secretary-General deplored the continued Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He called on Israel to withdraw its forces from the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line, and to cease its overflights of Lebanese airspace.

Communication. On 26 October [S/2011/667], Syria, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, presented its position on the Secretary-General's fourteenth

semi-annual report (see above). It stated that the claim that the new Lebanese Government was imposed by Syria constituted blatant interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; any change in government was part of the democratic process in that country. Furthermore, the introduction of references to Syria or its internal situation into the reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of resolution 1559(2004) was not acceptable because such matters did not fall within the mandate of his representative. Allegations of incidents of violence, cross-border gunfire or Syrian infiltration into Lebanon had been disproven.

Implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and UNIFIL activities

Security Council resolution 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583], which was approved by both the Lebanese and the Israeli Governments, brought about a ceasefire, effective 14 August 2006, between Israel and Hizbullah after a month-long conflict that caused hundreds of civilian deaths and major infrastructure damage throughout Lebanon. By the same resolution, the Council expanded the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to undertake substantial new tasks, in addition to those mandated under resolutions 425(1978) [YUN 1978, p. 312] and 426(1978) [ibid.], and authorized an increase in the Force strength from 2,000 to a maximum of 15,000 troops. The Secretary-General updated the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) in three periodic reports during the year.

UNIFIL was established by Council resolution 425(1978), following Israel's invasion of Lebanon [YUN 1978, p. 296]. The Force was originally entrusted with confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting Lebanon in regaining authority in southern Lebanon. Following a second invasion in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 428], the Council, in resolution 511(1982) [ibid., p. 450], authorized the Force to carry out the additional task of providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the local population. Following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 465], UNIFIL was reinforced in order to monitor those territories previously occupied by Israel, to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to create conditions for the restoration of Lebanese authority in the area.

Communications. On 26 January [A/65/708-S/2011/47], Lebanon, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, presented its position with respect to the comprehensive assessment that would be presented by the Secretary-General in his forthcoming report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006) (see below). Lebanon believed that Israel

had failed to honour its obligation to implement resolution 1701(2006) or to withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territory. Since the Secretary-General's previous report [YUN 2010, p. 490], Israel had committed 298 air, 24 sea and 149 land violations of Lebanese sovereignty. Networks of spies recruited by Israel constituted an attack on Lebanon's sovereignty. On 3 December 2010, Israeli forces detonated by remote control listening devices they had planted in Lebanese territory at Wadi Qaysiyah following the discovery of those devices by Lebanese workers; the detonation caused multiple injuries to two individuals. LAF also discovered and dismantled two other electronic devices planted by Israeli forces in Lebanese territory. Lebanon said that maps it received from Israel relating to cluster bombs Israel had dropped on populated areas were incomplete and imprecise. The bombs caused the death or injury of more than 400 persons. Lebanon demanded that information should be deposited regarding the dates on which cluster bombs were dropped, together with the quantity and types of bombs. The Israeli army continued to use launches to conduct illegal patrols inside Lebanese territorial waters close to the so-called "line of buoys", which Israel claimed approximated the southern border of Lebanese territorial waters. Israel's claims that weapons were stockpiled and military installations established in densely populated civilian areas in southern Lebanon were not true.

Lebanon stressed the importance of strengthening international assistance in building the capacities of the Lebanese Army and security forces and preparing them to defend Lebanese sovereignty and protect the Lebanese people. It decided to deploy two additional battalions south of the Litani River to further demonstrate its commitment to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006).

On 24 February [S/2011/93], Israel informed the Council of its concerns on key issues related to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). Israel witnessed a lack of progress in enforcing the arms embargo in Lebanon, a key element of resolution 1701(2006) that sought to deny Hizbullah and other terrorist groups the means to build and reconstitute their illegal arsenals. Hizbullah possessed more than 55,000 missiles and rockets and continued to focus on acquiring more advanced weaponry. The accumulation of weapons was accomplished through joint and coordinated illegal arms transfers facilitated by the Syrian authorities across the Syrian-Lebanese border. No meaningful action had been taken by the relevant parties to combat illegal weapons transfers. Hizbullah continued to deploy weapons throughout the civilian villages of southern Lebanon, adjacent to schools, hospitals, houses of worship and residential buildings.

Report of Secretary-General (February). On 28 February, the Secretary-General submitted his

fifteenth report [S/2011/91] on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006). He said that the paralysis of the Lebanese Government during most of the reporting period prevented progress in implementing some of the country's key obligations under the resolution. Nevertheless, relative stability and calm prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operations, and the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Lebanon, established in 2006, continued to hold. On 17 November 2010, Israel accepted, in principle, the UN proposal for a withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from the northern part of Ghajar and the redeployment of IDF south of the Blue Line. The marking of the Blue Line, which required the clearance of minefields and the disposal of unexploded ordnance, continued slowly within the previously agreed five sectors, comprising 38 kilometres; 87 markers were in place out of an estimated 171. UNIFIL deminers cleared access to an additional 134 points to be marked. Following a special tripartite meeting dedicated to the visible marking of the Blue Line on 18 August, both parties signalled their readiness to accelerate the process, but a lack of flexibility in finding practical solutions to contentious points resulted in delays.

UNIFIL completed its investigation into the 3 September 2010 explosion that occurred at a house in Shahabiye (Sector West) [YUN 2010, p. 492] but, owing to possible evidence tampering, it could not determine the cause of the explosion or whether the house had been used for activities in contravention of resolution 1701(2006). Israeli officials questioned the UNIFIL conclusions regarding the investigation. The LAF report, shared with UNIFIL, stated that no evidence of bomb fragmentation or explosive material residue existed at the site.

LAF informed UNIFIL that, during excavations carried out by Lebanese workers in the vicinity of Majdal Silim (Sector West) on 3 December 2010, an explosion occurred resulting in the injury of two civilians (see p. 458). The following day, UNIFIL and LAF found what appeared to be the remains of a buried electronic device. UNIFIL launched an investigation but, despite repeated requests, it was shown neither the reports citing the testimonies of the two injured persons nor the remnants of an alleged Israeli sensor. IDF informed UNIFIL that it did not have any related information and could neither confirm nor deny Lebanon's claim.

With few exceptions, UNIFIL generally enjoyed freedom of movement throughout its area of operations, carrying out approximately 10,000 patrols each month. As called for in Security Council resolutions, UNIFIL and LAF expanded their coordinated activities and cooperation.

Lebanon did not report any breach of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1701(2006). Israel maintained that Hizbullah continued to build up its

military presence and capacity, including within the UNIFIL area of operations. It also charged that Hizbullah kept military units in populated areas in southern Lebanon, and that unauthorized weapons were transferred into Lebanon through UNIFIL-controlled sectors. The United Nations took seriously Israeli allegations that Hizbullah was building its armaments supply but was not in a position to verify such information independently.

