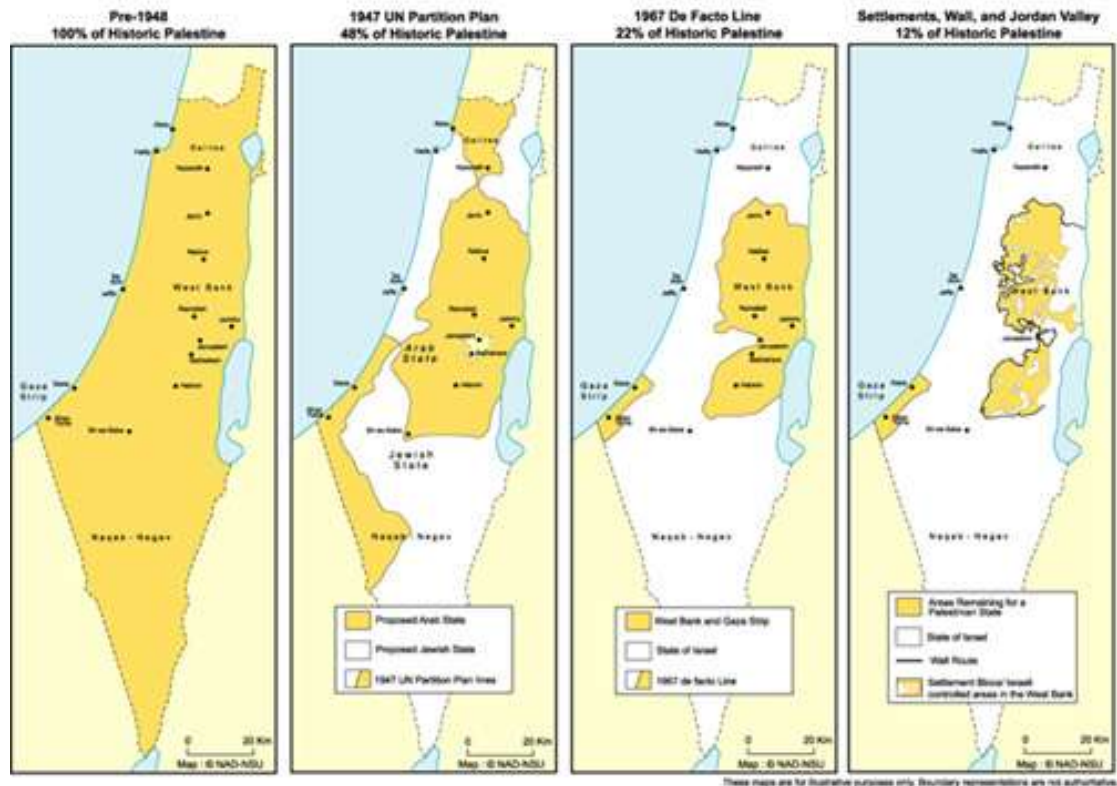


DESTROYING THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

JULY 2005



1940s

Palestine and the U.N. in Retrospect: The Forties

This is the first in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decades, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations (U.N.) since the inception of the organization in 1945. Those events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future also as the permanent responsibility of the U.N. towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

At the start of the World War I, Palestine was among the several Arab territories under Ottoman rule and in 1917, the United Kingdom (U.K.) began governing Palestine as an occupying Power. In the same year, Jewish Zionist leaders were able to secure the Balfour Declaration (November 1917), setting forth for the government of the U.K. the objective of "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people". At that time, the Jewish population comprised less than 10% of the overall population as compared to 90% indigenous Palestinians.

In 1922, the League of Nations allotted to the U.K. a mandate over Palestine, which incorporated the Balfour Declaration. In the following years, against the absolute and

vehement objection of the Palestinian people, Jewish settlers continued to arrive en masse to Palestine . Their numbers swelled in the 1930s as a result of Jewish oppression in Europe and towards the end of the World War II they totaled approximately 30% of the population of Palestine and owned from 9-12% of the cultivable land, including parts of public land given to them by the Mandatory Power. With the dissolution of the League of Nations, the U.N. inherited the question of Palestine .]

- The General Assembly convenes its first special session from 28 April to 15 May 1947 to consider the question of Palestine after the U.K. , the Mandatory Power, decides in February 1947 to bring the issue before the Assembly.
- The General Assembly adopts resolution 106 (S-I) of 15 May 1947, establishing the Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), composed of Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, to prepare a report on the question of Palestine with proposals for solution of the problem. The Assembly also decides that the First Committee grant a hearing to the Jewish Agency for Palestine and to the Arab Higher Committee.
- The Special Committee on Palestine completes its work on 31 August 1947 , with agreement on terminating the mandate but without consensus on settlement of the question of Palestine . The majority recommends partition of Palestine into two states with special international status for Jerusalem , while the minority (India , Iran and Yugoslavia) propose a federal state comprising an Arab state and a Jewish state, with Jerusalem as the capital of the federation. (Australia abstains on the two plans.)
- The General Assembly adopts resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 on the future government of Palestine, setting forth a Plan of Partition with Economic Union, consisting of four parts: future constitution and government of Palestine ; boundaries; city of Jerusalem ; and capitulations. The plan calls for the creation of Arab and Jewish states no later than 1 October 1948 , with Jerusalem as corpus separatum under an international regime to be administered by the U.N. with the Trusteeship Council the designated body in this regard. The plan also includes steps to be taken prior to independence, including the issues of citizenship, transit, economic union between the two states, access to holy places and religious and minority rights. Resolution 181 (II) also establishes the United Nations Palestine Commission to carry out the plan. The result of the vote on resolution 181 (II) was 33 in favor, 13 against and 10 abstaining.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 42 (1948) on 5 March 1948, appealing to all governments and peoples, particularly in and around Palestine, to take all possible action to prevent or reduce such disorders as are occurring in Palestine.
- On 10 March 1948, the Trusteeship Council decides in resolution 32 (II) that the statute on Jerusalem is in satisfactory form and agrees that the question of its formal approval, together with the appointment of a governor of the city, shall be taken up at a subsequent meeting to be held not later than one week before 29 April 1948, the deadline given to the Council by the Assembly. [On 21 April 1948 , the Council transmits to the General Assembly that resolution along with the draft statute.]
- The Security Council adopts resolution 43 (1948) on 1 April 1948, calling for an immediate truce in Palestine and calling upon the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Arab Higher Committee to make available representatives to the Security Council for the purpose of arranging a truce.
- On 1 April 1948 , the Security Council adopts resolution 44 (1948). Invoking Article

20 of the U.N. Charter for the first time, the Council requests the Secretary-General to convoke a special session of the General Assembly to consider further the future of the government of Palestine . On 17 April 1948, the Security Council adopts resolution 46 (1948), calling upon all persons and organizations in Palestine to immediately cease all military activities, as well as acts of violence, terrorism and sabotage; and to refrain from any actions endangering the safety of the Holy Places in Palestine. It also requests the government of the U.K. , as the Mandatory Power, to supervise the execution of these measures and to keep the Security Council and the General Assembly informed on the situation in Palestine .

- The General Assembly convenes its second special session between 16 April to 14 May 1948 , during which it considers a working paper submitted by the United States (U.S.) on the question of the trusteeship of Palestine , which was opposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) as well as the Jewish Agency. The Assembly adopts resolution 185 (S-2) of 26 April 1948 , asking the Trusteeship Council to study measures for the protection of Jerusalem and its inhabitants and to submit proposals to the General Assembly. On 14 May 1948, the Assembly adopts resolution 186 (S-2), which affirms its support for the efforts of the Security Council to secure a truce in Palestine; decides to appoint a U.N. Mediator in Palestine and specifies his functions; and relieves Palestine Commission from further exercise of responsibilities under resolution 181 (II). Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden is appointed Mediator. After receiving proposals from the Trusteeship Council, the Assembly adopts resolution 187 (S-2), recommending to the Mandatory Power the appointment of a Special Municipal Commissioner for Jerusalem .

- On 14 May 1948 , a Jewish state, Israel is proclaimed, one day before the mandate expires and just before the General Assembly begins discussion on the main resolution containing the U.S. idea on the trusteeship of Palestine . The U.S. government recognizes the Jewish state as does the U.S.S.R.

- War breaks out in Palestine . Several Arab armies become engaged. Approximately 750,000 Palestinian civilians flee their homes and properties under increasing Israeli military pressure and terror. Those refugees settle in camps in parts of Palestine outside of Israeli control and in surrounding Arab states.

- On 22 May 1948 , the Security Council adopts resolution 49 (1948), calling for an abstention from any hostile military action in Palestine . The resolution also calls upon the parties to facilitate the task of the U.N. Mediator.

- On 29 May 1948 , the Security Council adopts resolution 50 (1948). By that time, Israeli troops and paramilitary units already occupy territory beyond that allocated to the Jewish state by the partition plan (Resolution 181 (II)). In resolution 50, the Council calls for a cessation of all military activities for four weeks; urges all governments and authorities concerned to take every possible precaution for the protection of the Holy Places and the City of Jerusalem; instructs the U.N. Mediator, in concert with the Truce Commission to supervise the observance of these provisions and decides that they should be provided with a sufficient number of military observers. In this resolution, the Council also decides that if the resolution is rejected by either party or both, the situation in Palestine will be considered with a view to action under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. The observers mentioned in this resolution form the basis of what would later become the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

- In resolution 54 (1948), adopted by the Security Council on 15 July 1948, the Council determines that the situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to the peace

within the meaning of Article 39 of the U.N. Charter; orders all governments and authorities concerned to desist from further military action and declares that failure to do so would lead to further action under Chapter 7; orders as a matter of special and urgent necessity an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in the City of Jerusalem and instructs the Mediator to continue efforts towards the demilitarization of Jerusalem. On 19 August 1948, the Council issues truce directives.

- The Security Council, in resolution 57 (1948) of 18 September 1948, expresses deep shock at the assassination of the U.N. Mediator for Palestine, Count Bernadotte, in Jerusalem by a group of men believed to be members of the "Stern Gang", an Israeli terrorist group. At a later stage, in resolution 59 (1948), the Council notes with concern that the provisional government of Israel has submitted no report regarding the progress of the investigation into the assassination and requests the submission of such a report at an early date.
- On 29 October 1948, the Security Council adopts resolution 60 (1948), establishing a subcommittee, consisting of representatives of the U.K., China, France, Belgium and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, to consider all amendments and revisions to the second, revised draft resolution on the statute of Jerusalem.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 61 (1948) on 4 November 1948, calling for the withdrawal of forces and for the establishment, through negotiations, of permanent truce lines and such neutral or demilitarized zones in order to ensure full observance of the truce; and appointing a committee of the Council to advise the Acting Mediator.
- The General Assembly approves resolution 194 (III) on 11 December 1948, establishing the United Nations Conciliation Commission on Palestine, composed of France, Turkey and the U.S., to assume, inter alia, the functions given to the U.N. Mediator on Palestine and also resolving that Jerusalem should be placed under a permanent international regime. The resolution also resolves that refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return.

In resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, the General Assembly establishes a special fund for the relief of Palestine refugees.

- On 4 March 1949, the Security Council, in resolution 69 (1949), decides to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of Israel to membership in the U.N. The resolution is supported by nine members, with Egypt voting against it and the U.K. abstaining. The resolution is considered adopted despite objections raised on the basis that the draft resolution was not supported by all five permanent members of the Council, as required by Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Charter.
- The General Assembly adopts resolution 273 (III) of 11 May 1949, recalling its resolutions of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948, and taking note of the declarations and explanations made by the representative of the government of Israel before the Ad Hoc Political Committee in respect of the implementation of the said resolutions and decides to admit Israel to membership in the U.N.
- With the conclusion of several Armistice Agreements, the Security Council adopts resolution 73 (1949) on 11 August 1949, which finds that those agreements constitute a step towards permanent peace in Palestine; assigns new functions to UNTSO with regard to the General Armistice Agreements; and terminates the role of the U.N. Mediator.

- By resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, the General Assembly establishes the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). During the same session, the General Assembly restates, in resolution 303, that Jerusalem should be placed under a permanent international regime and, in resolution 356, it resolves to appropriate funds for the permanent international regime for Jerusalem .
- The Trusteeship Council adopts resolution 114 (S-2) of 20 December 1949 , expressing concern at the removal to Jerusalem of certain ministries and central departments of the government of Israel and invites the government of Israel to revoke these measures.

