



General Assembly

Tenth Emergency Special session

Official Records

53rd plenary meeting

Tuesday, 17 September 2024, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Philémon Yang (Cameroon)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Resumption of the tenth emergency special session

The President: I declare the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, on illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, resumed.

Members will recall that in paragraph 9 of its resolution ES-10/23, of 10 May 2024, the Assembly decided

“to adjourn the tenth emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the President of the General Assembly at its most recent session to resume its meeting upon request from Member States”.

In that regard, I should like to draw the attention of delegations to document A/ES-10/1009, which contains the text a letter dated 9 September 2024 from the Permanent Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Mauritania and Uganda, in their respective capacities as Chairs of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation group and the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, requesting the resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

I intend to conduct the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the past practices of its emergency special sessions.

In accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the President and Vice-Presidents of the seventy-ninth session shall serve in the same capacity at the resumed tenth emergency special session.

Turning to the Credentials Committee, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to decide that the Credentials Committee of the seventy-ninth session should serve for the resumed tenth emergency special session?

It was so decided (decision ES-10/101 K).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room AB-0928 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).



Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (Article 19 of the Charter)

Letter dated 13 September 2024 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/ES-10/1010)

The President: In keeping with established practice, I should now like to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/ES-10/1010, concerning Member States that are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

May I take it that the Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in this document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 5 (continued)

Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1)

The President: We are meeting today in the context of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The advisory opinion is in pursuance of resolution 77/247, adopted in this very Hall. In the terms of the Court, it is incumbent upon the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Security Council, to consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory. It is of course at the discretion of the General Assembly — in which every Member State has an equal voice and vote — to decide how to respond. The resumed tenth emergency special session is therefore a moment for reflection and dialogue. It is a moment to find a durable solution to the age-old Palestinian problem.

As President of the General Assembly, who has vowed to serve with an unyielding dedication to the Charter and the principles of the United Nations, it is however my duty to stress that international law, the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions must be respected by all Member States. Without prejudging the outcome of this special session, it is our collective duty, as representatives of the international community, to ensure that the principles of justice and the rule of law prevail. For without justice and the rule of law, Israelis and Palestinians alike will not attain what they long for most — peace and security. In our deliberations, we must not lose sight of the many lives lost, the staggering humanitarian challenges and the infrastructural destruction that has continued to take place, particularly in Gaza in the past several months. I hope our gathering here will make a positive difference in the lives of the many who continue to suffer in that region and who look up to us to make the right decisions at this emergency special session.

I now give the floor to the observer of the Observer State of Palestine to introduce draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine): I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

Palestine is an important part of universal history and the Palestinian people are an integral part of humankind. Neither our country nor our people will disappear. But that is no excuse for ignoring the existential threat they are facing. Palestinians have carved, from a reality of suffering and oppression, spaces of joy and accomplishment. Their spirit has remained free, even while they were in shackles. They have preserved hope, when everything around them should have led them to despair. They have been true to their identity, regardless of the price they had to pay. They have been steadfast in the pursuit of their inalienable rights, just like all other peoples.

Palestinians want to live, not survive. They want to be safe in their homes. They want their children to go to school without fear. They want to be free in reality, as they are in spirit: free to live, free to come and go and free to determine their own fate, subject only to God and to no other. They want to be — to be Palestinians, to be themselves, to just be, neither heroes nor victims, just human beings with the simplest of dreams or the greatest of aspirations, living in dignity and peace and security in their homeland. The Palestinian people are an extraordinary people, whose true desire is to lead an ordinary life. Palestinians want to live and thrive on their ancestral land, where the spirit of their forefathers and foremothers embraces them and the suspended tales of their lives await to be resumed. Palestinians want children to be able to bury their parents after a long and beautiful life, rather than parents burying their children before they could know the meaning of life. Palestinian children do not need to grow through the lessons of terrifying pain — the lessons of life should suffice. Now the sky is full of children whose lives were taken away far too soon and in the cruellest of ways, while the Earth is full of children who have suffered, who have been injured, paralysed, orphaned and traumatized.

As we speak in this Hall, coming together yet again to address this grave, historic injustice, 2 million people are being besieged, bombed and starved. They are being displaced over and over again, with no safe haven anywhere and death awaiting them everywhere. How many more Palestinians need to be killed before a change finally takes place to stop that inhumanity? How many more Palestinians need to be violently displaced by the repeated attacks of Israeli settlers and occupation forces? How many more Palestinians need to be snatched in the middle of the night and thrown into an Israeli jail for years and years — childhoods lost, lives ruined? How much more denial of rights, dispossession and destruction will it take until finally the world not only reacts but acts, until the world not only takes a stance but takes a stand and firmly acts upon it, truly upholding the rule of law and human rights?