There was no progress on the delineation and demarcation of the border between Lebanon and Syria or on the issue of the Shab'a Farms area. In a 4 January letter to the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon raised the issue of the maritime delimitation of the southern boundaries of Lebanon's exclusive economic zone and Lebanon's right to exploit the resources it contained. In his 7 February response to the caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General recalled that, according to the law of the sea, boundaries should be delimited by agreements based on international law; the United Nations did not become involved unless mandated by competent UN organs or requested by all parties concerned to do so. With the agreement of the parties, the Secretariat stood ready to provide assistance in the matter and to pursue appropriate avenues to ensure that the exploration and exploitation of resources in maritime zones did not become a new source of friction or conflict between Lebanon and Israel.

Communications. On 15 May [A/65/841-S/2011/312], Lebanon, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, reported that despite heightened measures taken by the Lebanese army in relation to the commemoration of the Nakbah that day in the town of Maroun al-Ras in southern Lebanon, Israeli forces fired at a group of unarmed civilians gathered there, killing 10 persons and wounding 112 others, some critically.

On 16 May [S/2011/309], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Council President concerning the 15 May incident, stated that hundreds of individuals near the village of Maroun al-Ras sought to breach the Blue Line and enter Israel using violent means, including by throwing large objects. IDF operated with maximum restraint in confronting the significant threat of violence. Responsibility for any harm caused to the individuals involved in the demonstrations lay with Lebanon, which was tasked with preventing any infiltration of the Blue Line or incitements in its vicinity.

On 22 June [A/65/874-S/2011/400], Lebanon, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, presented a paper expressing its position with respect to the Secretary-General's forthcoming report (see p. 460). Lebanon stated that, since the Secretary-General's fifteenth report (see above),

Israel had committed 336 air, 149 land and 60 sea violations of Lebanese sovereignty.

Report of Secretary-General (July). In July [S/2011/406], the Secretary-General submitted his sixteenth report on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). The security arrangements put in place by the resolution were tested by a number of incidents since his previous report. The most deadly incident in the Blue Line area since the adoption of the resolution occurred on 15 May, when IDF, after firing initial warning shots, opened live fire against Palestinian demonstrators in the area of Maroun al-Ras in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL estimated that around 8,000 to 10,000 people, mostly Palestinian, participated in the demonstration organized by Palestinian and Lebanese groups, among them Hizbullah. While the majority of demonstrators commemorated the day peacefully, around 1,000 protesters crossed through a minefield and moved towards the Blue Line and the Israeli technical fence. Using cordons and firing in the air, LAF stopped a first attempt by a smaller group to reach the fence but was not able to prevent the second attempt. At the technical fence, demonstrators unearthed 23 anti-tank mines, threw stones and two petrol bombs across the fence, and attempted to climb it and bring it down. Following a verbal warning and firing into the air, IDF directed live fire at the protesters. LAF informed UNIFIL that seven people were killed and 111 were injured. Preliminary findings of a UNIFIL investigation indicated that the demonstrators carried out a provocative and violent act that constituted a violation of resolution 1701(2006). The number of LAF troops and the available equipment proved insufficient for the expected turnout at the event and the envisaged risks. Other than firing initial warning shots, IDF did not use conventional crowd control methods. The firing of live ammunition by IDF across the Blue Line, which resulted in the loss of civilian life and a significant number of casualties, constituted a violation of resolution 1701(2006) and was not commensurate with the threat to Israeli soldiers. With the exception of a request for UNIFIL to carry out helicopter patrols to monitor the situation from the air, LAF did not ask for UNIFIL assistance. IDF called on UNIFIL to intervene on the ground once the demonstrators reached the technical fence, but LAF insisted that UNIFIL stay away from the demonstrators to avoid additional friction. The Secretary-General called on the Lebanese authorities and LAF to prevent incidents on the Blue Line originating from Lebanon; on IDF to refrain from responding to such situations with live fire, except when required in immediate self-defence; and on both parties to work with UNIFIL to mitigate the risk of further violence.

Hizbullah acknowledged that it maintained a substantial arsenal separate from that of the Lebanese State for defensive purposes against Israel. The Secre-

tary-General of Hizbullah, Hassan Nasrallah, stated publicly that his party would continue to train, exercise and arm itself to protect Lebanon and its natural resources against "potential Israeli attacks".

The situation in Lebanon was influenced by developments taking place in the region. The unrest in Syria since mid-March (see p. 468) had affected Lebanon most visibly in mid-May through the influx of an estimated 4,000 persons fleeing violence in Syrian border towns. Lebanon's northern border with Syria was managed by the Common Border Force, which comprised around 700 staff from Lebanon's security agencies. LAF deployed approximately 220 troops to support the Force in response to the large number of people crossing the border. By early June, many of the displaced had returned to Syria. At a 14 April meeting chaired by the Special Coordinator, donor countries reiterated the need for a national strategy for border management.

On 27 May, UNIFIL withstood a terrorist attack when an explosion caused by a remotely controlled roadside bomb hit a UNIFIL logistics convoy as it passed on the main coastal highway connecting Beirut to southern Lebanon—the main UNIFIL supply route. The attack injured six Italian peacekeepers, two seriously, in addition to causing minor injuries to two Lebanese civilians. The incident was the fourth attack against UNIFIL since the adoption of resolution 1701(2006) and the first in more than three years. As was the case in the previous instances, no one claimed responsibility for the attack. The Secretary-General condemned the attack and called on the Lebanese authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice. UNIFIL observed proceedings in the Lebanese military court against individuals accused of forming armed groups to carry out attacks against it. On 7 March, the court handed out nine sentences for possession of explosives and planning and conducting terrorist attacks against LAF and UNIFIL.

Despite the events of 15 and 27 May, the Secretary-General observed that relative stability and calm prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operations. Nevertheless, without progress in the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006), the situation along the Blue Line would remain fragile. He called on both parties to embrace the new strategic environment that UNIFIL had established in cooperation with LAF, and take the necessary steps to reach a permanent ceasefire.

Communications. On 1 August [S/2011/483], Israel, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, stated that, on that day, an LAF soldier opened fire on IDF soldiers situated south of the Blue Line. IDF responded in self-defence only after it was fired upon, acting with maximum restraint.

On 3 August [A/65/925-S/2011/487], Lebanon submitted a complaint against Israeli forces concerning the 1 August incident. It stated that an Israeli patrol comprising eight troops carrying a video camera crossed the Wazzani River (Blue Line) and penetrated some 15 metres into Lebanese territory. LAF responded by firing warning shots inside Lebanese territory, but not towards the Israeli patrol. After crossing back to the river's east bank and withdrawing behind the technical fence, IDF opened fire for 10 minutes using small and medium weapons and grenade launchers against Lebanese troops. An LAF soldier was slightly injured by Israeli gunfire.

Renewal of UNIFIL mandate. On 5 August [S/2011/488], the Secretary-General requested the Security Council to consider the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL for one year, as also requested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon in a 22 July letter. UNIFIL continued to play a crucial role in ensuring peace and stability in southern Lebanon, as well as full respect for the Blue Line by both parties. In accordance with its mandate, UNIFIL monitored the cessation of hostilities and assisted LAF in taking steps towards the establishment of an area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of any unauthorized armed personnel, assets and weapons.