1950s

Palestine and the U.N. in Retrospect: The Fifties

This is the second in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decades, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations (U.N.) since the inception of the organization in 1945. Those events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future also, as the permanent responsibility of the U.N. towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- The Trusteeship Council approves the Statute for the City of Jerusalem on 4 April 1950, and adopts resolution 232 (VI) on the same day, requesting the governments of Israel and Jordan to cooperate in the implementation of the Statute.
- Egypt complains to the Security Council of Israel's violation of the Armistice Agreements including the expulsion of thousands of Palestinians. The Security Council adopts resolution 89 (1950) of 17 November 1950, which calls for the handling of complaints according to the procedures of the Armistice Agreements, calls upon the governments concerned to take no action involving the transfer of persons across international borders or armistice lines, and calls for the repatriation of any such Palestinian Arabs who are entitled to return.
- On 2 December 1950, the U.N. General Assembly recognizes that direct relief to refugees cannot be terminated and authorizes the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to continue direct relief to refugees. At that time, the number of refugees registered with the Agency total 960,021.
- The General Assembly, recognizing the urgency of the refugee question, adopts resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, directing the United Nations Conciliation Commission to make arrangements for the implementation of paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III), including the repatriation assessment and payment of compensation.
- On 1 September 1951, in resolution 95 (1951), the Security Council calls on Egypt to terminate the restrictions on international commercial shipping through the Suez Canal.
- On 26 January 1952, in resolution 512 (VI), the General Assembly once again requests the Conciliation Commission to continue its efforts to secure the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on Palestine.

- Israeli army forces attack Qibya (Jordan) on 14 and 15 October 1953. The Security Council adopts resolution 101 (1953) of 24 November 1953, finding that the retaliatory action by the armed forces of Israel constitute a violation of the cease-fire and expressing the strongest censure of that action.
- The mandate of UNRWA is extended on 27 November 1953 until the end of June 1955. Later, on 4 December 1954, the mandate is again extended until the end of June 1960. On 9 December 1959, the mandate is extended for another three years.
- On 28 February 1955, Israeli army forces attack the Egyptian army in the Gaza Strip. The Security Council adopts resolution 106 (1955) of 29 March 1955, condemning the Israeli attack on Gaza, as a violation of the cease-fire and as inconsistent with the Armistice Agreements and considers that the Agreements have been deliberately threatened.
- On 30 March 1955, and later on 8 September 1955, the Security Council calls on Egypt and Israel to cooperate with the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in preserving security on the Armistice Demarcation line in the Gaza Strip.
- On 11 December 1955, Israeli forces launch an attack against Syrian territory in the Lake Tiberias area. The Security Council adopts resolution 111 (1956) of 19 January 1956, condemning the Israeli attack as a flagrant violation of the cease-fire provisions, the Armistice Agreement and of Israel's obligation under the Charter of the U.N. and expressing grave concern at Israel's failure to comply with its obligations in this regard.
- The Security Council, on 4 April 1956, adopts resolution 113 (1956), in which it considers that the situation concerning the enforcement of the four Armistice Agreements is such that its continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. On 4 June 1956, the Council adopts resolution 114 (1956), which declares that the parties to the Armistice Agreements should speedily carry out the measures already agreed upon with the U.N. Secretary-General.
- On 13 October 1956, the Security Council describes the requirements for a settlement of the Suez question, respecting the sovereignty of Egypt.
- On 31 October 1956, the Security Council calls for an emergency special session of the General Assembly to consider the grave situation created by the actions undertaken against Egypt since the Security Council could not exercise its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security due to the lack of unanimity among the Council's permanent members (France and the U.K. exercised their vetoes).
- The General Assembly convenes its first emergency special session on 1 November 1956, under the "uniting for peace procedure", to consider the situation resulting from the conduct of military operations by France, the U.K. and Israel against Egypt. The Assembly adopts a series of resolutions, inter alia, calling for the withdrawal of France and the U.K. from the Egyptian territory and of Israel behind the armistice lines as well as setting up United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). The Assembly decides to place the crisis on the agenda of its 11th regular session.
- On 19 January 1957, the General Assembly notes with regret and concern the failure of Israel to withdraw from Egyptian territory. Later, on 2 February 1957, the Council deplores the non-compliance of Israel with regard to completion of its withdrawal and calls upon Israel to complete withdrawal without delay.

- On 27 February 1957, the General Assembly decides to convene an Ad Hoc Committee of the Assembly for pledges to the refugee program the following year. This practice is repeated annually.

- Jordan complains with regard to the activities conducted by Israel in the zone between the armistice demarcation lines in the area of Government House in Jerusalem. In response, the Security Council adopts resolution 127 (1958) on 22 January 1958, noting that the status of the zone is affected by the provisions of the Israel-Jordan General Armistice Agreements and that neither Israel nor Jordan enjoys sovereignty over any part of the zone and directing the Chief of Staff of UNTSO in Palestine to regulate activities in the zone.

1960s

Palestine and the U.N. in Retrospect: The Sixties

This is the third in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decades, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations (U.N.) since the inception of the organization in 1945. Those events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future also, as the permanent responsibility of the U.N. towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- The Security Council, on 11 April 1961, adopts resolution 162 (1961), which endorses the decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission of 20 March 1961, relating to the military parade contemplated for 20 April 1961 in the Israel-occupied part of Jerusalem, and urges Israel to comply with this decision.

- On 21 April 1961, the General Assembly Directs the United Nations Conciliation Commission to report on the repatriation of the refugees. And in another resolution on 20 December 1961, requests the Commission to intensify its work on the identification and evaluation of Arab refugee immovable properties in Palestine as of 15 May 1948.

- The Security Council, on 9 April 1962, in response to the Israel attack of 16 and 17 of March in Lake Tiberias area, calls upon Israel to scrupulously refrain from military action in violation of the General Armistice Agreements.

- The General Assembly decides on 20 December 1962, to extend the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until 30 June 1965. On 15 December 1965, it further extends the mandate of UNRWA until June 1969 and calls on the Conciliation Commission for Palestine to report on the repatriation of the refugees.

- In October 1965, the Special Political Committee, at the request of a group of Arab states, decided that a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) be allowed to attend the meetings of the Committee and present a statement, without implying recognition. The PLO participated in the discussions of the Committee under the agenda item of UNRWA in much the same way until 1973. (Another group of Arab states requested and the Committee accepted the same for the Palestine Arab Delegation.)

- The Security Council, on 25 November 1966, censures the Israeli military action which took place in the southern Hebron area (Al-Samu') on 13 November 1966, deplores the loss of life and heavy damage to property as a result of the Israeli action

and emphasizes that the Security Council will consider further and more effective steps to ensure against the repetition of such acts.

- On June 5 1967, war breaks out in the Middle East engulfing

Israel , Egypt , Syria and Jordan . After six days, Israel occupies large areas of Arab territory including the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, the Sinai and the Golan Heights . From 6 to 12 June, the Security Council passes four resolutions calling for a cease-fire.

- On 14 June 1967, the Security Council adopts resolution 237 (1967), calling on Israel to respect human rights in areas affected by the 1967 Middle East conflict and to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities, and calls for compliance by the parties with all the obligations of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

- The General Assembly convenes its fifth emergency special session to consider the situation in the aftermath of the latest Middle East crisis. On 4 July 1967, the Assembly adopts resolution 2252 (ES-V), in which it welcomes with great satisfaction Security Council resolution 237 (1967), whereby the Council, inter alia, called upon the government of Israel to ensure the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the areas where military operations had taken place and to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who had fled the area since the outbreak of hostilities, and recommended to the governments concerned the scrupulous respect of the humanitarian principles relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, contained in the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

- On the same day, the Assembly adopted 2253 (ES-V), in which it considers that measures taken by Israel to change the status of the City of Jerusalem are invalid and calls upon Israel to rescind all measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem. On 14 July 1967, the fifth emergency special session adopts resolution 2254 (ES-V), which deplores the failure of Israel to implement General Assembly resolution 2253 (ES-V), reiterates its call to Israel, and repeats the request to the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the implementation.

- On 22 November 1967, the Security Council adopts resolution 242 (1967). The resolution affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles: withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict; and termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for an acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force. Resolution 242 (1967) also affirms the necessity for guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area; for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem; and for guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones; and requests the Secretary-General to designate a Special Representative to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution.

- On 21 March 1968 the Israeli forces attack a Palestinian base belonging to Fatah in the village of Al-Karameh in Jordan . Israeli forces engage in a battle with

Palestinian fighters for the first time. On 24 March 1968, the Security Council adopts resolution 248 (1968), condemning the large scale and premeditated military actions by Israel against Jordan .

- On 27 April 1968, the Security Council adopts resolution 250 (1968), once again calling upon Israel to refrain from holding a military parade in Jerusalem . On 2 May 1968, the Security Council adopts resolution 251 (1968) deeply deploring the Israeli military parade in Jerusalem .
- In resolution 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, the Security Council deplores the failure of Israel to comply with the General Assembly resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 225 (ES-V) of 4 and 14 July 1967 respectively; considers that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel, including the expropriation of land and properties thereon, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem, are invalid and cannot change the status; and urgently calls upon Israel to rescind all such measures taken and to desist from further actions changing the status of Jerusalem.
- On 16 August 1968, in response to another Israeli attack on Jordan (Salt) the Security Council adopts resolution 256 (1968) condemning further military attacks by Israel and deploring the loss of life and heavy damage to property.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 258 (1968) on 18 September 1968, in which it insists that the cease-fire ordered by the Council in its resolutions be rigorously respected; reaffirms resolution 242 (1967) and urges all the parties to extend full cooperation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.
- On 27 September 1968, the Security Council adopts resolution 259 (1968), deploring the delay in implementation of resolution 237 (1967) because of the conditions still being set by Israel for receiving a Special Representative of the Secretary-General; and requesting the Secretary-General to urgently dispatch a Special Representative to the Arab territories under military occupation by Israel following the hostilities of 5 June 1967 and to report on the implementation of resolution 237 (1967). Requests the government of Israel to receive the Special Representative , to cooperate with him and to facilitate his work.
- On 19 December 1968, the General Assembly adopts resolution 2443 (XXIII) establishing the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories .
- Also on 19 December 1968, the General Assembly calls upon Israel to take immediate steps for the return of those who fled from the territories occupied in 1967, and extends the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 1972.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 267 (1969) on 3 July 1969, in which, reaffirming the established principles that the acquisition of territory by military conquest is inadmissible, it deplores the failure of Israel to show any regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council; censures in the strongest terms all measures taken to change the status of the City of Jerusalem; and urgently calls once more on Israel to rescind all measures to change the status of Jerusalem and in the future to refrain from all actions likely to have such an effect. In the resolution, the Council also determines that in the event of a negative response or no response from Israel , the Security Council shall reconvene without delay to consider what further action should be taken in this matter.
- On 15 September 1969 , the Security Council adopts resolution 271 (1969) following the universal outrage at the desecration of Al Aqsa Mosque. In the

resolution, the Council expresses the following: Grieved at the extensive damage caused by arson to the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on 21 August 1969 under the military occupation of Israel, recognizes that any act of destruction or profanation of the Holy Place, religious buildings and sites in Jerusalem or any encouragement of, or connivance at, any such act may seriously endanger international peace and security. The Council also calls upon Israel to scrupulously observe the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and international law governing military occupation and to refrain from causing any hindrance to the discharge of the established functions of the Supreme Moslem Council of Jerusalem; and condemns the failure of Israel to comply with aforementioned resolutions.

- On 10 December 1969, in resolution 2535 (XXIV), the General Assembly regrets the failure to implement repatriation or compensation for Palestine refugees, reaffirms the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, and draws the attention of the Security Council to Israeli policies in the occupied territories.
- On 11 December 1969, the General Assembly condemns the violations of human rights in the occupied territories and calls upon Israel to desist from repressive practices.