The General Assembly requested from the International Court of Justice its authoritative opinion on the Israeli occupation and the Court upheld its mandate. Allow me to quote the Court's advisory opinion, which states that

“The sustained abuse by Israel of its position as an occupying Power, through annexation and an assertion of permanent control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continued frustration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, violates fundamental principles of international law and renders Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unlawful.” (*A/78/968, p. 77*)

If we need to identify two cardinal rules, two pillars on which the international law-based order was built, they would be the right of peoples to self-determination and the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force — and those are the rules that Israel has been breaching openly and brazenly for decades without consequences.

The Court fulfilled its mandate by unequivocally identifying the legal consequences for Israel, all States and the United Nations and by placing them before the General Assembly, the Security Council and all States to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with international law. That was a historic opinion — let me repeat, that was a historic opinion — as it was the first time the Court examined the Israeli occupation as a whole. Now that the Court has answered the request, it is time for the Assembly to uphold its mandate and for all States to uphold their own obligations to ensure that Israel complies with its own obligations in the face of its blatant non-compliance and relentless breaches. The Court's advisory opinion shows that there is no doubt about the facts or the law. But the law is not there to merely serve as a measuring stick for violations. It is there to prevent those violations, and when that does not work, it is there to punish them, bring them to a halt and ensure accountability and justice. Unchecked and undeterred Israeli impunity will only mean more and more Palestinians killed, maimed and detained, and more destruction, loss and misery. It must be brought to an end. Only then can we expect a genuine change that could lead to peace and the implementation of the two-State solution.

A few voices have claimed that departure from the law or its abandonment was the only realistic way forward. But it is precisely the departure from the law or its breach without any consequences that led us here in the first place. No occupying Power can have a veto right over the inalienable rights of the people under its occupation. Let me repeat — no occupying Power can have a veto right over the inalienable rights of the people under its occupation. Those who think the Palestinian people will accept a life of servitude and apartheid are the ones who are not being realistic. Those who imagine that the Palestinian people will disappear or surrender are the ones who are not being realistic. Those who claim that peace is possible in our region without a just resolution of the question of Palestine are the ones who are not being realistic.

A few voices claim that now is not the right time for such action. They always find good reasons to keep doing the wrong thing. But delayed justice is denied justice. The right time to do the right thing is always right now — I repeat, the right time to do the right thing is always right now. While looking at a map — or worse, looking at the horrific situation on the ground — the matter may look unresolvable. But the solution is right before our eyes; it is the one endorsed by the international community as a whole and enshrined in numerous United Nations resolutions. It is an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side, in peace and security with Israel. Why, then, are we allowing the destruction of the State of Palestine and of that solution when we know that there is no viable alternative and we all understand the risk of an all-out conflagration? What is happening in Gaza today can be the last chapter of the tragedy endured by the Palestinian people or will be the first chapter of an even more tragic reality for our region as a whole. What members of the General Assembly do next matters. They must act now to stop the killing, the suffering, the crimes and the injustice.

For the first time since we received additional rights and privileges through the General Assembly's adoption of resolution ES-10/23, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory". I am very honoured to do that for the first time in the General Assembly — I am so tall I have grown beyond the ceiling of this Hall.

I want to thank the more than 40 countries that to date have co-sponsored the draft resolution, which faithfully reflects the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It is grounded in international law and aimed at furthering respect for its rule of international law, not only for the Palestinian people but also for the international community as a whole. We thank all delegations that engaged on this text, and we have done our utmost to address their concerns while ensuring the text remains aligned with the opinion rendered by the Court. The draft resolution, in its preambular paragraphs, reflects the determinations arrived at by the Court, while focusing in its operative paragraphs on the obligations of Israel, all States, the United Nations and other international organizations, in accordance with international law. It also calls for a number of individual and collective actions to uphold the law and implement the relevant United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine. It seeks action for accountability, the fundamental path for justice in any case — Palestine cannot be the exception.