The UNIFIL liaison and coordination arrangements with the parties, including the tripartite mechanism, facilitated constructive and pragmatic measures and served to build trust. After a long impasse in the process of visibly marking the Blue Line, the parties responded positively to the most recent UNIFIL initiative to proceed with the marking of non-contentious points. The parties also agreed to discuss maritime security issues through the tripartite mechanism. UNIFIL, following intensive engagement with both parties, finalized its proposal regarding security arrangements to facilitate the withdrawal of IDF from northern Ghajar. The long-term objective of UNIFIL was to gradually transfer its responsibilities on land and at sea to LAF and have it assume security control over the UNIFIL area of operations and Lebanese territorial waters, in line with resolution 1701(2006).

As at 15 July, the number of UNIFIL military personnel stood at 12,091, including 11,135 ground troops deployed in two sectors and 616 personnel serving in the Maritime Task Force. The UNIFIL civilian component numbered 354 international and 658 national staff.

Communication. In identical letters of 25 August addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President [S/2011/537], Israel reiterated its support for UNIFIL. Nevertheless, several factors continued to exist in southern Lebanon in violation of Council resolutions 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506], 1680(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 571] and 1701(2006).

Israel reiterated its concerns regarding three core issues. First, Hizbullah's armed entrenchment and extensive military build-up in southern Lebanon placed a large portion of Israel's population under grave threat. The second issue related to Hizbullah's intentionally embedding its military infrastructure within civilian populated areas. The third concern was Hizbullah's attempt to obstruct UNIFIL by using so-called civilians to act against the Force and disrupt its freedom of movement.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 August [meeting 6605], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2004(2011)**. The draft [S/2011/545] was submitted by France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425(1978) and 426(1978) of 19 March 1978, 1559(2004) of 2 September 2004, 1680(2006) of 17 May 2006, 1701(2006) of 11 August 2006, 1773(2007) of 24 August 2007, 1832(2008) of 27 August 2008, 1884(2009) of 27 August 2009 and 1937(2010) of 30 August 2010, as well as the statements by its President on the situation in Lebanon,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for a new period of one year, without amendment, presented in the letter dated 22 July 2011 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon to the Secretary-General, and welcoming the letter dated 5 August 2011 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council recommending this extension,

Reiterating its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701(2006), and aware of its responsibilities to help to secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in the resolution,

Calling upon all parties concerned to strengthen their efforts to fully implement all provisions of resolution 1701(2006) without delay,

Expressing deep concern at all violations in connection with resolution 1701(2006), in particular the latest grave violations of 15 May and 1 August 2011, and looking forward to the rapid finalization of the investigation by the Force with a view to preventing such incidents in the future,

Commending the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Force on steps taken to prevent an escalation of violence during protests on 5 June 2011,

Emphasizing the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by resolution 1701(2006),

Recalling the utmost importance that all parties concerned respect the Blue Line in its entirety, and encouraging the parties to accelerate their efforts in coordination with the Force to visibly mark the Blue Line in its entirety,

Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks against peacekeepers of the Force on 27 May and 26 July

2011, as well as all attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon, reaffirming its determination to ensure that no such acts of intimidation will prevent the Force from implementing its mandate in accordance with resolution 1701(2006), and welcoming the investigation launched by Lebanon and its commitment to bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks and to protect the movements of the Force, as stated by the Lebanese Higher Defence Council on 12 August 2011,

Recalling the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Commending the active role and dedication of the personnel of the Force, expressing its strong appreciation to Member States that contribute to the Force, and underlining the necessity that the Force have at its disposal all means and equipment necessary to carry out its mandate,

Recalling the request of the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory, and reaffirming the authority of the Force to take all necessary action, in areas of operations of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind and to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its mandate,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the Force, under close review, and stressing the need for the Security Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Calling upon Member States to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces as needed to enable them to perform their duties in line with resolution 1701(2006),

Determining that the situation in Lebanon continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon until 31 August 2012;

2. *Commends* the positive role of the Force, whose deployment together with the Lebanese Armed Forces has helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon, welcomes the expansion of coordinated activities between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, and calls for further enhancement of this cooperation;

3. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the engagement of the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the strategic dialogue, which aims at carrying out analysis of ground forces and maritime assets and setting a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of the Force vis-à-vis those of the Lebanese Armed Forces, with a view to identifying Lebanese Armed Forces requirements for implementing tasks mandated in resolution 1701(2006), calls for an acceleration of its pace, and requests in this regard the Secretary-General to conduct, before the end of the year, a strategic review of the Force in an effort to ensure, along with peacekeeping good practice, that the Force is configured most appropriately to fulfil its mandated tasks;

4. *Strongly calls upon* all parties concerned to respect the cessation of hostilities, to prevent any violation of the Blue Line and to respect it in its entirety and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Force;

5. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all terrorist attacks against the Force, and urges all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of the Force and other United Nations personnel and to ensure that the freedom of movement of the Force is fully respected and unimpeded, in conformity with its mandate and its rules of engagement, including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel, and in this regard calls for further cooperation between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular regarding coordinated and adjacent patrols, and for the rapid finalization of the investigation launched by Lebanon regarding the attacks of 27 May and 26 July 2011 in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of those attacks;

6. *Urges* all parties to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make tangible progress towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in resolution 1701(2006), and emphasizes that more work remains to be done by the parties to advance the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006);

7. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expedite the withdrawal of its army from northern Ghajar without further delay in coordination with the Force, which has actively engaged Israel and Lebanon to facilitate such a withdrawal;

8. *Reaffirms its call upon* all States to fully support and respect the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and the Force;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) every four months, or at any time as he deems appropriate;

11. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003 and 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008;

12. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communications. On 9 November, Lebanon, in letters addressed to the Secretary-General [A/66/580] and the Security Council President [S/2011/711], presented its position with respect to the Secretary-General's forthcoming report on the implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006) (see p. 463). It stated that the Israeli army had committed 495 air, 107 land and 204 sea violations of Lebanese sovereignty since the Secretary-General's previous report. Israel had committed some 9,168 violations since the adoption of resolution 1701(2006).

Report of Secretary-General (November). On 14 November, the Secretary-General submitted his seventeenth report [S/2011/715] on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). In its ministerial statement, the new Government of Lebanon expressed its commitment to the full implementation of the resolution. In keeping with that commitment, Prime Minister Mikati visited southern Lebanon and UNIFIL headquarters a few days after the Government was sworn in.

UNIFIL investigated the 1 August incident in which IDF and LAF exchanged fire along the Wazzani River (see p. 461). LAF said that it had fired warning shots to counter an intrusion into Lebanese territory and subsequently came under fire when IDF soldiers returned to the eastern side of the river. IDF maintained that its soldiers had not crossed the river or the Blue Line; rather, they came under fire from a Lebanese soldier as they completed their ascent of a hill towards the technical fence and returned fire. UNIFIL concluded that both parties breached the cessation of hostilities, which constituted a violation of resolution 1701(2006), but was unable to determine whether a ground violation of the Blue Line had occurred. Following the incident, UNIFIL increased the number of its patrols in the area.