1970s

Palestine and The U.N. in Retrospect: The Seventies

This is the fourth in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decades, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations (U.N.) since the inception of the organization in 1945. Those events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future also, as the permanent responsibility of the U.N. towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- The General Assembly, on 4 November 1970, adopts resolution 2628 (XXV), calling for talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Special Representative with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 242 (1967).
- On 25 November 1970, General Assembly resolution 2645 (XXV) is adopted, condemning all acts of aerial hijacking and interference with civil air travel.
- The General Assembly, on 8 December 1970, adopts resolution 2672 A, B, C, D (XXV) regarding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Adopted every year, the resolution renews UNRWA's mandate; regrets Israeli failure to implement repatriation or compensation for the Palestine refugees; recognizes that the people of Palestine are entitled to equal rights and self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the U.N.; continues assistance to displaced inhabitants; and calls upon Israel to take immediate steps for the return of the displaced persons.
- In response to the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the General Assembly adopts resolution 2727 (XXV) on 15 December 1970. Similar resolutions are passed yearly, calling on Israel to desist from violating the human rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, expressing grave concern at Israeli violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and calling upon Israel to comply

with its provisions.

- The Security Council, on 25 September 1971, adopts resolution 298 (1971), which deplores the failure of Israel to respect U.N. resolutions concerning measures and actions by Israel purporting to change the status of Jerusalem; confirms that all legislative and administrative actions taken by Israel to change the status of the City of Jerusalem, including the expropriation of land and properties, transfer of populations and legislation aimed at the incorporation of the occupied section are totally invalid and cannot change that status. In this resolution, the Council also urgently calls upon Israel to rescind all such measures and actions and to take no further steps in the occupied section of Jerusalem.
- Resolution 2787 (XXVI) is adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 1971, confirming the legality of people's struggle for self-determination and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably in southern Africa, as well as by the Palestinian people, through all available means consistent with the Charter of the U.N.
- General Assembly resolution 2799 (XXVI), reaffirming that the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East should include the principles outlined in Security Council resolution 242, is adopted on 13 December 1971.
- On 8 December 1972, the General Assembly adopts resolution 2949 (XXVII), expressing grave concern at the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and calling upon states not to recognize changes carried out by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and to avoid actions, including aid, that could constitute recognition of that occupation.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 331 on 21 April 1973, requesting the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the efforts of the U.N. regarding the situation in the Middle East since June 1967 and to invite Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to be available during the Council's meetings.
- On 22 October 1973, following the outbreak of an Arab-Israeli war, the Security Council adopts resolution 338 (1973) calling for a cease-fire and for the implementation of resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts and for negotiations between the parties concerned under the appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.
- Security Council resolution 339 (1973) is adopted one day later, confirming resolution 338 (1973) and calling for the dispatch of U.N. observers to supervise the cease-fire. Within two days, a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) is set-up by the Security Council in resolution 340 (1973).
- On 12 December 1973, the General Assembly adopts resolution 3102 (XXVIII) which, inter alia, urges that national liberation movements be invited as observers in the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.
- On 15 December 1973, the Security Council, adopts resolution 344 (1973), which, noting that a Peace Conference for the implementation of resolution 242 (1967) is to begin shortly in Geneva under the auspices of the U.N., expresses the hope that the Conference will make speedy progress towards the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East; expresses its confidence that the Secretary-General will play a full and effective role at the Conference; and requests the

Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance and facilities for the work of the Conference. (All permanent members of the Council abstained except China .)

- The General Assembly, on 17 December 1973, adopts resolution 3175 (XXVIII), affirming the right of the Arab States and peoples whose territories are under foreign occupation to permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, and affirms the right of the Arab States and peoples whose territories are under Israeli occupation to the restitution of and full compensation for the exploitation and looting of, and damages to, the natural resources, as well as the exploitation and manipulation of the human resources of the occupied territories. That same resolution is adopted every year.
- For the first time since 1952, the item "Question of Palestine" is added to the agenda of the 29th session of the General Assembly, at the request of 55 member states, and on 14 October 1974, General Assembly resolution 3210 (XXIX) is adopted, inviting the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in the deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.
- On 13 November 1974, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, becomes the first representative of an entity other than a member state to address the General Assembly. (With the exception of the ceremonial occasion when Pope Paul IV addressed the Assembly.)
- Resolution 3236 (XXIX) is adopted on 22 November 1974, reaffirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to establish contacts with the PLO on all matters concerning the question of Palestine.
- On that same day, the PLO is granted observer status under General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX), which invited the PLO to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, and of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and other organs of the U.N.
- The General Assembly, on 9 December 1974, adopts resolution 3263 (XXIX) calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. This same resolution is adopted every year.
- On 8 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 1949 (LVIII), amending rule 73 of its rules of procedure to provide for the participation of national liberation movements as observers in the deliberations of the Council.
- The PLO, on 10 November 1975, is invited to participate in the efforts for peace in the Middle East by the General Assembly in resolution 3375 (XXX).
- The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is established on 10 November 1975 by the General Assembly, in resolution 3376 (XXX). Composed of twenty member states, the Committee is to recommend a program for the implementation of the rights of the Palestinian people. A similar resolution is adopted annually under the agenda item "Question of Palestine".
- The General Assembly adopts resolution 3379 (XXX) on 10 November 1975, determining that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.
- On 5 December 1975, the PLO participates for the first time in official meetings of the Security Council. Since the request for participation was not made under either

article 37 or article 39 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council adopts a procedural decision, by 9 votes, under which the PLO is granted the same rights of participation as if it were a member state under article 37.

- The General Assembly adopts resolution 3411 (XXX) on 10 December 1975 , condemning the strengthening of relations and collaborations between the racist regime of South Africa and Israel .
- On 9 June 1976 , the Security Council meets to consider the report presented by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The draft resolution introduced by Tanzania under agenda item The Question of the Exercise of the Palestinian People of their Inalienable Rights was vetoed by the U.S. on 29 June 1976 .
- Resolution 31/62, calling for the convening of a Peace Conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices, is adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1976.
- General Assembly resolution 31/110 of 16 December 1976 is adopted, requesting the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant U.N. organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly, a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories; the same resolution is adopted every year.
- The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is enlarged by 3 member states by the General Assembly on 22 December 1976.
- In April 1977, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopts resolution 36 (IV), recommending to ECOSOC the amendment of ESCWA's terms of reference so that the PLO could be included in its membership. In July 1977, ECOSOC adopts this recommendation in resolution 2089 (LXIII) and the PLO becomes a full member of ESCWA.
- The General Assembly, on 28 October 1977, adopts resolution 32/5, deploring recent illegal Israeli measures in the occupied territories designed to change the legal status, geographic nature and demographic composition of those territories in contravention of the principles of the Charter of the U.N. and of Israel's international obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.
- Condemning Israel for its political, diplomatic, economic, military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa , General Assembly resolution 32/35 is adopted on 28 November 1977.
- On 19 March 1978, the Security Council adopts resolution 425 (1978), which calls for the strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries; and calls upon Israel immediately to cease its military action against Lebanese territory. In the resolution, the Council also decides to establish immediately under its authority a United Nations Interim Force for Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL).
- General Assembly resolution 33/71 is adopted on 14 December 1978, requesting all states to refrain from military and nuclear collaboration with Israel .
- On 20 December 1978, the General Assembly adopts resolution 33/147, calling for the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people.

- The Security Council adopts resolution 446 (1979) on 22 March 1979, which determines that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East; calls once more upon Israel, as the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, to rescind its previous measures and to desist from taking any action which would result in changing the legal status and geographical nature and materially affecting the demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and in particular, not to transfer parts of its own civilian population into the occupied Arab territories. The resolution also establishes a Commission consisting of three members of the Security Council to examine the situation relating to settlements and requests the Commission to submit a report to the Council.

On 20 July 1979, the Security Council adopts resolution 452 (1979), considering that the policy of Israel in establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories has no legal validity and constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The resolution calls upon the government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements; and requests the Commission, in view of the magnitude of the problem of settlements, to keep under close survey the implementation of the present resolution and to report back to the Security Council.

- General Assembly resolution 34/29, adopted on 16 November 1979, calls upon the Israeli authorities to rescind the deportation order issued against the Mayor of Nablus.

- On 29 November and 12 December 1979, the General Assembly adopts resolutions 34/65 A, B, C, D on the question of Palestine, reaffirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, declaring that the Camp David Accords have no validity in determining the future of the Palestinian people, and calling for PLO participation in the deliberations on the Middle East.

- General Assembly resolution 34/89, strongly condemning any attempt by Israel to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East, is adopted on 11 December 1979.

1980s

Palestine and The UN in Retrospect: The Eighties

This is the fifth in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decades, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations (U.N.) since the inception of the organization in 1945. These events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future also, as the permanent responsibility of the U.N. towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- On 1 March 1980, the Security Council adopts resolution 465 (1980), taking note of the reports of the Commission of the Security Council established under resolution 446 (1979) to examine the situation relating to settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; accepting the conclusions and recommendations in those reports; determines that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, have no legal validity; and calls upon the government and people of Israel to cease

on an urgent basis the establishment, construction and planning of such settlements. (The resolution was adopted unanimously, however, the next day the U.S. declared that it had intended to abstain.)

- The Security Council adopts resolution 468 (1980) on 8 May 1980, which calls upon Israel to rescind the measures taken against three Palestinian leaders - the Mayors of Hebron and Halhoul and the Sharia Judge of Hebron – and to facilitate their immediate return. That same month, it adopts resolution 469, strongly deploring the failure of the government of Israel to implement resolution 468 and calling upon Israel to rescind the measures against the expelled leaders.

- The Security Council, on 5 June 1980, adopts resolution 471 (1980), expressing deep concern that the Jewish settlers in the occupied Arab territories are allowed to carry arms thus enabling them to perpetrate crimes against the civilian population, calling for the immediate apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators of these crimes; and condemning the assassination attempts on the lives of the Mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh. This resolution also calls again upon the government of Israel to respect and comply with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as the resolutions of the Council, and calls once again upon all states not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with the settlements in the occupied territories.

- On 30 June 1980, Security Council resolution 476 (1980) is adopted, which reaffirms the overriding necessity to end the prolonged occupation of Arab territories by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; reiterates that all measures taken by Israel which have altered the geographic, demographic and historical character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council; and reaffirms the Council's determination in the event of non-compliance by Israel to examine practical ways and means in accordance with relevant provisions of the U.N. Charter to secure full implementation of the resolution.

- The seventh emergency special session (ESS) of the General Assembly convenes in July 1980 to consider the Question of Palestine following the failure of the Security Council, because of a U.S. veto, to act on the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly. At an earlier date, the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement had taken a decision to convene an emergency special session on the matter. Resolution ES-7/2 is adopted on 29 July 1980, calling upon Israel to begin complete withdrawal by November 1980 from all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem; resolution ES-7/3 is adopted as well, requesting the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to study reasons for Israel's refusal to comply with relevant U.N. resolutions.

- On 20 August 1980, in resolution 478, the Security Council, censures in the strongest terms the enactment by Israel of the "basic law" on Jerusalem and the refusal to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions; affirms that the enactment of the "basic law" constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem; decides not to recognize the "basic law" and such other actions by Israel that, as a result of this law, seek to alter the character and status of Jerusalem; and calls upon all members of the United Nations to accept this decision and upon those states that have established diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw such

missions from the Holy City.