I stand at this rostrum, at this historic and tragic juncture, to tell the Palestinian people that a change is going to come, that their fate is not endless suffering and agony, and that freedom is their birthright and their destiny. I stand at this rostrum to tell Member States that justice is the only path to peace, to call on all States to uphold international law and not sacrifice it at the altar of cold and reckless political calculations. I call on the Assembly to reject double standards, to treat my people with the respect they deserve and to recognize the rights they are entitled to. We are not a people too many. We are not a problem. We are a nation that asks for nothing more than the nations here do, but we can accept nothing less. We want to live in freedom, sovereignty, dignity, peace and security in our ancestral land. We are committed to the rule of international law and to justice and lasting peace in our region. That requires ensuring that the same rules apply to all without bias, double standards, exceptionalism or exception. Each country has a vote, and the world is watching us to see if we can live up to the commitments we undertake and to the principles we claim as ours at this historic and crucial juncture for humankind. Please stand on the right side of history, with international law, with freedom and with peace. The alternative is what members witness every day on their television screens and what the Palestinian people are enduring in their flesh. A different reality is possible. It starts now and here. Free Palestine. Peace for all.

Mr. Danon (Israel): This is my first time speaking here at the General Assembly since the 7 October 2023 massacre. Eleven months ago, a terrorist army invaded southern Israel. In a single barbaric assault on a Jewish holiday, they murdered more than 1,000 of our citizens and carried out the most heinous atrocities in modern history. Hundreds of vibrant young Israelis were murdered while celebrating life at a music festival. Hundreds of innocent people peacefully sleeping in their homes with their families were slaughtered, some burned alive while holding their loved

ones, and hundreds more were taken hostage, dragged into a captivity more brutal than anything anyone could ever imagine. Even now as we speak, more than 100,000 Israelis remain displaced within their own country, unable to return home owing to the relentless rocket attacks from Hamas in the south and Hizbullah in the north.

Perhaps members have forgotten, but we did not start this war, nor did we choose it. We are fighting a war forced upon us. We are fighting for our homes, our families and our future. We fight because we have no other choice. Yet, despite the cruelties we have faced, despite the unprecedented terror unleashed upon our people, the General Assembly remains silent. I was certain that the first resolution that would be brought before the Assembly would be the unanimous and unequivocal condemnation of terror — the rape, the torture and the kidnappings that took place on that darkest of days. Yet there has been no condemnation nor any resolutions. Instead, we gather here to watch the Palestinians' United Nations circus — a circus where evil is righteous, war is peace, murder is justified and terror is applauded. How dare members continue the tradition of passing one-sided resolutions against Israel without even pausing to consider what the Israeli people have endured? Since 7 October 2023, the Assembly has adopted two resolutions on this matter (resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22), yet there has not been one word about Hamas and barely a word about the hostages. Those who contribute to this circus are not simply bystanders. They are participants, enablers and collaborators. Every vote they cast in support of this circus fuels the violence and emboldens those who reject peace. This empty show is not just an insult to the victims of 7 October 2023 and an insult to the hostages, it is also an insult to the very fabric of this institution. Today Member States are not promoting peace and justice. They are dancing to the tune of their ringmasters, the Palestinian Authority.

Look at this picture. Look at it closely. Study it. That blood on the floor belongs to six beautiful human beings: Eden, Hershe, Alex, Carmel, Ori and Almog. That is their blood. Six innocent Israelis executed in cold blood after months of suffering in this tiny dirty tunnel where they could not even stand, hidden under a child's bedroom. Can delegations imagine that being their child, their spouse, their friend? Imagine them for a moment suffocating, starving, bleeding in a dark hole for months. If it were their child, their loved one, would they sit in silence? Would they pretend this was just another story? Or would they scream for justice?

Let me say this clearly: Jewish blood is not cheap. The days when it could be spilled without consequences are over. The days when the Jewish people were at the mercy of tyrants are over. Never again will we stand by while our people are massacred. Never again will we depend on other States' mercy or judgment to protect us. Thank God that today we can defend ourselves. Today we have the strength to protect our State. Today we have the resolve to secure our future.

Instead of condemning Hamas's brutal murder of more than 1,200 Israelis — innocent men, women and children — the Assembly sits silently. In lieu of that most basic common-sense action, this circus focuses on distractions. The process that all other countries usually follow has been abandoned. Where are the negotiations, the deliberations? They have allowed the Palestinians to become the ringmasters, and those who vote in favour of this draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1) are playing their part. This draft resolution distorts the flawed advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. It ignores the truth, twists the facts and replaces reality with fiction. It ignores completely the Hamas terror attack

of 7 October — I did not hear Mr. Mansour mention Hamas during the past 30 minutes he was speaking here — and ignores Israel's legitimate security concerns and seeks to remove Israel's ability to protect itself. We have all known from the beginning that that process was politicized. It was not a quest for legal clarity but a predetermined attempt to delegitimize Israel on the world stage. Let us call it for what it is. This draft resolution is diplomatic terrorism, using the tools of diplomacy not to build bridges but to destroy them. And what other Member State is treated that way? The answer is simple: none. No other country is subjected to such relentless, obsessive abuse.