UNIFIL generally enjoyed freedom of movement throughout its area of operations, conducting approximately 9,000 to 10,000 patrols each month. A small number of patrols were subject to freedom of movement restrictions, in which members of the local population threw stones and took UN equipment. A few cases included physical assault against UNIFIL personnel. Despite those incidents, the attitude of the local population towards UNIFIL remained generally positive. The Secretary-General called on the Lebanese authorities to take action against the perpetrators of incidents that impeded the freedom of movement of UNIFIL.

On 19 July, LAF informed UNIFIL that it approved the arrangements as a first phase in a process leading to Lebanon's full control over the northern part of Ghajar village and an adjacent area of land north of the Blue Line. IDF informed UNIFIL that the arrangements would require Israel's approval. The United Nations did not receive any response from the Government of Israel.

After an almost year-long hiatus in visibly marking the Blue Line, the parties responded positively to the UNIFIL initiative to proceed with the delineation of non-contentious points along the entire Line. UNIFIL identified 135 such points, which were being measured and marked. As at 31 October, UNIFIL deminers had cleared access to 176 points to be marked. Of those points, 135 were measured, 106 Blue Line markers were constructed and 97 markers were verified by both parties.

On 5 and 6 August, following an assassination attempt against the military commander of Fatah in Lebanon, heavy clashes between armed factions erupted in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh. A ceasefire was agreed on after hours of fighting that left a number of people injured. On 12 September, as a result of a personal dispute, fierce clashes involving the use of heavy weapons took place between Hizbullah militants and armed Palestinians on the outskirts of the Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut, leaving several people injured. PA President Mahmoud Abbas visited Lebanon from 16 to 19 August and stressed that Palestine refugees in Lebanon had to abide by Lebanon's domestic laws.

LAF informed the United Nations that the deterioration of the security situation in Syria had prompted it to adopt increased border control measures in order to prevent the entry of arms and military personnel into Lebanon. LAF did not report incidents of arms smuggling from Syria to Lebanon, but other officials publicly stated that arms and fuel transfers across the border took place in both directions. As at late October, more than 3,100 Syrian nationals who fled the violence were jointly registered with Lebanon's High Relief Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A number of cross-border incidents took place over the reporting period. The Syrian army shot across the border into Lebanese territory, targeting individuals who attempted to flee Syria, resulting in at least one death. It also conducted incursions into Lebanon across the eastern and the northern borders; some of the incursions extended 3 kilometres into Lebanese territory. LAF and Government officials consulted by the United Nations noted that the incidents took place in areas where the border was not delineated or demarcated. President Sleiman instructed LAF to establish contacts with the Syrian army with respect to the incursions in order to maintain respect for Lebanon's sovereignty.

The Secretary-General urged the new Government of Lebanon to strengthen its efforts to control the country's borders, including by adopting the comprehensive border management strategy to which the previous Government had committed in 2010. He also urged Syria to cooperate with Lebanon to achieve the delineation and demarcation of the border between them. The Secretary-General deplored the violent incursions into Lebanese towns and villages by Syrian security forces that resulted in death and injury, and called on Syria to cease such incursions and respect Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On 26 July, UNIFIL suffered its second direct terrorist attack within two months, when an explosion caused by a roadside bomb hit a UNIFIL logistics convoy south of the town of Saïda; six UNIFIL peacekeepers serving with the French contingent were injured.

The Lebanese authorities informed UNIFIL that they were following leads in the investigations into the two attacks against UNIFIL along the main coastal highway, but no arrests had been made. The attack demonstrated the persistence of the terrorist threat against UNIFIL, especially along its main supply route outside its area of operations. In response, LAF reinforced its presence in key locations along the main UNIFIL supply route and accompanied all convoys north of the Litani River. The Secretary-General reiterated his condemnation of the attack.

Communications. On 25 November [S/2011/735], Syria, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated its position with respect to the Secretary-General's seventeenth report (see above) on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). Syria reasserted its commitment to providing all possible support and assistance to consolidate the authority and sovereignty of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory. It reiterated that it was unacceptable to discuss Syria or its internal situation in the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) because such matters were not part of the mandate of the Secretary-General's representative.

On 29 November [S/2011/743], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that a terrorist attack on Israel was launched from Lebanon earlier that day. Four rockets were fired into northern Israel, exploding in the heart of Western Galilee, a densely populated area. The rockets caused damage to numerous civilian buildings. Israel held the Government of Lebanon and LAF responsible for the attack, and expected them to take all necessary measures to prevent further acts of terrorism. The attack was a direct result of transfers of arms from Iran and Syria, which flowed unimpeded across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

On 13 December [S/2011/773], Iran, in a letter addressed to the Security Council President, categorically rejected the allegations made in Israel's 29 November letter (see above) concerning so-called "transfers of arms from Iran" into Lebanon. Iran's support for the resistance and Hizbullah was of a moral, humanitarian and political nature.

Security Council consideration. On 20 December [S/PV.6692], the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, briefing the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, said that on 9 December, a roadside explosive device targeting a UNIFIL patrol was detonated in the suburbs of Tyre, injuring five peacekeepers and two Lebanese civilians. The Secretary-General and the Council condemned the attack, which was the third directed against UNIFIL in 2011 and the first in the UNIFIL area of operations since 2007. On 11 December, a rocket was fired from

the general area of Qaissyeh valley towards Israel; it hit a private home in the Lebanese village of Houla, a few kilometres from the Blue Line, causing serious injuries to a woman inside the house. On 19 December, four rockets that were ready to be launched were found by LAF in the UNIFIL area of operation. The Secretary-General condemned the rocket attacks. LAF and UNIFIL stepped up their individual and joint operations to prevent similar incidents.

UNIFIL financing

The General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General's performance report on the UNIFIL budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 [A/65/608 & Corr.1]. Expenditures amounted to \$542,110,800 out of an appropriation of \$589,799,200, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$47,688,400. In February [A/65/756], the Secretary-General submitted the UNIFIL budget for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, amounting to \$542,785,700. The budget provided for 15,000 military contingent personnel, 375 international staff and 726 national staff.

In April [A/65/743/Add.9], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$47,688,400, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of \$15,263,100 for the period ended 30 June 2010, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the Assembly appropriate \$542,652,500 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 106], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/65/880], adopted **resolution 65/303** by recorded vote (117-3-1) [agenda item 156 (b)].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1937(2010) of 30 August 2010, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2011,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 64/282 of 24 June 2010,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of

14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008, 63/298 of 30 June 2009 and 64/282 of 24 June 2010,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010 and 65/289 of 30 June 2011, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2011, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 59.5 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only ninety-one Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298 and 64/282;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298 and 64/282;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

12. *Notes* that the overall level of appropriation has been adjusted in accordance with the terms of resolution 65/289;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269 and 65/289;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298 and paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

17. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 580,331,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, inclusive of 545,470,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 29,540,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 5,320,400 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

18. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 96,721,900 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2011, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in Assembly resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

19. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount of 2,558,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,047,900 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 417,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 93,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

20. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 483,609,700 dollars for the period from 1 September 2011 to 30 June 2012 at a monthly rate of 48,360,967 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in resolution 64/248, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

21. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,790,300 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 10,239,500 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 2,085,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 465,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

22. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 62,951,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010, as set out in resolution 64/248;

23. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 62,951,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 22 above;

24. *Also decides* that the increase of 1,081,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 62,951,500 dollars referred to in paragraphs 22 and 23 above;

25. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

26. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

27. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the

Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 65/303:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Tuvalu.