- In November 1980, the General Assembly adopts resolutions 35/13 A, B, C, D, E, F on UNWRA, extending its mandate, endorsing assistance to the Palestine refugees, calling for grants for higher education, and calling upon Israel to permit the return of displaced refugees, including those removed from camps in the Gaza Strip. *
- The General Assembly, on 14 November 1980, adopts resolution 35/35A, B emphasizing the importance of the universal realization of the rights of peoples to self-determination and national sovereignty and condemning Israel's expansionist activities in the Middle East. *
- Resolution 35/75 is adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 1980, condemning the Israeli policies resulting in the deterioration of the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and calling upon all states to cooperate with U.N. agencies in alleviating the tragic living conditions. *
- On 5 December 1980, the General Assembly adopts resolution 35/110, emphasizing the right of the Arab states and peoples whose territories are under Israeli occupation to full permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. *
- The General Assembly, on 11 December 1980, adopts resolution 35/122, condemning the Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied territories, calling for the return of expelled Palestinian leaders and condemning Israeli actions in the Syrian Golan Heights and with regard to repression against Palestinian universities. *
- General Assembly resolution 35/147 is adopted on 12 December 1980, urging the establishment of a nuclear-free-zone in the region of the Middle East. *
- On 15 December 1980, the General Assembly adopts resolution 35/169 on the Question of Palestine, reaffirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, rejecting those provisions of the Camp David Accords which ignore or violate their rights, calling for the participation of the PLO in deliberations on the Middle East, and rejecting Israel's "basic law" on Jerusalem. *
- General Assembly resolution 35/206 H, of 16 December 1980, condemns the continuing and increasing collaboration by Israel with the racist regime of South Africa. That same day the Assembly adopts resolution 35/207, condemning the continued Israeli occupation and annexation of Arab territories, rejecting partial agreements, declaring the need for the Palestinian people, under PLO leadership, to attain their inalienable rights, and condemning Israeli aggression against Lebanon. *
- On 19 December 1980, the Security Council adopts resolution 484 (1980), expressing grave concern at the expulsion by Israel of the Mayors of Hebron and Halhoul and declaring it imperative that they be enabled to return.
- General Assembly resolution 36/8, of 28 October 1981, condemns the apartheid, racist, and discriminatory policies pursued in southern Africa, the occupied Arab territories and elsewhere, including the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence.
- Also on 28 October 1981, the General Assembly adopts resolution 36/15 demanding that Israel desist immediately from all excavations and transformations of the historical, cultural and religious sites of Jerusalem, particularly beneath and around the Holy Sanctuary of Al-Haram Al-Sharif, endangering the Holy Sites of Al-

Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

- The 7th ESS of the General Assembly resumes in April 1982. Resolution ES-7/4 is adopted on 25 April, condemning Israel for its policies in the occupied territories, urging states not to provide Israel with assistance, and urging the Security Council to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.
- On 5 June 1982, the Security Council, in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, adopts resolution 508 (1982), which calls upon the parties to the conflict to cease immediately and simultaneously all military activities within Lebanon and across the Lebanese-Israeli border. On 6 June, the Council demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in resolution 509 (1982).
- The 7th ESS resumes in June 1982 and resolution ES-7/5 of 26 June is adopted, demanding a cease-fire in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.
- In resolution 515 (1982) of 29 July 1982, the Security Council demands that Israel immediately lift its blockade of Beirut. Security Council resolution 518 (1982) of 12 August 1982 demands that Israel and all parties to the conflict cease all military activities and that restrictions on supplies to Beirut be lifted immediately.
- The 7th ESS resumes in August, adopting resolution ES-7/6 of 19 August 1982, which calls for the free exercise of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, demands that Israel carry out previous resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the occupied territories, and urges the Secretary-General to take measures to guarantee the safety of the Palestinian and Lebanese civilian populations.
- In resolution ES-7/7, also of 19 August 1982, the General Assembly decides to convene an international conference on the Question of Palestine, and resolution ES-7/8 of 19 August decides to commemorate innocent children who are the victims of aggression.
- Israeli incursions into Beirut, in violation of the cease-fire agreements, are condemned by the Security Council in resolution 520 of 17 September 1982, which also demands that Israel return to its previous positions as a first step towards the full implementation of Security Council resolutions.
- On 19 September 1982, the Security Council adopts resolution 521 (1982), which condemns the criminal massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut (Sabra and Shattilla); reaffirms resolutions 512 (1982) and 513 (1982), which call for respect for the rights of the civilian populations without any discrimination, and repudiates all acts of violence against those populations; and requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to initiate appropriate consultations, in particular with the government of Lebanon, on additional steps which the Security Council might take, including the possible deployment of U.N. forces, to assist that government in ensuring full protection for the civilian populations in and around Beirut.
- The 7th ESS resumes for the fourth and last time in the wake of the massacre in innocent civilians at Sabra and Shattilla in Beirut. Resolution ES-7/9 of 24 September 1982 urges an investigation of the massacre of innocent civilians in Beirut, demands a cease-fire in Lebanon and a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, and resolves that the Palestinian refugees should be enabled to return to their homes.

- On 3 December 1982, the General Assembly passes resolution 37/43 on the rights of peoples to self-determination, which also reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.
- The General Assembly, on 18 December 1982, adopts resolution 37/222, affirming that Israeli occupation is contradictory to the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and that the exercise of their right to self-determination is a prerequisite for their social and economic development. *
- On 29 August 1983, the International Conference on the Question of Palestine is convened at the U.N. Office at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983. The Conference was opened by the U.N. Secretary-General, Javier Perez-Decuellar, and presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal, with the participation of the representatives of seventeen States and the PLO as full participant. 104 non-governmental organizations also attended and participated. The Conference was convened in implementation of resolution ES-7/7 and culminated five regional meetings. The Conference adopted the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Program of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights. • On 18 December 1984, General Assembly resolution 39/223 is adopted, calling for the lifting of Israeli restrictions on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories, and calling for the establishment of a seaport in the occupied Gaza Strip. *
- The Security Council, on 31 May 1985, adopts resolution 564 (1985), calling upon all parties concerned to end acts of violence against the civilian population in Lebanon and particularly in and around Palestinian refugee camps.
- On 4 October 1985, the Security Council adopts resolution 573 (1985), condemning vigorously the act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel against Tunisian territory in flagrant violation of the Charter of the U.N., international law and norms of conduct. (Air attack on PLO Headquarters in Hammam Al-Shut)
- Security Council resolution 592 (1986) of 8 December 1986 strongly deplores the opening of fire by the Israeli army at Bir Zeit University, which resulted in the death and wounding of defenseless students, and calls upon Israel to release any person or persons detained as a result of recent events at the university.
- General Assembly resolution 42/210B is adopted on 17 December 1987, under the agenda item "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country", requesting the U.S. to abide by its treaty obligations and to refrain from preventing the discharge of the official function of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the U.N. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to report any further developments.
- On 22 December 1987, the Security Council adopts resolution 605 (1987), deploring the Israeli practices violating the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and requesting the Secretary-General to submit a report containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. At a later stage, the Secretary-General submits a substantial report on the matter.
- On 5 January 1988, the Security Council adopts resolution 607(1988), which calls upon Israel to refrain from deporting Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and strongly requests it to abide by its obligations arising from the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Security Council resolution 608 (1988), of 14 January 1988, calls upon Israel to

rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and to ensure the return of those already deported.

- On 2 March 1988, the General Assembly in a resumed session adopts resolutions 42/229 A and B. Reaffirming that the Permanent Observer Mission of the PLO to the U.N. is covered by the U.N. Headquarters Agreement and calling upon the U.S. to abide by this agreement. In resolution B, the Assembly decides to ask the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on the matter. Also on 2 March resolution 42/461 is adopted, deciding to keep under active review the dispute between the U.N. and the U.S. regarding the interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement.
- On 23 March 1988, General Assembly resolution 42/230 is adopted, reaffirming that the PLO Observer Mission to the U.N. is covered by the Headquarters Agreement between the U.S. and the U.N., and that the PLO has the right to maintain premises in New York .
- The General Assembly adopts decision 42/462 on 23 March 1988, deciding to continue consultations on the dispute between the U.N. and the U.S. regarding the interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement.
- On 16 April 1988, Israel assassinates PLO leader Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) at his home in Tunis . The Security Council, on 25 April, adopts resolution 611 (1988) condemning Israel 's aggression perpetrated against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia .
- On 26 April 1988, the ICJ issues its advisory opinion. The Court was of the unanimous opinion that the U.S. is under an obligation to enter into arbitration for the settlement of the dispute between itself and the U.N.
- General Assembly resolution 42/237 of 13 May 1988 endorses the advisory opinion of the ICJ and urges the Host Country (U.S.) to abide by its international legal obligations and to act consistently with the advisory opinion of the ICJ.
- A year after the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada (uprising), the General Assembly adopts resolution 43/21 of 3 November 1988, condemning Israeli policies violating human rights, such as the deportation of civilians and collective punishment.
*
- On 30 November 1988, the General Assembly adopts resolution 43/28, in which it has been informed of the decision of the Host Country, the U.S., to deny a requested visa by the PLO for Mr. Yasser Arafat to participate in the 43rd Session of the General Assembly, and deplores the failure of the U.S. to approve an entry visa for this purpose. The following month, the Assembly adopts resolution 43/49 of 2 December, deciding to move consideration of the question of Palestine in the Assembly from New York to the U.N. headquarters in Geneva .
- On 9 December 1988, the General Assembly adopts resolution 43/160 A, deciding that the PLO (and SWAPO) are entitled to have their communications issued and circulated directly, and without an intermediary, as official documents of the Assembly and authorizing the U.N. Secretariat to circulate those communications.
- The General Assembly meets in Geneva and, on 15 December 1988 , adopts resolution 43/177, in which it acknowledges the proclamation of the State of Palestine by the Palestine National Council (PNC) on 15 November 1988 , and decides that the designation " Palestine " should be used instead of "Palestine

Liberation Organization" in the U.N. system.

- On that same day, the General Assembly overwhelmingly adopts resolution 43/176, in which it calls for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the U.N., with the participation of the PLO, based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination. The Assembly also affirms five principles for the achievement of a comprehensive peace.
- The General Assembly resumes its session and adopts resolution 43/233 of 20 April 1989, condemning Israeli policies and practices and requesting the Security Council to consider the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- On 6 July 1989, the Security Council adopts resolution 636 (1989), calling upon Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those deported, and to desist from deporting any other Palestinian civilians. The resolution also reaffirms that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to other occupied Arab territories.
- The Security Council adopts resolution 641 (1989) on 30 August 1989, deploring Israel's continued deportation of Palestinian civilians.
- These resolutions were repeatedly adopted by the General Assembly during following sessions.

1990s

Palestine and The U.N. in Retrospect: The Nineties

This is the sixth in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decade, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations since the inception of the organization in 1945. These events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future, as the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- On 25 May 1990, the Security Council meets in Geneva, with Chairman Yasser Arafat in attendance, after the U.S. refuses to grant him a visa to attend the meeting in New York. The Security Council held the debate on the situation in the occupied territories, and on 31 May 1990, in a meeting in New York, a draft resolution is vetoed by the U.S.
- On 12 October 1990, the Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 672 (1990), which condemns the acts of violence committed by Israeli security forces on 8 October 1990 at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem and other Holy Place of Jerusalem, resulting in over twenty Palestinian deaths and the injury of more than one hundred and fifty people; and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to all the territories occupied since 1967. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to send a mission to the region. During the debate, the Palestinian delegation shows a video tape documenting the Israeli aggression.
- On 24 October 1990, the Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 673,

deploring the refusal of the Israeli government to receive the mission of the Secretary-General and urging it to comply with resolution 672 (1990).

- During the 45th Session of the General Assembly, no vote was taken on the report of the Credentials Committee as required by the rules of procedures. This was a compromise reached by the President of the General Assembly in light of a proposed amendment to the resolution on the report of the Credentials Committee, indicating that the credentials of the delegation of Israel do not relate to or cover the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; and the Syrian Golan.

- On 28 November 1990, the General Assembly once more adopts resolution 45/37, calling upon all states concerned to accord the delegations of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and /or by the League of Arab States, the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their functions, in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character.

- On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopts resolution 45/52 calling upon all countries of the Middle East to place their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards; and in its resolution 45/63 the General Assembly condemns Israel's refusal to renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, and calls upon all states to end aid to Israel in this field.*

- The General Assembly adopts resolutions 45/67 A,B,C on 6 December 1990 on the Question of Palestine, endorsing the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and requesting continuation of the work of the Division for Palestinian Rights and the special information program on the question of Palestine. Under the same agenda item, the General Assembly adopts a resolution calling for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the U.N., and a resolution on the intifada, the uprising of the Palestinian people.*

- On 11 December 1990, the General Assembly adopts resolutions 45/73 A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K on UNRWA. The resolutions respectively call for contributions to UNRWA and endorse assistance to Palestine refugees; call upon Israel to permit the return of displaced Palestinians and to remove obstacles to the establishment of Al-Quds University for Palestinian refugees; request the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps for the protection and administration of Arab refugee property, assets and property rights; and condemn Israeli raids on UNRWA premises, as well as Israeli policies against Palestinian educational institutions.*

- The General Assembly adopts resolutions 45/74 A,B,C,D,E,F,G on 11 December 1990 on Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied territories, condemning the continued and persistent violation by Israel of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949; reaffirming the applicability of the Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967; condemning Israel's policies of settlements and annexation in the occupied territories, as well as its measures against civil and educational freedom there, and for its expulsion of Palestinian leaders.*

- On 13 December 1990, the General Assembly adopts resolutions 45/83 A,B,C on the situation in the Middle East. The three resolutions consist of an omnibus resolution on the Middle East, a resolution on the Syrian Golan and a third on the

status of occupied Jerusalem.*

- On 20 December 1990, the Security Council, after lengthy discussions and maneuvering, adopts resolution 681 (1990), on ways and means of ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. In the resolution, the Council urges the Government of Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention; calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under the Convention in accordance with article 1 thereof. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to develop further the idea of convening a meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention; requests the Secretary-General to monitor and observe the situation regarding Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation and to utilize and designate or draw upon the U.N. and other personnel and resources present there needed to accomplish this task; and requests the Secretary-General to periodically report to the Council on the matter. In the resolution the Council took into consideration the Presidential Statement of the same date in which the Council first agreed upon the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East, appropriately timed and properly structured.