On 24 December (**decision 66/557**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNIFIL would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session.

Special Tribunal for Lebanon

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 505] to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the terrorist bombing in Beirut on 14 February 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 551] that resulted in the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 21 others. It succeeded the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission, which was established by Security Council resolution 1595(2005) [ibid., p. 553]. The Tribunal consisted of the Chambers, the Registry, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Defence Office.

In 2011, the Chambers continued to deal with the application for access to investigative material filed in 2010 by Jamil El Sayed [YUN 2010, p. 496], one of four generals detained by Lebanon in connection with the Hariri attack but released on 29 April 2009 due to a

lack of a sufficient evidentiary basis for his detention [YUN 2009, p. 488]. A hearing on the merits was held on 14 January.

The Tribunal, in its third annual report, covering the period from 1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012 [S/2012/205], stated that on 12 May 2011, the Pre-Trial Judge ordered the Prosecutor to release documents to Mr. El Sayed. On 19 July, the Appeals Chamber confirmed that Mr. El Sayed had an enforceable right, subject to limitations, to obtain documents from the Prosecutor relating to his detention in Lebanon. On 7 October, the Appeals Chamber held that the statements of certain witnesses had to be provided by the Prosecution to Mr. El Sayed, and returned the matter to the Pre-Trial Judge for further consideration. The Pre-Trial Judge subsequently issued orders giving effect to the decision of the Appeals Chamber.

On 17 January, the Prosecutor filed with the Pre-Trial Judge a confidential indictment that was subsequently amended on 11 March, 6 May and 10 June. On 28 June, the Pre-Trial Judge confirmed the indictment against Salim Jamil Ayyash, Mustafa Amine Badreddine, Hussein Hassan Oneissi and Assad Hassan Sabra for conspiracy to commit a terrorist attack and other crimes, including intentional homicide. On 30 June, the indictment and accompanying arrest warrants were transmitted to the Lebanese authorities. On 8 July, the Pre-Trial Judge issued international arrest warrants for the four accused. Initially, the indictment remained confidential in order to facilitate the search for and apprehension of the accused. Following a request by the Prosecutor, however, the Pre-Trial Judge partially lifted the confidentiality of the indictment on 28 July. On 16 August, the Pre-Trial Judge unsealed the indictment and his decision confirming it. On 18 August, the President of the Special Tribunal, Judge Antonio Cassese (Italy), ordered that service of the indictment be effected by alternative means, including public advertisement. He emphasized Lebanon's obligation to search for, serve the indictment on, and detain and transfer to The Hague each of the accused within its territory. Lebanese authorities were unsuccessful in their attempts to apprehend the accused.

On 8 September, President Cassese convened the Trial Chamber for the first time. On 17 October, the Pre-Trial Judge issued an order seizing the Trial Chamber of the question of whether to initiate proceedings in absentia in the *Ayyash et al.* case. On 11 November, the Trial Chamber received oral arguments from the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence Office and the Victims' Participation Unit. The Prosecution submitted that initiating proceedings in absentia would be premature and that the

Lebanese authorities should do more to locate and arrest the accused. The Defence Office submitted that the Trial Chamber should consider withdrawing the arrest warrants and notifying the accused of the possibility of appearing at the trial by videoconference. On 23 November, the Trial Chamber issued an interim decision, noting that it required further information from the Lebanese authorities before being able to rule whether the conditions for a trial in absentia had been met under the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

On 30 June, the Pre-Trial Judge received from the Prosecutor a request to determine whether three attacks that took place against politicians Marwan Hamadeh on 1 October 2004, George Hawi on 21 June 2005 and Elias El-Murr on 12 July 2005 were connected to the attack of 14 February 2005. On 5 August 2011, the Prosecutor presented prima facie evidence that the three attacks were so connected. As a result of the decisions of the Pre-Trial Judge on jurisdiction over the connected attacks and subsequent deferral, the Office of the Prosecutor had exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute the attacks.

The approved budget for the Tribunal for 2011 amounted to \$67.3 million.

Appointment of judges. In a 25 January letter [S/2011/38], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council President of his intention to appoint a panel to select a replacement for Judge Bert Swart (Netherlands), who was no longer able to perform his functions due to ill health. The UN Office of Legal Affairs had begun the process of identifying two judges of the selection panel. On 28 January [S/2011/39], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention and the information contained in his letter.

On 9 October, Judge Cassese stepped down from the Presidency on health grounds. On 10 October, the Appeals Chamber Judges unanimously elected Judge Sir David Baragwanath (New Zealand) as the Tribunal's second President. Judge Cassese died on 22 October.

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1757(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 506], the Secretary-General, in an 8 November letter [S/2011/702], informed the Council President of his intention to appoint a selection panel to choose a replacement for Judge Cassese. The selection panel also aimed to establish a roster of three to four suitable candidates for appointment as judges on short notice, should additional vacancies arise at the Special Tribunal. The UN Office of Legal Affairs commenced the process of identifying the two judges of the selection panel. On 10 November [S/2011/703], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention and the information contained in his letter.

Syrian Arab Republic

Following the wave of political and social unrest affecting some countries in North Africa, protests erupted in Syria in March 2011 and galvanized anti-Government sentiment in the form of continued demonstrations in every province of the country. Protesters initially demanded greater freedom and political and economic reforms, but later called for the downfall of the regime, echoing slogans heard elsewhere in the region. The Government reacted with considerable force to counter the uprisings; violent clashes between Government forces and protestors led to more than 3,000 deaths by October. The United Nations condemned Syria's suppression of the demonstrations, called for an end to human rights violations and recommended stringent measures should the Government not comply.

Political and security developments

Security Council consideration (April). On 27 April [S/PV.6524], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Syria based on reports from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN entities. Anti-Government demonstrations began in mid-March, following the detention of 15 school children in Dar'a for writing anti-Government graffiti. The protests steadily increased in geographic scope and participation. Protesters initially demanded greater freedom and political and economic reforms, but increasingly called for the downfall of the regime, echoing slogans heard elsewhere in the region.

The Syrian authorities reacted with a mix of reform measures and increasingly violent repression, which the Secretary-General condemned. In a 30 March speech to Parliament, President Bashar al-Assad announced that the Government would undertake a series of political, social and economic initiatives to respond to the demands of the Syrian people, including an investigation into the killings committed during protests. A 7 April presidential decree granted citizenship to stateless Kurds residing in the north-east of Syria. On 15 April, the President pledged to release all protest-related detainees, with the exception of those accused of committing crimes "against the nation and the citizens". On 16 April, the President swore in a new Government, which he tasked with developing reforms, including the preparation of new laws on media and political parties. In a series of decrees issued on 21 April, he lifted the state of emergency, which had been in place since 1963; abolished the High Se-

curity Court; and recognized the right to peaceful protest, while strictly regulating it.

On 22 April, the largest demonstration to date took place across the country; protesters claimed that the reform measures were insufficient and came too late. Despite the promise of reform, the Government's crackdown intensified. Following the protest, the Syrian army started a major military operation against Dar'a and surrounding villages. Tanks and armed forces surrounded the towns of Duma and Al-Moadamyeh, near Damascus. There were reports that security forces opened fire on demonstrators in the cities of Djabla and Homs. Since mid-March, reliable reports and human rights groups estimated that more than 300 protesters had been killed by security forces and their supporters. OHCHR had also obtained information of wide-scale arrests of protesters, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and others. There were allegations of beatings and torture of people detained in connection with the protests, including children. Various reports, however, confirmed that the overwhelming majority of demonstrations were peaceful. In a few instances, protesters used force, resulting in the death of members of security forces.

The Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights emphasized that all of the killings that took place during the demonstrations should be investigated, including the alleged killing of military and security officers. The Secretary-General issued statements on the situation on 18 March [SG/SM/13459], 23 March [SG/SM/13472], 2 April [SG/SM/13492] and 22 April [SG/SM/13521], and spoke with President Al-Assad. In his statements, the Secretary-General condemned the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators and called for an independent investigation into the killings. He conveyed the UN belief that the authorities should fulfil their obligations to protect civilians and respect international human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as freedom of the press.

Addressing the Council, Syria stated that the goal of extremist groups perpetuating the violence in the country was the fall of the Government. The groups included armed criminals, and they continued to execute innocent citizens and members of the security forces, as well as attack Government facilities and law enforcement installations. Law enforcement authorities had exercised restraint to avoid killing civilians. It was natural, however, for the Syrian leadership to respond to terrorist actions and restore order to the country. The Government had taken action in response to legitimate popular demands. The President had met with delegations from every province to address citizen complaints directly.

Communication. On 9 June [S/2011/353], Syria, in a letter to the Secretary-General, stated that the demonstrations in most areas were no longer peaceful. Stockpiles of arms and ammunition had been discovered in several places, which confirmed that the problem had escalated to an onslaught on the security, stability and sovereignty of the country fomented from abroad. The resolutions against Syria promoted by certain members of international organizations constituted flagrant intervention in the country's internal affairs, and an attempt to destabilize it and control the destinies of its people at a time when Syria had declared its determination to carry out reforms and maintain independence and sovereignty. Annexed to the letter was a list of decrees, laws and decisions that had been issued by the Syrian leadership.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 3 August [meeting 6598], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2011/16** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and expresses profound regret at the death of many hundreds of people.

The Council condemns the widespread violations of human rights and the use of force against civilians by the Syrian authorities.

The Council calls for an immediate end to all violence and urges all sides to act with utmost restraint and to refrain from reprisals, including attacks against State institutions.

The Council calls upon the Syrian authorities to fully respect human rights and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law. Those responsible for the violence should be held accountable.

The Council notes the announced commitments by the Syrian authorities to reform and regrets the lack of progress in implementation, and calls upon the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to implement its commitments.

The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. It stresses that the only solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the population, which will allow the full exercise of fundamental freedoms for the entire population, including freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly.

The Council calls upon the Syrian authorities to alleviate the humanitarian situation in crisis areas by ceasing the use of force against affected towns, to allow expeditious and unhindered access for international humanitarian agencies and workers, and to cooperate fully with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to update the Council on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic within seven days.

Lebanon, speaking after the presidential statement, dissociated itself from it, as Lebanon believed that the statement did not help address the situation in Syria.

Communications. On 4 August [S/2011/499], Cuba, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, expressed concern at the Security Council's handling of the internal situation in Syria; the Western Powers were exerting pressure with a view to the adoption of resolutions condemning Syria's legitimate Government. Cuba rejected any attempt to undermine the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and reiterated its confidence in the Syrian people and Government to resolve their internal problems without foreign interference.

On 8 August [S/2011/501], Syria, in a letter to the Secretary-General, said that the Security Council, in its presidential statement (see above), based its position on information taken from only one side. The depiction of events in Syria contained numerous exaggerations. The number of casualties was similarly exaggerated, while the damage and human and material losses inflicted on Syria by armed gangs were deliberately ignored. The Syrian leadership believed that national dialogue was the best way to resolve the crisis. The difficulty of conducting that dialogue, due to the negativity of the opposition, would not divert Syria from moving along the path of reform, nor would Syria allow subversion and conspiracies to prevent the country from continuing towards its goal.

Security Council consideration (August). On 25 August [S/PV.6602], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Council that the Secretary-General had repeatedly urged President Assad to end violence against the Syrian people and engage in meaningful reform. The President pledged to do so but did not uphold that commitment. The security forces continued to use excessive and lethal force against the protests, including in the provinces of Homs, Hamah, Dar'a, Idlib and Dayr Az Zawr, as well as in and around Damascus. Many civilians were killed and injured, and large-scale arbitrary arrests continued. Many world leaders, including those from the region, as well as the Secretary-General had urged President Assad to halt military operations.

Report of High Commissioner for Human Rights. In September [A/HRC/18/53], the High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted a report on the human rights situation in Syria (see p. 779). The report was prepared by OHCHR pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1 (see p. 779), in which the Council, in the light of widespread anti-Government protests in the country and the grave deterioration of the human rights situation, requested the High Commissioner to dispatch a mission to Syria to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law

and to establish the facts and circumstances of the crimes perpetrated.

Security Council consideration (September).

On 27 September [S/PV.6623], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs told the Security Council that the increase in Syrian nationals seeking refuge across the border with Lebanon reflected the escalating political and human rights crisis. The polarization continued to deepen between the Government, which appeared determined to pursue its policy of violent repression despite international and regional calls to change course, and a growing popular opposition protesting across the country. On 15 September, a coalition of Syrian opposition leaders announced the formation of a national council and released a national consensus charter affirming the peaceful, inclusive and non-sectarian character of the uprising. They also committed to the establishment of a modern State that would guarantee the rule of law and respect for human rights. On 12 September, the President of the Human Rights Council appointed three experts to form the international commission of inquiry mandated by the Council on 23 August (see p. 780). The United Nations underlined the importance of accountability for all human rights violations committed in Syria since March, and hoped that the Government would extend full cooperation to the commission.

Security Council consideration (October).

On 24 October [S/PV.6636], the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs informed the Council that the crisis in Syria had led to the death of more than 3,000 people since March. The Secretary-General continued to call on the Syrian leadership to stop the killing and emphasized the need for the international community to act in a coherent manner to prevent further bloodshed. The League of Arab States (LAS) met on 16 October to discuss the situation in Syria; it called for dialogue and established a follow-up committee.

Communications. On 6 November [S/2011/692], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President a letter concerning the crisis in that country. Syria had agreed with the LAS ministerial committee on a plan of action to end the crisis. It called on those bearing arms to surrender their weapons and guaranteed their immediate release. On 4 November, however, the United States called on the armed individuals not to surrender their weapons. Syria considered that the United States, through its statement, had directly involved itself in the violent unrest in Syria. The statement reflected an attempt to thwart LAS in its effort to end the crisis.