- On 21 December 1990, the General Assembly adopts resolution 45/183, requesting the international community to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in cooperation with the PLO.*

- The Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 694 (1991) on 24 May 1991, deploring Israel's deportation of Palestinian civilians and declaring this action to be in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which is applicable to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

- In October 1991, the Middle East Peace Conference convenes in Madrid. This development is welcomed by the 46th Session of the General Assembly. At the same time, the package of resolutions related to the issue of Palestine are retained almost intact, while the resolution on the Syrian Golan is not presented during this session, and the omnibus resolution on the situation in the Middle East is dropped.

- On 16 December 1991, the General Assembly adopts resolution 46/86, revoking the determination in its resolution 3379(XXX) of 10 November 1975. (The latter resolution had determined Zionism to be a form of racism and racial discrimination.)

- On 6 January 1992, the Security Council adopts resolution 726 (1992), which condemns the decision by Israel to deport twelve Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territories; reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; and requests Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported.

- On 18 December 1992, the Security Council adopts resolution 799 (1992), in which the Council strongly condemns the deportation by Israel, the occupying Power, of hundreds of Palestinian civilians on 17 December 1992; expresses its firm opposition to any such deportations by Israel; reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention; affirms that the deportation of civilians constitutes a contravention of Israel's obligations under the Convention; and demands that Israel ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported.

- On 22 December 1992, the General Assembly adopts resolution 47/172 on the economic and social repercussions of Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan.*
- On 14 September 1993, Chairman Arafat visits the U.N. to meet with the Secretary-General to brief him about the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements at the White House a day earlier.
- During the 48th Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. All relevant agenda items are retained as are positions on all basic issues, the two relevant Committees (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices) and the necessary budgetary allocations. Also during that session the resolution on the Middle East peace conference under the agenda item of the Question of Palestine is transformed into a resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine". The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole rises dramatically, with the European countries casting positive votes. The U.S., in cooperation with Norway and the Russian Federation, introduces a new resolution in support of the Middle East peace process, and the resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people is adopted by consensus. The report of the Credentials Committee is voted upon according to normal procedures.
- On 10 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts decision 48/417, establishing a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of UNRWA and the PLO.
- On 18 March 1994, the Security Council adopts resolution 904 (1994), in which the Council strongly condemns the massacre in Hebron committed against Palestinian worshipers in the Mosque of Ibrahim (Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi), on 25 February 1994, during the holy month of Ramadan, and its aftermath which took the lives of more than 50 Palestinian civilians and injured several others; calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to take and implement measures to prevent illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers including the confiscation of arms; and calls for measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians, including a temporary international or foreign presence within the context of the peace process. In the resolution, the Council also requests the cosponsors of the peace process, the U.S. and the Russian Federation, to continue their efforts to invigorate the peace process and to undertake the necessary support for the implementation of the above-mentioned measures. The U.S. sought a rare procedure of a paragraph-by-paragraph vote and the resolution as a whole was adopted without a vote.
- On 25 May 1994, the Secretary-General appoints Ambassador Terje Larsen of Norway as Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories to ensure coordination of the work of the agencies of the U.N. involved in providing assistance to the Palestinian people.
- On 2 December 1994, the General Assembly adopts resolution 49/21 B on special economic assistance to individual countries or regions, requesting the Secretary-General to designate a U.N. agency to disburse the voluntary contributions given by donors for salaries and other start-up costs of the Palestinian police force. On 13 April 1995, the General Assembly adopts resolution 49/21 O, requesting the Secretary-General to designate UNRWA once again to disburse the contributions.
- On 23 December 1994, the General Assembly adopts resolution 49/149, reaffirming

the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and urging all states, specialized agencies and organizations of the U.N. system to continue to support the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

- In October 1995, the U.N. convenes a Special Commemorative Meeting on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. In resolution 49/12 B of 24 May 1995, the Preparatory Committee and the General Assembly decided that the same arrangements extended to member states with regard to participation in the commemoration will be extended to Palestine in its capacity as observer (in addition to Switzerland and the Holy See). As a result, for the duration of the Special Commemorative Meeting, Palestine is treated as a member state. President Arafat attends the meeting and addresses the General Assembly during its first session before the Foreign Ministers of member states who spoke in that session.
- On 28 September 1996, the Security Council adopts resolution 1073 (1996) on the action by the government of Israel to open an entrance to a tunnel in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem and its consequent results, including the tragic events in Jerusalem and the areas of Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip, which resulted in a high number of deaths and injuries among Palestinian civilians. The resolution calls for the immediate cessation and reversal of all acts which resulted in the aggravation of the situation, and also calls for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian people and for the timely implementation of the agreements reached.
- On 13 December 1996, the General Assembly adopts an additional resolution 51/133 on the Israeli settlements, reaffirming that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development and demanding complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities.
- On 16 December 1996, the General Assembly adopts an additional resolution 51/190 on the Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. The resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water, and recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of their natural resources.
- On a trip to the U.S. following the signing of the Hebron Protocol with the Government of Israel, President Arafat visits the U.N. on 5 March 1997, where he meets with the new Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, the President of the General Assembly, and privately with members of the Security Council.
- On 5 March 1997, the Security Council convenes to consider the issue of Jerusalem, following Israel's decision to build a new settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim to the south of East Jerusalem. On 7 March 1997, the U.S. vetoes the draft resolution presented by the four European members of the Council, which calls upon Israel to abandon its impending construction of a settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim.
- Upon the request of the Arab Group at the U.N., the General Assembly resumes its 51st session, on 12 and 13 March 1997, to address the situation in Occupied Jerusalem. The Assembly adopts resolution 51/223, which consists of the same text as that vetoed by the Security Council, by a vote of 130 – 2 (U.S. and Israel opposed).

- On 21 March 1997, the Security Council reconvenes to address the Jabal Abu Ghneim crisis. The U.S. again vetoes a draft resolution calling upon Israel to halt the construction.
- For the first time in fifteen years, on 24 April 1997, the General Assembly convenes an emergency special session (ESS) to consider "Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". On 25 April 1997, the tenth ESS overwhelmingly adopts resolution ES-10/2, a strong resolution condemning Israel's construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim and all other illegal Israeli actions in the occupied territories, reaffirming that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character, legal status and demographic composition of Jerusalem are null and void and have no validity whatsoever, demanding a cessation of all Israeli settlement activities, as well as of all illegal measures and actions in Jerusalem, and recommending collective measures, and establishing mechanisms for follow-up.
- On 7 May 1997, the U.N. Committee against Torture in Geneva summons Israel for a hearing to face accusations that its policies and practices violate the International Convention against Torture. The Committee criticizes Israel for being the sole nation to have codified and legalized the use of torture in interrogation.
- On 26 May 1997, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Mr. Peter Hansen, announces that the Agency is technically bankrupt, and makes an urgent plea for \$25 million to meet its 1997 budget.
- The U.N. holds a solemn meeting on 9 June 1997, organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to commemorate thirty years of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.
- On 13 June 1997, the General Assembly determines that Israel should pay \$1.7 million to cover the costs of its 18 April 1996 attack on Qana, Lebanon, which represents the first time a country is held accountable for peacekeeping costs. Israel rejects the Assembly's decision.
- The General Assembly reconvenes the 10th ESS, on 15 July 1997, to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the actual situation in the occupied territory. The Assembly again overwhelmingly adopts a resolution (ES-10/3), condemning Israeli settlement policy, demanding a cessation of Israel's settlement activities, demanding that Israel immediately cease and reverse all actions taken illegally under international law against Palestinian Jerusalemites, and recommending the convening of a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 13 November 1997, the General Assembly resumes the 10th ESS for the second time, at the request of the Arab Group. The session is reconvened to follow-up the results of the previous two meetings and to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the matter of convening a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to enforce Israeli compliance with the provisions of the Convention, which is applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. On that day, resolution ES-10/4 is overwhelmingly adopted, requesting the Swiss government, in its capacity as depository of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to undertake the necessary steps in this regard, including the convening of a meeting of experts, with a target date not later than the end of February 1998.

- The annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed at the U.N. on 1 December 1997. This day marks the adoption, on 29 November 1947, of resolution 181 (II), which partitioned Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with Jerusalem as corpus separatum. 1997 marks fifty years since the partition of Palestine.
- On 9 December 1997, the General Assembly addresses the agenda items on the Question of Palestine and the Situation in the Middle East. This day also marks the ten-year anniversary of the start of the Palestinian intifada (uprising). During the following days, the Assembly adopts a total of twenty-one resolutions on the Middle East, nineteen of which specifically concern Palestine.
- On 24-25 February 1998, the Conference in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is held in Brussels, Belgium with the participation of President Arafat and the Foreign Minister of Belgium, Mr. Erik Derycke. The Conference is organized by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CCEIRPP) in coordination with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the League of Arab States. Attendance at the Conference included a large number of member states, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the OIC and the Vice-President of Columbia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries [NAM]).
- On 17 March 1998, for the third time, the General Assembly resumes the 10th ESS to address "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory." It overwhelmingly adopts Resolution ES-10/5, reaffirming the previous resolutions of the ESS, reiterating demands for full Israeli implementation of these resolutions, and reiterating, in specific, the recommendations for the convening of a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. The resolution also reiterates the need for the convening of an experts meeting in preparation for the conference and extends the target date for that meeting until the end of April 1998.
- The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, visits the Palestinian Territory from March 23-24 1998, where he is met by President Arafat. Later, he meets with Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem. The visit is part of a tour of the region, which includes Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Israel.
- On 7 July 1998, the U.N. General Assembly upgrades the representation of Palestine at the U.N. A resolution entitled "Participation of Palestine in the Work of the United Nations" is adopted by a vote of 124 in favor, 4 against, and 10 abstentions.
- After a debate on 30 June 1998, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopts a statement on 13 July calling Israel's plan to expand Jerusalem's municipal boundaries "a serious and damaging development" and calling on the Jewish state "not to take any other steps which would prejudice the outcome of the permanent status negotiations."
- On 28 September 1998, Palestine participates, for the first time, in the General Debate of the U.N. General Assembly. President Arafat addresses the plenary during the opening segment of the 53rd session of the GA on behalf of Palestine, marking the first time that an entity that is not a Member State participates in the General Debate.
- On 18 November 1998, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously adopts resolution

entitled Bethlehem 2000. This unanimous support is a testament to the importance attached to the forthcoming Bethlehem 2000 commemorative events. They were scheduled to begin Christmas 1999 and to continue until Easter 2001, in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago in Bethlehem and to mark the onset of the third millennium.