On 12 November [S/2011/707], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General, the Security Council President and the Chair of the Security Council Committee es-

tablished pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism [YUN 2001, p. 61] a note on the findings of investigations conducted by the authorities regarding persons involved with arms smuggling from neighbouring countries; a list of names and nationalities of the persons involved in such activities and the types of weapons found in their possession; and a note on the communication technology used by the armed terrorist groups.

Security Council consideration (November).

On 21 November [S/PV.6662], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, briefed the Council on the situation in Syria. Violent repression by the security forces escalated, and there were signs of an armed confrontation taking place in several areas of the country. LAS intensified its efforts to stop the bloodshed and seek a political solution to the crisis, announcing on 2 November a work plan to which the Syrian Government agreed in principle. In the absence of full implementation by the authorities, however, the LAS Ministerial Council suspended Syria from participating in its meetings and activities, and considered imposing economic sanctions. The UN Secretary-General remained closely engaged with Arab partners and the LAS Secretary-General. The United Nations called for implementation of the Arab work plan.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 66/176** of 19 December (see p. 781), condemned the systematic human rights violations by Syrian authorities. It called on them to end such violations and implement the 2 November LAS Plan of Action (work plan).

Security Council consideration (December).

On 20 December [S/PV.6692], the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, informed the Council that instances of armed confrontation between Government forces and the opposition had increased. LAS advanced its initiative to end the violence and promote a political solution. The United Nations was encouraged by the signing in Cairo on 19 December of a protocol to dispatch LAS monitors to Syria in support of a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The United Nations continued to monitor the influx of displaced Syrian nationals into northern Lebanon. As at 16 December, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Lebanese Government had registered 4,510 displaced persons, up from 3,581 the previous month; the increase was due largely to the recent registration of refugees who had crossed into Lebanon earlier. The number of wounded persons admitted to Lebanese health facilities as a result of fighting on the Syrian side of the border also increased. Turkey and Jordan hosted about 8,500 and 2,000 displaced Syrian na-

tionals respectively. The United Nations coordinated closely with those Governments to provide assistance to displaced persons.

Communications. On 23 December [S/2011/797], Syria, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, stated that two terrorist attacks took place in Damascus that day. Two suicide bombers in two cars carrying more than 200 kilograms of explosives targeted two Government institutions located in heavily trafficked areas. More than 50 people were killed, including soldiers and civilians, and more than 200 were wounded. The strike provided clear indication that extremist terrorist groups, some linked to Al-Qaida, were involved in the planning and implementation of terrorist operations that targeted civilians, soldiers and State institutions.

On 27 December [S/2011/798], Syria transmitted to the Security Council three lists of members of the Syrian army and security forces, as well as the law enforcement forces, who had been killed by armed terrorist groups from 18 March to 24 November. Also on 27 December [S/2011/799], Syria transmitted to the Council a document providing statistics of the crimes of killing, kidnapping and theft that had taken place in the country between 15 March and 19 December. The document listed the number of civilian deaths at 2,131, deaths of military personnel at 913 and deaths of police personnel at 215. The number of abductions of civilians, military and police were listed at 666, 70 and 164, respectively.

On 30 December [S/2011/815], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Council President a list of the names of the 40 people who died as a result of the terrorist attacks of 23 December. It noted that 14 victims had not been identified.

The Syrian Golan

The Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic, occupied by Israel since 1967, was effectively annexed when Israel extended its laws, jurisdiction and administration to the territory in 1981 [YUN 1981, p. 309]. In 2011, the General Assembly reiterated its demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and that the two countries resume talks. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force continued to supervise the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights and to ensure the separation of militaries. The Force's mandate was extended twice during the year.

Communications. On 16 March [A/65/791-S/2011/146], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and Security Council President a 14 March letter concerning the 5 August 2010 arrest, on spurious

charges, of two Syrian citizens, Majid al-Shair and his son, Fida al-Shair, by Israeli forces in the occupied Syrian Golan. On 17 February 2011, the Israeli District Court in Nazareth sentenced Majid al-Shair to a five-year prison term and his son to a three-year term.

Israel, in identical letters of 16 May to the Secretary-General and Council President [S/2011/310], stated that on 15 May, hundreds of people in Syria tore down the Alpha technical fence, in breach of the disengagement line between Israel and Syria. The infiltrators entered the village of Majdal Shams and conducted a violent demonstration against Israel Defense Forces (IDF). IDF acted with maximum restraint in confronting the threat of violence. Israel said that any harm caused to the people involved in the demonstrations lay with Syria, which was responsible for preventing infiltration of the disengagement line.

On 17 May [A/65/844-S/2011/315], Iran, in identical letters to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Council President, expressed its concerns regarding Israel's 15 May attack against demonstrators marking Nakba Day.

On 6 June [S/2011/344], Israel, in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President, stated that on 5 June, hundreds of people tried to breach the disengagement line between Syria and Israel in a series of violent protests in the areas of Majdal Shams and Quneitra. Protesters threw Molotov cocktails and large objects at IDF members. IDF acted with maximum restraint in confronting the threat of violence and preventing any breach of the disengagement line. During the incident, IDF allowed members of the International Committee of the Red Cross to treat the wounded, but the protesters continued to act violently.

On 8 August [A/65/931-S/2011/518], Syria transmitted identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Council President containing a complaint against Israel, which had decided to build a separation wall in the occupied Syrian Golan, east of Majdal Shams.

Special Committee on Israeli Practices. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, in its September report [A/66/370] (see also p. 421), stated that the situation in Syria prevented it from visiting the country during its mission to that region in July. It therefore engaged with witnesses and victims in the occupied Syrian Golan by way of teleconferences. Several concerns regarding Israel's compliance with its international legal obligations in relation to its occupation of the Syrian Golan were raised, and much of the testimony received was consistent with information obtained by the Committee in previous years.

Witnesses expressed frustration at the high prices they were forced to pay for water, which came from

Syrian territory. Israel's control of the water supply also resulted in diminished yields for Syrian farmers. During an unusually dry season in 2010, access to water was entirely cut off for Syrian farmers, and they reaped only 10 per cent of maximum agricultural production over the previous year. Israel continued to inhibit Syrian families from visiting their relatives outside the occupied Golan, and could maintain relationships only via telephone and the Internet, or through fences. Israel was building a 2-kilometre-long, 8-metre-high wall to cordon off the occupied Syrian Golan and consolidate Israel's annexation of Syrian territory. The border area around the occupied Golan remained heavily landmined.

The Special Committee called on Israel to ensure access to water for Syrians in the occupied Golan, including for agricultural purposes; to facilitate visits of Syrians in the occupied Golan with family members in other parts of Syrian territory; and to carry out a full, transparent investigation into the events of Nakba Day (15 May) (see p. 474) and Naksa Day (5 June) (see p. 474), with a view to explaining the many deaths and injuries of unarmed civilians.

Reports of Secretary-General. On 6 September [A/66/338], the Secretary-General reported that as at 31 August, one Member State (Syria) had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement General Assembly resolution 65/18 [YUN 2010, p. 498] on the Syrian Golan. The resolution demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In response to resolution 65/106 [YUN 2010, p. 499], the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/66/400] on the occupied Syrian Golan. He stated that no reply had been received in response to a note issued by OHCHR on his behalf and addressed to Israel requesting information on steps taken or envisaged concerning implementation of the resolution. Only Syria replied to a similar OHCHR note requesting information from Member States on the implementation of the resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 November [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 66/19** [draft: A/66/L.20 & Add.1] by recorded vote (119-7-53) [agenda item 36].

The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497(1981);

2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497(1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/19:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana,

Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Naruru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

On 9 December [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/66/427], adopted **resolution 66/80** by recorded vote (162-1-11) [agenda item 53].

The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 65/106 of 10 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 65/106,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan, *Bearing in mind* Security Council resolution 237(1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338(1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497(1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 66/80:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, 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, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi,

Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu.

UNDOF

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established by Security Council resolution 350(1974) [YUN 1974, p. 205] to supervise the observance of the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the Golan Heights and ensure the separation of their forces, was renewed twice in 2011, in June and December, each time for a six-month period.

UNDOF maintained an area of separation approximately 75 kilometres long and varying in width between 12.5 kilometres in the centre to less than 200 metres in the extreme south. The area of separation was inhabited and policed by the Syrian authorities, and no military forces other than UNDOF were permitted within it. As at 11 November, UNDOF comprised 1,043 troops from six Member States assisted by 76 military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General reported to the Security Council on UNDOF activities between 1 January and 30 June [S/2011/359] and 1 July and 31 December [S/2011/748]. In both reports, the Secretary-General stated that the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained and the UNDOF area of operation remained generally quiet. Anti-Government demonstrations, however, spread to several villages in the area of limitation on the Syrian side. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that Israeli and Syrian military forces were excluded from it.

UNDOF finalized its investigations into the events of 15 May (see below) and 5 June (see below), when demonstrations in the UNDOF area of operation commemorating the anniversaries of Nakba Day and Naksa Day, respectively, resulted in civilian

casualties and jeopardized the ceasefire. On 15 May, approximately 4,000 civilians, mostly Palestinians, gathered at a location known as the “family shouting place” in the area of separation on the Bravo side of the UNDOF area of operation, opposite the village of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied Golan (Alpha) side. The gathering was supervised by Syrian security forces and authorities, and IDF observed the demonstration from behind the technical fence. Approximately 300 of the demonstrators moved towards the Alpha side. IDF used tear gas and fired warning shots, followed by direct fire to disperse the crowds. Approximately 100 protesters entered Majdal Shams and demonstrated in the town centre. The majority of the civilians that had crossed the ceasefire line returned to the Syrian side. A total of 44 civilian casualties were reported.

On 5 June, demonstrators amassed opposite Majdal Shams. Protesters attempted to breach the ceasefire line. IDF used tear gas and smoke grenades to deter protesters and live fire to prevent them from crossing the ceasefire line. Up to 23 people were reported killed and many more were wounded.

The Secretary-General stated that he considered the continued presence of UNDOF in the area as essential. He recommended in June that the Security Council extend the Force's mandate until 31 December 2011 and in November until 30 June 2012 (see below).

Communication. On 20 June [S/2011/375], Syria, in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, conveyed its position on the Secretary-General's report on UNDOF for the period from 1 January to 30 June (see above). It said that the reference made in the report to anti-Government demonstrations spreading to villages in the area of limitation constituted flagrant interference by the Secretariat in Syria's internal affairs. Syria also rejected the assertion that Syrian security forces and authorities supervised the gatherings in the area of separation.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 6572], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1994(2011)**. The draft was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 13 June 2011 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000,

Expressing grave concern at the serious events that occurred in the area of operations of the Force on 15 May and 5 June 2011 that put the long-held ceasefire in jeopardy,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and to ensure the security of as well as unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements;

3. *Recalls* the obligation on both parties to fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, and calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

5. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2011;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973), including an assessment, with recommendations if any, of the operational capacity of the Force to ensure that it is most appropriately configured to fulfil its mandated tasks.

On 21 December [meeting 6693], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2028(2011)**. The draft [S/2011/779] was submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States.

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 30 November 2011 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000,

Expressing grave concern at the serious events that occurred in the area of operations of the Force on 15 May and 5 June 2011 that put the long-held ceasefire in jeopardy,

Noting that evolving conditions in the region could have an impact on the functioning of the Force,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and to ensure the security of as well as unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements;

3. *Recalls* the obligation on both parties to fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, and calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

5. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's assessment of the operational capacity of the Force, and requests that he take steps to immediately implement the recommendations as outlined in paragraph 12 of his report;

6. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2012;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973).

UNDOF financing

The General Assembly had before it the performance report of the Secretary-General on the UNDOF budget for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 [A/65/596], which showed expenditures amounting to \$45,029,600 gross (\$43,585,200 net) against an appropriation of \$45,029,700 gross (\$43,691,700 net); and the Secretary-General's report [A/65/710] on the UNDOF budget for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, which amounted to \$49,561,700 gross (\$48,035,000 net) and provided for the deployment of 1,047 military contingent personnel, 46 international staff and 110 national staff.

In a March report [A/65/743/Add.3], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended to the Assembly an appropriation of \$49,561,700 for the maintenance of UNDOF.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 106], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/65/886], adopted **resolution 65/302** without vote [agenda item 156 (a)].

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 350(1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Na-

tions Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1994(2011) of 30 June 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 64/281 of 24 June 2010,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010 and 65/289 of 30 June 2011, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 30 April 2011, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 18.3 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only forty-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269 and 65/289;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

12. *Notes* that the overall level of appropriation has been adjusted in accordance with the terms of resolution 65/289;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

14. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 53,753,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, inclusive of 50,526,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 2,734,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 492,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

15. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 53,753,200 dollars at a monthly rate of 4,479,434 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011 and 2012, as set out in Assembly resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,810,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,526,700 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 231,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 51,700 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 852,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2010, as set out in Assembly resolution 64/248;

18. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income

in the amount of 852,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Further decides* that the increase of 106,400 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2010 shall be added to the credits from the amount of 852,500 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Disengagement Observer Force”.

On 24 December (**decision 66/557**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNDOF would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-sixth (2012) session.

UNTSO

In 2011, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which was originally set up to monitor the ceasefire called for by Security Council resolution S/801 of 29 May 1948 [YUN 1947–48, p. 427] in the newly partitioned Palestine, continued its work. UNTSO unarmed military observers fulfilled evolving mandates—from supervising the four armistice agreements between Israel and its neighbours (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic) to monitoring other ceasefires, and performing other tasks. During the year, UNTSO worked with two remaining peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

UNTSO operated under a UN regular budget appropriation of \$60.7 million for the 2010–2011 period.

Appointment of Head of Mission. In a 23 March letter [S/2011/189], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Juha Kilpia (Finland) as the Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of UNTSO. He would replace Major General Robert Mood (Norway), who completed his assignment in February. The Council took note of the Secretary-General’s intention on 25 March [S/2011/190].