- On 30 November 1998, the United Nations solemnly commemorates the annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November) and serves as the host to an annual exhibit devoted to Palestinian culture and heritage. The theme of this year's exhibit is Bethlehem 2000 and displays pictures, artifacts, and cultural items from the Palestinian town of Bethlehem.
- In November 1998, the U.N. secretariat makes some changes regarding Palestine in the book of Permanent Missions to the United Nations ("the Blue Book"). The location of the category under which Palestine is listed is moved and placed immediately after non-member states and before the inter-governmental organizations. The title of Palestine's category is also changed to "Entities Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and the Work of the General Assembly and Maintaining Permanent Observer Missions at Headquarters" instead of "Organizations Having received a standing invitation to participate as observers. . ." Earlier, the word "Office" had been used instead of "Mission." Another such change, at the request of the Mission, is the use of the title "Ambassador" in conjunction with "Permanent Observer of Palestine".
- The 53rd session of the General Assembly marks the first time in the history of the U.N. that Palestine co-sponsors a UN resolution, co-sponsoring a package of 21 resolutions and one decision dealing specifically with the question of Palestine.
- Also during the 53rd session, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) makes some changes in its program of work, many of which were of a practical nature. Two important changes are made regarding cooperation with and the participation of NGOs. The first change directs efforts at organizing thematic international conferences and meetings that would be open to the participation of governments, NGOs and other components of civil society, to substitute for the previously separate symposia and seminars. The second change channels some of the Committee's resources at assisting and cooperating with Palestinian NGOs on the ground, as well as at supporting some NGO activity working on the Palestinian issue in various continents.
- On 5 February 1999, the 10th ESS is resumed for the sixth time by the General Assembly to address "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory." It overwhelmingly adopts Resolution ES-10/6, which recommends the convening of a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the 4th Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1. The resolution specifically recommends the convening of the conference on 15 July at the U.N. Office at Geneva. The Palestinian decision to reconvene the 10th ESS is based on the fact that Israel did not comply with any of the demands made in the previous resolutions of the session and on the fact that the conference, which was recommended three times by the session, had not yet been convened. The convening of the conference represent the first time in the history of the treaty that the High Contracting Parties meet to consider a specific situation.
- The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) organizes a highly successful Bethlehem 2000 International Conference in

continuation of its efforts with regard to the Bethlehem 2000 Project. The conference, convened from 18 to 19 February 1999 at the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) headquarters in Rome, is supported and attended by Palestine, Italy, the Vatican, church authorities, the European Commission, the United Nations system and various other international organizations and institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- On 22 February 1999, Palestine participates in U.N. Security Council debate on the issue of "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict," a debate which is clearly congruent with the numerous appeals made by Palestine, in the past as well as in the present, for respect and enforcement of applicable and relevant instruments of international law, international humanitarian law and U.N. resolutions.

- On 13 March 1999, by a vote of 33 in favour to 1 against, with 4 abstentions, the forty-third Commission on the Status of Women approved a resolution on Palestinian women, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

- On 23 April 1999, In a resolution adopted by roll-call vote of 31 for to 1 against and 21 abstentions, (E/CN.4/1999/L.9) on the question of violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, calling on Israel, among other things, to comply with its obligations as an Occupying Power in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

- On 14 May 1999, The Commission on Human Settlements adopted by 25 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions, a resolution (HS/C/RES/17/9) on illegal Israeli human settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and called for the convening on 15 July 1999 at the United Nations Office at Geneva a conference on measures to enforce in the occupied Palestinian territory the Geneva convention relative to the Protection of civilian persons in Time of War of 12 August 1948.

- On 29 July 1999, by a roll-call vote of 44 to 1, with 3 abstentions the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan". This resolution reaffirmed 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 Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

- On 23 September 1999, President Arafat addresses the 54th session of the General Assembly

- On 24 November 1999, The General Assembly approved by a vote of 132 in favor to 3 against, with 5 abstentions the text would have the Assembly reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water.

- On 29 November 1999, The United Nations solemnly commemorated the 21st annual International of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. At the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, statements and messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Government were delivered by supporting nations.

- On 1 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/41 entitled "Special Information programme of the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat" by a vote of 151

in favor, 3 against, and 2 abstentions. The resolution considers that the special information programme on the question of Palestine at 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 in general, including the achievements of the peace process, and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process.

- On 1 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/42 entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” by a vote of 149 in favor, 3 against, and 2 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms that achieving a just final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

- On 1 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/40 entitled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat” in a vote of 107 in favor, 3 against, and 47 abstentions. The resolution recommends that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continue to make a useful and constructive contribution to the United Nations.

- On 1 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/39 entitled “Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” in a vote of 105 in favor, 3 against, with 48 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the role of the committee as well as the committee’s reporting’s.

- On 1 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, approves resolution A/RES/54/51 entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East”. The resolution urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Israel refuses to sign the NPT treaty.

- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/69 entitled “Assistance to Palestine refugees” in a vote of 155 in favor, 1 against and 2 abstentions. The resolution notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of GA resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern.

- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/70 entitled “Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East without a vote.

- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/71 entitled “Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities” in a vote of 154 in favor, 2 against with 2 abstentions. The resolution 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.

- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/72 entitled “Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships

for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 158 in favor, and 1 abstention.

- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/73 entitled “Operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” in a vote of 154 in favor, 2 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution calls once again upon the Government of Israel to compensate the UNRWA for damages to its property and facilities resulting from military actions.
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/74 entitled “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” in a vote of 154 in favor, 2 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity.
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/75 entitled “University of Jerusalem “Al - Quds” for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 155 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention. The resolution emphasizes the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university.
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/76 entitled “Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories “ in a vote of 84 in favor, 2 against, with 67 abstentions. The resolution requests the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/77 entitled “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” in a vote of 154 in favor, 2 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution stresses that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law,
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/78 entitled “ Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development.” in a vote of 149 in favor, 3 against, with 3 abstentions. The resolution
- On 6 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/79 entitled “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem” in a vote of 150 in favor, 2 against, with 3 abstentions. The resolution states its concern about the continuing violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including the use of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation and establishment of settlements and the continuing actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.

- On 15 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/116 entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian People” without a vote. The resolution stresses 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, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration.
- On 17 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/152 entitled “The right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination” in a vote of 156 in favor, 2 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the option of a State.
- On 22 December 1999, The General Assembly, during the 54th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/54/230 entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources” in a vote of 145 in favor, 3 against, with 6 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources.

2000s

Palestine and The U.N. in Retrospect: The Two Thousands

This is the seventh in a series of seven retrospects, listed chronologically by decade, looking back at the most important events related to the question of Palestine that have taken place at the United Nations since the inception of the organization in 1945. These events have greatly influenced both the history and the present of the Palestinian people and will affect their future, as the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine must be upheld until it is solved in all its aspects.

- On 28 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2000/31, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".
- On 28 July 2000, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 44th session adopted resolution E/2000/23, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women"
- On 7 October 2000, the Security Council adopts resolution S/RES/1322(2000) on the events in Jerusalem and other areas throughout the territory occupied by Israel in a vote of 14 in favor with one abstention. The resolution deplores the provocation carried out at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 28 September 2000, and the subsequent violence there and at other Holy Places, as well as in other areas throughout the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, resulting in over 80 Palestinian deaths and many other casualties.
- On 20 October 2000, the 10th Emergency Special Session (ESS) resumed for the seventh time by the General Assembly to address "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". It overwhelmingly adopts Resolution ES-10/7 with 92 in favor, 6 against with 46 abstentions, which condemns the violence that took place on 28 September 2000 and the following days at Al-Haram Al-Sharif and other Holy Places in Jerusalem as well as other areas in

the Occupied Palestinian Territory, resulting in the deaths of over 100 people, the vast majority of whom were Palestinian civilians, and many other casualties.

- On 9 November 2000, President Yasser Arafat addresses the Security Council to appeal to the international community to send a protection force to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in face of increased Israeli violations and grave breaches of international law against the Palestinian civilian population.
- On 29 November 2000, the United Nations solemnly commemorated the 22nd annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. At the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), statements and messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Government were delivered by supporting nations. A cultural exhibit was displayed in the United Nations Lobby.
- On 1 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/52 entitled “Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” in a vote of 104 in favor, 2 against, with 48 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the role of the committee as well as the committee’s reporting about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- On 1 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/53 entitled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat” in a vote of 107 in favor, 2 against, and 48 abstentions. The resolution requests that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continue to make a useful and constructive contribution to the United Nations.
- On 1 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/130 entitled “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 resolution highlighted the tragic events that took place since 28 September 2000, including the use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians resulting in numerous deaths and injuries.
- On 1 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/55 entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” by a vote of 149 in favor, 2 against, and 5 abstentions. The resolution explains that achieving a just final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- On 4 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/87 entitled “The right of the Palestinian people to Self-Determination” in a vote of 170 in favor, 2 against, with 5 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the option of a State.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/123 entitled “Assistance to Palestine refugees” in a vote of 156 in favor, 1 against and 3 abstentions. The resolution notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of GA resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern. A/RES/55/123 also expresses thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), recognizing that

the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees.

- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/124 entitled “Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) without a vote.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/125 entitled “Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities” in a vote of 156 in favor, 2 against with 2 abstentions. The resolution 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.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/126 entitled “Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 160 in favor, and 1 abstention.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/127 entitled “Operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” in a vote of 157 in favor, 2 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution calls once again upon the Government of Israel to compensate UNRWA for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/128 entitled “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” in a vote of 156 in favor, 2 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/129 entitled “University of Jerusalem “Al – Quds” for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 156 in favor, 2 against, and 2 abstentions. The resolution emphasizes the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/130 entitled “Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territory” in a vote of 91 in favor, 2 against, with 61 abstentions. The resolution requests the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/131 entitled “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” in a vote of 152 in favor, 2 against, with 2 abstention. The resolution stresses that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law.

- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/132 entitled “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan” in a vote of 152 in favor, 4 against, with 0 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development.
- On 8 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/133 entitled “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem” in a vote of 150 in favor, 3 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution is concerned about the continuing violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including the use of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation and establishment of settlements and the continuing actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 14 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/173 entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian People” without a vote. The resolution stresses 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, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration.
- On 20 December 2000, The General Assembly, during the 55th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/55/209 entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources” in a vote of 147 in favor, 2 against, with 3 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources.

2001:

- On 24 July 2001, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 45th session adopted resolution E/2001/2, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".
- On 25 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2001/19, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".
- On 29 November 2001, The United Nations solemnly commemorated the 23rd annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. At the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, statements and messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Government were delivered by supporting nations. A cultural exhibit was displayed in the United Nations Lobby.
- On 3 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/33 entitled “Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” in a vote of 106 in favor, 5 against, with 48 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the role of the committee as well as the committee’s reporting’s.
- On 3 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts

resolution A/RES/56/34 entitled “Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat” in a vote of 107 in favor, 5 against, and 47 abstentions. The resolution considers that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a useful and constructive contribution to the United Nations.

- On 3 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/35 entitled “Special Information programme of the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat” by a vote of 153 in favor, 4 against, and 3 abstentions. The resolution 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 in general, including the achievements of the peace process, and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process.

- On 3 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/36 entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” by a vote of 131 in favor, 6 against, and 20 abstentions. The resolution explains that achieving a just final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/53 entitled “Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) without a vote.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/52 entitled “Assistance to Palestine refugees” in a vote of 151 in favor, 2 against and 2 abstentions. The resolution notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of GA resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern. A/RES/56/52 also expresses thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/54 entitled “Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities” in a vote of 151 in favor, 3 against with 1 abstention. The resolution 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.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/55 entitled “Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 154 in favor, and 1 abstention.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/56 entitled “Operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” in a vote of 151 in favor, 3 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution calls once again upon the Government of Israel to compensate the UNRWA for damages to its property and facilities resulting from

actions by the Israeli side.

- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/57 entitled “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” in a vote of 150 in favor, 3 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution reaffirms that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity.
- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/58 entitled “University of Jerusalem “Al – Quds” for Palestine refugees” in a vote of 151 in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention. The resolution emphasizes the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university.
- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/59 entitled “Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territory” in a vote of 83 in favor, 4 against, with 58 abstentions. The resolution requests the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/60 entitled “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” in a vote of 148 in favor, 4 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution stresses that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law.
- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/61 entitled “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan” in a vote of 145 in favor, 4 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development.
- On 10 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/63 entitled “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem” in a vote of 145 in favor, 4 against, with 2 abstentions. The resolution is concerned about the continuing violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including the use of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation and establishment of settlements and the continuing actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.
- On 14 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/111 entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian People” without a vote. The resolution stresses 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, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration.
- On 19 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts

resolution A/RES/56/142 entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to Self-Determination" in a vote of 161 in favor, 3 against, with 1 abstention. The resolution reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the option of a State. • On 20 December 2001, the 10th ESS resumed for the eighth time by the General Assembly to address "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". This resumption comes in light of the failure of the Security Council to fulfill its primary responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security due to the exercise by one of the permanent members of the Council of the veto during the vote on a draft resolution on 15 December 2001. The General Assembly overwhelmingly adopts Resolution ES-10/8 with 124 in favor, 6 against with 25 abstentions, which demands the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, provocation and destruction, as well as the return to the positions and arrangements that existed prior to September 2000.

- On 20 December 2001, the 10th ESS resumed for the ninth time by the General Assembly to address "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". It overwhelmingly adopts Resolution ES-10/9 with 133 in favor, 4 against with 16 abstentions, which reiterated the applicability of the Fourth 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.

- On 21 December 2001, The General Assembly, during the 56th Session, adopts resolution A/RES/56/204 entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" in a vote of 148 in favor, 4 against, with 4 abstentions. The resolution reaffirms the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources.

2002:

- On 4 January 2002, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 46th session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2002/3, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".

- On 12 March 2002, Fourteen of the fifteen security council members approve U.S.-backed UN resolution 1397 endorsing the vision of the two-state solution of Palestine and Israel, living side by side within secure and recognized borders.

- On 16-17 April 2002, Nicosia, Cyprus the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Middle East Peace took place.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to promote support for international efforts to contain the current crisis and salvage the peace process. Experts assessed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, reviewed various initiatives aimed at resuming the peace dialogue and discussed the urgency of addressing the root causes of the conflict.

- On 4 April 2002, A UN Security Council meeting votes unanimously to adopt Resolution 1403, endorsing the Mideast mission of US Secretary of State Powell and demanding the implementation of Resolution 1402 and an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities "without delay."

- On 18 April 2002, in Nicosia, Cyprus the United Nations NGO Meeting in Solidarity with the Palestinian People took place.

This NGO Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to provide NGOs from all regions of the world with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, renew efforts to coordinate their activities and develop action-oriented proposals in support of the Palestinian people. Invited experts made presentations on various issues regarding the role of civil society on the question of Palestine. A plan of action was adopted by participants at the close of the Meeting.

- On 22 April 2002, At a press briefing in New York, UN Secretary -General Kofi Annan announces that the UN fact-finding mission into the events in Jenin refugee camp will be headed by former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari and comprise of former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees chief Sadako Ogata, former International Committee of the Red Cross President Cornelio Sommaruga, US General Bill Nash as Military Advisor and Thomas Peter Fitzgerald of Ireland as Police Advisor. Foreign Minister Peres asks for and receives from Annan assurances that the commission's findings will not have any legal standing.

- On 24-26 June 2002, in Rabat, Morocco the United Nations African Meeting in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took place.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The general theme of the Meeting was "Achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people – a key to peace in the Middle East". Experts, representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations assessed the impact of the Israeli military actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, considered the challenges to a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and discussed international efforts at salvaging peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. They also discussed African support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The last day of the Meeting, 26 June 2002, was devoted to the United Nations Workshop of African NGOs on the Question of Palestine. The theme of the Workshop was "Action by civil society in Africa in solidarity with the Palestinian people". Invited speakers reviewed NGO action of the African region in pursuance of the recommendations made by the NGO Forum held in Durban in August 2001, discussed the mobilization of public opinion in support of the Palestinian people and considered action-oriented proposals by African NGOs and mechanisms for their implementation.

- On 25 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2002/31, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".

- On 9-11 September 2002, At the United Nations Headquarters in New York the 55th DPI/NGO Annual Conference "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility" took place.

The Conference explored the role of the international community in supporting societies emerging from conflicts, focusing on those contemporary examples that have been the subject of concerted United Nations involvement. The Conference was open to representatives of NGOs associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), those in consultative status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council, and those working with UN agencies and programmes and with UN Information Centres and Services.

- On 23-24 September 2002, At the United Nations Headquarters in New York the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People took place.

The theme of the International Conference was “End the Occupation!” Its purpose was to provide civil society organizations from all regions of the world with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, renew efforts to coordinate their activities and develop action-oriented proposals in support of the Palestinian people. • On 29 November 2002, The United Nations solemnly commemorated the 24th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. At the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, statements and messages of solidarity from Heads of State and Government were delivered by supporting nations. A cultural exhibit was displayed in the United Nations Lobby.

During the 57th Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. All relevant agenda items are retained as are positions on all basic issues, the two relevant Committees (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices) and the necessary budgetary allocations. Also during that session the resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine" was adopted. This resolution reaffirms 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. The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority. In addition, resolution entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian people” is adopted by consensus.

2003:

- On 14 March 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 47th session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2003/L.1), entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".
- On 13-14 May 2003, In Kyiv, Ukraine the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Middle East Peace took place.
- On 15 May 2003, In Kyiv, Ukraine the Public Forum in Support of Middle East Peace also took place.

The International Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to promote support for international efforts to contain the current crisis and restart the political process. The theme of the Meeting was “Promoting a comprehensive dialogue on the political, security and economic factors critical for resolving the current crisis and resuming the peace process”. Experts assessed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, reviewed various initiatives aimed at resuming the peace dialogue and discussed the urgency of addressing the root causes of the conflict. The venue of the Meeting was the Ukrainian House in the center of Kyiv.

The Meeting was followed, on 15 May 2003, by the Public Forum in Support of Middle East Peace at the Kyiv Institute of International Relations. It provided civil society organizations with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, meet with the experts at the

International Meeting, and develop action-oriented proposals in support of the Palestinian people. The experts interacted with all participants in discussing public perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the impact and educational responsibility of think tanks and academic institutions, and the role of civil society.

- On 15-16 July 2003, the United Nations Office at Geneva held a United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People.

The Seminar was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in accordance with its mandate to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people. The theme of the Seminar was “Prerequisites for Palestinian economic recovery – the role of the international community”. Representatives of donor countries and United Nations system entities, as well as Palestinian and other experts assessed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, highlighted the dimensions of the Palestinian economic crisis, discussed the challenges of the current situation, assessed the relief efforts of the donor community, defined priorities for humanitarian and economic assistance, and strategies for Palestinian economic recovery.

- On 24 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2003/59, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".

- On 4-5 September 2003, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People was held.

The Conference, held to the theme “End the occupation!”, heard presentations of 20 speakers and discussed in four plenary sessions the situation on the ground, the work of and obstacles faced by civil society organizations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, efforts by the international community, including civil society to revive the political process between the parties, and civil society initiatives to end the occupation. It concluded its work with the adoption of a Plan of Action. Participating civil society organizations also addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Steering Committee of the Conference decided to constitute itself as International Coordinating Network of NGOs on Palestine (ICNP) and focus its work on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

- On 2 October, UNICEF special representative in the region, Pierre Poupard, issues a statement saying that “A generation of Palestinian children is being denied their right to an education” as over 226,000 school children out of one million in the West Bank, and 9,300 teachers are denied access to their schools. In addition, at least 580 schools have been closed due to Israeli occupying forces policies, curfews and closures.

- On 14 October 2003, U.S vetoes a Security Council draft resolution that stated “the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a Wall in the Occupied Territories departing from the armistice line of 1949 is illegal under relevant provisions of international law and must be ceased and reverse.”

- On 20 October 2003, the thirteenth Tenth Emergency Special Session was resumed due to Israel, the occupying Power’s construction of a Wall throughout the West Bank, attempting to create fait accompli as Israel continues to confiscate

Palestinian land. This includes a Wall with the length of eight kilometers north of Occupied East Jerusalem, a second wall to the east and a third with the length of 15 kilometers to the south-that is north of the city of Bethlehem as described in the report of the Secretary-General, considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Resolution ES-10/13 was adopted by overwhelming majority of the General Assembly.

- On 19 November 2003, UN Security Council passes resolution 1515 in support for the Road Map for Peace and the two-State solution.
- On 29 November 2003, the 26th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed on Monday, 1 December 2003. Special events were organized at United Nations headquarters in New York, as well as at United Nations offices at Geneva and Vienna. A cultural exhibit was displayed in the United Nations Lobby.

During the 58th Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. All relevant agenda items are retained as are positions on all basic issues, the two relevant Committees (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices) and the necessary budgetary allocations. Also during that session the a resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine" was reaffirmed once again that United Nations has a permanent responsibility with regard to the Question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law. The resolution welcomed the endorsement of the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003) of the Quartet Road Map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and stressed the need for its implementation and called on both parties to fulfill their obligations by taking parallel reciprocal steps in that regard. The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority. Also, resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" is adopted by consensus.

- On 8 December 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its tenth emergency special session adopted resolution ES-10/14, in which the Assembly requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to urgently render an advisory opinion on: "the legal consequences arising from the construction of the Wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem".
- On 16-17 December 2003, in Beijing, China the United Nations Meeting for Asia and the Pacific on the Question of Palestine was held.
- On 18 December 2003, in Beijing, China the Public Forum in Support of Middle East Peace was also held. The Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to mobilize international support for a peaceful solution of the question of Palestine. Participants reviewed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and expressed grave concern about its deterioration. They discussed the Road Map and emphasized that it remained the principal mechanism for moving towards a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They welcomed recent civil society initiatives, such as the Geneva and People's Voice initiatives as important steps to stimulate the necessary debate among Palestinians and Israelis on the factors that must be resolved to end the conflict.

The Meeting was followed, on 18 December 2003, by the Public Forum in Support of Middle East Peace co-sponsored by the United Nations and Peking University. It provided civil society organizations with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, meet with the experts at the Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, and discuss recent international efforts to resume the political process as well as the role of the United Nations in that regard. The experts interacted with all participants in discussing public perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the impact and educational responsibility of think tanks and academic institutions, and the role of civil society.

2004:

- On 24 February 2004, The International Court of Justice begins hearings on the legal consequences of Israel's Wall which departs from the 1949 Armistice line (Green Line) between Israel and the occupied West Bank.
- On 11 March 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 48th session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2004/L.2), entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".
- On 15-16 April 2004, in Geneva the United Nations International Meeting on the Impact of the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem took place.

The Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to facilitate further discussion by all actors of the international community of the far-reaching humanitarian, legal and political implications of the construction of the Wall in the West Bank. It focused on the impact of the construction of the wall on the situation on the ground, as well as on international efforts to stop the construction. Experts assessed the scope of the project and its effects on the Palestinian population, and discussed the Palestinian and Israeli reaction to it, as well as the response of the international community. The Meeting was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

- On 19 May 2004, The UN Security Council adopted resolution 1544 in response to the demolitions of homes in Rafah, calling on Israel to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War and insists in particular, on its obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to that law."
- On 29 - 30 June 2004, in Cape Town, South Africa the United Nations African Meeting in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took place.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It focused on promoting support for international efforts at stopping the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, salvaging the political process, and realizing the vision of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The theme of the Meeting was "Achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people — The key to peace in the Middle East". Experts assessed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, reviewed various initiatives aimed at resuming the peace dialogue and discussed international efforts at salvaging peace in the Middle East, as well as African support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

- On 1 July 2004, in Cape Town, South Africa United Nations Forum of Civil Society

in Support of Middle East Peace was also held.

The Forum was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to provide civil society organizations with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, meet with the experts invited to the African Meeting, and develop action-oriented proposals in support of the Palestinian people. Participants discussed participation of African NGOs in international campaigns to end the occupation of Palestinian land and mobilizing international protection of the Palestinian population. The participants adopted a declaration _ at the close of the forum.

- On 9 July 2004, The International Court of Justice, in its Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences of the Wall being built by Israel rules that "Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law; it is under an obligation to cease forthwith the works of construction of the Wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts..."
- On 20 July 2004, Resolution ES-10/15 (20 July 2004) was adopted by a vote of 150-6-10. The Tenth Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly considered the Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The resolution recognized the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. ES-10/15 demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations as mentioned in the Advisory Opinion; namely for the establishment of a register of damages caused by the construction of the Wall for the purpose of reparations.
- On 23 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2004/54, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".
- On 13 - 14 September 2004, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People was held.

The Conference drew on the positive results of the 2002 _ and 2003 _ Conferences of Civil Society and maintained its theme – "Ending the occupation - A key prerequisite for achieving peace in the Middle East". The aim of the Conference was to provide civil society organizations from all regions of the world with an opportunity to discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and coordinate their activities in support of the Palestinian people. Invited speakers made presentations on various aspects of the role of civil society on the question of Palestine. During discussion periods NGO representatives and other participants had an opportunity to discuss and develop specific action-oriented proposals. A plan of action _ was adopted by participants at the close of the Conference.

- On 29 November 2004, the 25th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was solemnly observed. Special events were organized at United Nations headquarters in New York, as well as at United Nations offices at Geneva and Vienna. A cultural exhibit was displayed in the United Nations Lobby.

During the 59th Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. During that session a resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" reaffirmed the applicability of the 4th Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Person in Time of War to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The resolution highlighted the importance of the detrimental impact of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as the illegal settlement system Israel has been expanding. The resolution states " 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 economic and social 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 on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people."

The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority. Also, resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" is adopted by consensus.

2005:

- On 11 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 49th session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2005/4, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".
- On 8 and 9 March 2005, at the United Nations Office at Geneva the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine took place.

The theme of the Meeting, held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was "Implementing the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory – The role of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society". The Meeting focused on the significance of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, the responsibility of Governments and intergovernmental organizations, as well as the role of parliaments and civil society in advocating adherence to international law. Experts provided a legal analysis of the ICJ Advisory Opinion and discuss the response by the parties and the international community. The presentations by experts were followed by panel discussions. The Meeting was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

- On 12 and 13 July 2005, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace took place.

The Conference drew on the positive results of the previous United Nations International Conferences of Civil Society and focused on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and support by civil society for the current peace efforts. The Conference provided civil society organizations from all regions of the world with an opportunity to discuss the situation on the ground, develop action-oriented proposals in support of Middle East peace and coordinate their activities. Invited speakers made presentations on various aspects of the role of civil society in promoting a peaceful settlement of the question of

Palestine. NGO representatives and other participants had an opportunity to discuss issues of particular interest to civil society organizations. A plan of action was adopted by participants at the close of the Conference.

- On 27 July 2005, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2005/51, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".

- On 29 November 2005, the 26th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was solemnly observed at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as at United Nations Offices at Geneva_ and Vienna_. A Performance by the El-Funoun dance troupe: "Dancing Tragedies and Dreams" was displayed in New York.

During the 60th Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. During that session the a resolution entitled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to strictly comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Gaza Strip. ". The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority, with the European countries casting positive votes. Also, resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" is adopted by consensus.

- On 13 and 14 December 2005, in Caracas, Venezuela the United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Meeting on the Question of Palestine was held.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It reviewed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, discussed international efforts at revitalizing the political process between the parties, and addressed the question of the support by Latin American and Caribbean countries for a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The theme of the Meeting was "Achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people — The key to peace in the Middle East". It was followed by the United Nations Public Forum in Support of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

- On 15 December 2005, in Caracas, Venezuela the United Nations Public Forum in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace took place.

The Public Forum was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in order to provide civil society with an opportunity to exchange views on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and meet with the experts invited to the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting. Participants discussed the role of the media, the impact of think tanks and, in general, the role of civil society in raising public awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2006:

- On 10 March 2006, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 50th session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2006/4, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".

- On 26 and 27 April 2006, in Cairo the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People took place.

The Seminar was organized under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, under the theme “International efforts at alleviating the Palestinian economic and humanitarian crisis.” The purpose of the event was to provide participants with an opportunity to assess the scope of the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, discuss the United Nations response to the immediate and longer-term needs of the Palestinian people, and review the role of international donors in alleviating the crisis. Invited to the Seminar were international experts, including Israelis and Palestinians, representatives of United Nations Member and Observer States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system entities involved in projects of assistance to the Palestinian people, and civil society organizations, as well as the media.

- On 5 May, The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a “rapid decline” and “possible collapse” of the public health system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if the crisis continues as Israel closes border crossings into the Occupied Palestinian Territory from humanitarian aid and imports and exports.
- On 27 and 28 June 2006, at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace took place.

The International Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Participants reviewed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, discussed the peace process and challenges ahead, as well as international efforts in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace. Invited to the Meeting were internationally renowned experts, including Israelis and Palestinians, representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, parliamentarians, representatives of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, and the academic community, as well as the media. Civil society representatives were invited to attend as observers.

- On 27 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2006/43, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".
- On 7 and 8 September 2006, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People was held.

The United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People was held on 7 and 8 September 2006 at the United Nations Office at Geneva under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Drawing on the results of the previous international conferences, it provided NGO representatives and other participants from all regions of the world with an opportunity to highlight their work towards Middle East peace and discuss issues of the day that are of particular concern to civil society organizations.

- On 29 November 2006, the 27th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was solemnly observed on 29 November 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as at United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna. A Palestinian art exhibit entitled “Contextualization: A Palestinian Narrative”

was displayed in the United Nations Lobby in New York.

During the 61st Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. All relevant agenda items are retained as are positions on all basic issues, During that session the a resolution entitled "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan" Reiterated its calls for the prevention of all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and properties, particularly in the light of recent developments where settlers have cause substantial damage to Palestinian agricultural lands as well as violence against Palestinian civilians. The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority. Also, resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" is adopted by consensus.

- On 15 and 16 December 2006, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia the United Nations Asian Meeting in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was held.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It looked into the situation on the ground; considered ways of realizing the shared vision of peace between the Israelis and Palestinians; and discussed the various international proposals at salvaging peace in the Middle East, including through efforts of the countries of Asia and the Pacific.

- On 17 December 2006, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia the United Nations Forum of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People took place.

The Public Forum was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to look into initiatives by civil society in Asia and the Pacific in solidarity with the Palestinian people, with a particular focus on the Malaysian experience, and meet with the experts invited to the Asian Meeting. Participants discussed legislative and political advocacy; efforts by NGOs, religious groups and the media aimed at mobilizing public opinion in support of the Palestinian people; and the impact and educational responsibility of academic institutions and think tanks.

2007:

- On 24 January 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its tenth emergency special session adopted resolution ES-10/17, in which the Assembly established the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The resolution recognized the necessity of accurately documenting the damage caused by the construction of the wall for the purpose of fulfilling the obligation to make reparations, including restitution and compensation, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law.

- On 10 March 2007, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 51st session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2007/4, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".

- On 5 and 6 February 2007 in Doha, Qatar the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People took place. The Seminar, organized under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, provided participants with an opportunity to assess the scope of

the socio-economic and humanitarian emergency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; discuss the United Nations, international and regional response to the needs of the Palestinian people; and exchange views on the actions that need to be taken on the road to Palestinian economic recovery. Invited to the Seminar were representatives of donor countries and United Nations system entities involved in projects of assistance to the Palestinian people, as well as internationally renowned experts, including Palestinians and Israelis. Also invited were all Member States and representatives of intergovernmental organizations. Civil society organizations were invited to attend the Seminar as observers

- On 22-23 March 2007, at the FAO Headquarters, Rome the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace was held.

- On 22 and 23 March 2007, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People convened the United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace. "Re-launching the Israeli-Palestinian peace process - Challenges and vision" was chosen as the theme of the event. The Meeting focused on the significance of peace in the Middle East for the advancement of the dialogue between cultures and civilizations; the engagement of parliaments in promoting dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians; and the role of international actors in restoring momentum to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. It was attended by prominent international experts, including Israeli and Palestinian, representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, parliamentarians, representatives of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and civil society organizations and the media.

On 24 to 27 March 2007, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where he had met with a wide range of Israeli and Palestinian personalities, including President Mahmoud Abbas. He had also received a briefing on final status issues, and held a round-table discussion with Palestinians living in East Jerusalem.

- On 16 April 2007, the small village of al-Nu'man—situated in the south-eastern corner of the Jerusalem Municipality boundaries and northeast of Bethlehem — hosted the visit of Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Ms. Coomaraswamy also met with Palestinian children in Refugee camps, as well as four minors in Israeli jails.

- On 9 and 10 May 2007, in Pretoria, South Africa the United Nations African Meeting on the Question of Palestine took place.

This Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It discussed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; international efforts aimed at achieving sustainable Israeli-Palestinian peace; and African solidarity with the Palestinian people's aspirations for independence and statehood.

- On 11 May 2007, in Pretoria, South Africa the United Nations Public Forum in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace was held.

This Public Forum was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It looked into civil society solidarity with the Palestinian people, in particular the relationship between African civil society and international efforts to support a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- On 7 June 2007, at the UN Headquarters, New York, a special meeting to mark 40 years of occupation by Israel of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem took place.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People convened a Special meeting to mark 40 years of occupation by Israel of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 June 2007. The Meeting drew the attention of the international community to the fact that for the past four decades the Palestinian people has been living under the harsh conditions of military occupation, unable to control its own destiny and exercise its inalienable national rights. Invited to the Meeting were all United Nations Members and Observers, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations system entities, and representatives of civil society. Also, noting the invaluable work done by civil society organizations in support of the Palestinian people, a number of representatives of civil society organizations were invited to participate in the Meeting and address the various aspects of the issue. • On 26 July 2007, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution E/2007/27, 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".

- On 30 and 31 August 2007, in Brussels, the United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace was held.

The United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace was held on 30 and 31 August 2007 on the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The theme of the Conference was "Civil society and parliamentarians working together for peace in the Middle East". At the end of the Conference, participating civil society representatives agreed on a document entitled a "Call to Action" prepared by the International Coordinating Network on Palestine.

- On 29 November 2007, the 28th annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was solemnly observed. Special meetings in observance of the Solidarity Day were held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna. A concert by Palestinian Artist Simone Shaheen and the Qantara band was exhibited at the United Nations.

- On 30 November 2007, UN Secretary General appoints Dutch diplomat, Robert Serry, as special coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

During the 62nd Session, the package of resolutions related to the Question of Palestine undergoes several changes, including the combination of some of them and a general revision of their language. All relevant agenda items are retained as are positions on all basic issues, the two relevant Committees (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices) and the necessary budgetary allocations. Also during that session the resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine welcomed the convening of the international conference at Annapolis on 27 November 2007, particularly the decision of the parties to launch meaningful, direct negotiations towards the achievement of a just, lasting, and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and ultimately the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The vote on this resolution and the package as a whole is adopted by overwhelming majority.

Also, resolution entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" is adopted by consensus.

2008:

- On 19 and 20 February 2008, in Amman, Jordan the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People took place.

The Seminar was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. By organizing this event, the Committee wished to build on the positive momentum created by the Annapolis Conference and the Paris Donors' Conference and support all efforts to mobilize international assistance to the Palestinian people. The Seminar provided an opportunity to assess the scope of the socio-economic and humanitarian emergency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; discussed the United Nations, international and regional response to the needs of the Palestinian people; and exchanged views on the immediate and longer-term steps that needed to be taken on the road to Palestinian economic recovery. Invited to the Seminar were internationally renowned experts, including Israelis and Palestinians, as well as representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations system, civil society and the media.

- On 10 March 2008, the Commission on the Status of Women, during its 52nd session adopted resolution E/CN.6/2008/6, entitled "Situation and Assistance of Palestinian women".
- On 29 and 30 April 2008, in Paris, the United Nations International Conference on Palestine Refugees was held.

The objective of the Conference, organized under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, was to assess the present situation of Palestine refugees and examine the role of the UN in alleviating their plight. It also examined efforts at finding an agreed, just and fair solution to the refugee issue in keeping with relevant UN resolutions as a prerequisite for resolving the question of Palestine and achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Participating in the Conference were experts on the Palestine refugee issue, including Israelis and Palestinians, representatives of United Nations Member States and Observers, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies, parliamentarians, members of the academic community, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as the media.

- On 3 and 4 June 2008, in Qawra, Malta the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine took place.

The Meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The objective of the Meeting was to foster greater support by the international community for the creation of a climate conducive to the advancement of the permanent status negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Participants in the Meeting discussed the impact of the settlement construction on the current political process and the need for the parties to meet Road Map commitments. They also examined the effects of the construction of the wall in the Occupied West Bank, and the importance of finding a solution to the question of Jerusalem. Invited to participate in the Meeting were experts on the question of Palestine, including Israeli and Palestinian, representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, United Nations system entities, parliamentarians,

members of the academic community, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as the media.

- On 20 June 2008, at the UN Headquarters in New York, a Special Meeting to Mark 60 Years of Dispossession of Palestine Refugees was held by The Friends of UNRWA. Among those who spoke at the event, the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNRWA Commissioner-General Karen AbuZayd, Ambassador Riyad Mansour, and Ambassador Murphy, The Meeting was held under the auspices of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The objective of the Meeting was to draw the attention of the international community to the fact that it had been 60 years since vast numbers of Palestinians had been forced to leave their homes and property as a result of the 1948 hostilities. Those Palestinians have remained refugees until today. Their refugee status has been passed from generation to generation, yet their plight has received little attention from the world community and the issue remains unresolved. The Committee is convinced that without a just solution of the question of Palestine refugees, lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians cannot be achieved.

The Chairman of the Committee opened the Meeting, followed by statements by the representatives of Palestine and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Experts on the issue presented their views on the situation of Palestine refugees, and prospects and modalities for finding a solution to the issue. All United Nations Members and Observers were invited to participate in the Meeting. Civil society organizations were invited to participate as observers.

The UN Division for Palestinian Rights