Members know that it is not my first time here. I started my first term at the United Nations in 2015. Since then, there have been 155 General Assembly resolutions adopted condemning Israel. In the same period, there have been only 88 resolutions condemning every other country — combined. Members should consider the past decade. They should think about how many brutal regimes exist in the world. They should think about the countless injustices. Nevertheless, the only Jewish State, the only democracy in the Middle East, has been condemned almost twice as much as the rest of the world combined. This is not about justice. It is about an attempt to destroy Israel through diplomatic terrorism. Make no mistake. Since 7 October, the Palestinian Authority has not condemned the atrocities committed by Hamas. There has not been one word of condemnation from President Abbas, nor from Prime Minister Mustafa, nor from Riyad Mansour.

The Secretary-General of the Fatah Central Committee called the 7 October massacre a defensive war full of epic acts and heroism. One of the most high-ranking Palestinian officials called the rape and murder of thousands of civilians “epic and heroic” — are those our partners in peace? The Palestinian Authority has offered its unwavering support to Hamas, the world's most despicable terrorist organization. They are its diplomatic wing, public face and consiglieri. The Palestinians deserve better leadership. For decades, Hamas has spent its money digging terror tunnels, arming terrorists and bringing ruin to its own people. Rather than building up Gaza, Hamas has obsessed over one thing: destroying Israel. While Hamas digs tunnels, the Palestinian Authority works above ground, attempting to isolate Israel internationally. They are two sides of the same coin, one attacking with rockets, the other with resolutions. The Palestinian Authority has rededicated itself to supporting the world's most vicious terrorists. That is not an entity seeking peace. It is a regime that glorifies murder while educating its people to do the same. It refuses to denounce the most horrific crimes. It celebrates the slaughter of civilians as a victory.

Now the General Assembly is considering rewarding that refusal — rewarding that evil. It is giving a false prize to false leadership. There is only one side in this conflict that promotes genocide. It is the one that promotes it publicly. Let us not forget that Hamas's own founding charter calls “for the extermination of all Jews”. They proudly proclaimed their intent “to wipe Israel off the map and hunt Jews” wherever they can find them. Instead of condemning the killers, the ones who want to commit a genocide — the draft resolution before us condemns the victims. How dare they accuse us of the crimes that they themselves are committed to carrying out? The draft resolution seeks to deflect blame for Hamas's own atrocities onto Israel, which is forced to defend itself. The draft resolution perfectly represents the priorities of the Palestinian Authority. It slanders Israel, ignores my country's right to defend its people and seeks to isolate us. The Palestinian Authority has teamed

up with the radicals in the region, posing a grave threat not just to Israel, but to the entire Middle East. But instead of addressing those major threats, some members support this draft resolution, which demands that Israel tie its hands.

History has shown time and time again that true progress only comes through direct dialogue. Israel has demonstrated that for decades. Wonderful, important peace treaties have been signed with Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco, and, *inshallah*, there will be many more in the near future. Trying to isolate and destroy Israel brings nothing but regression. This draft resolution does not move the region forward. It drags the region backward, delaying the hope for peace and advancement.

I spoke at this rostrum six years ago (see A/73/PV.47). I stood in this Hall in support of a draft resolution to condemn Hamas (draft resolution A/73/L.42). But instead of taking action, the Assembly chose to look the other way, allowing Hamas to continue its reign of terror. Now we are all — Israelis and Palestinians alike — suffering the consequences of members' inaction. Back then, members chose to support the circus over morality. And here we are again, in the same circus, with the same performances. But we all know what is really happening here. This is not about peace. This is not about international law. It is about posturing. In the circus of the United Nations, members can ignore the atrocities that took place on 7 October. They can adopt resolutions detached from reality. They can pretend that they live on a different planet, but in the real world, outside this Hall, we are doing the hard work. We are fighting terror. We are working to bring the hostages home. In the real world, there is justice and morality. In the real world, Israel will shape its own future, striving for both victory and peace. Israel will defend itself. We will not apologize for protecting our citizens. We will not stop until Hamas is dismantled, until every one of our hostages is returned and until the terror that threatens our people is eliminated.

Today the Assembly faces a choice. They can choose to stand on the side of justice, on the side of peace and on the side of those who seek real solutions to the region's challenges, or they can indulge this circus, this charade, this political theatre. Israel is ready to work with the international community. We are ready to work with those committed to real peace, real security and real progress. Israel will not work with those who refuse to renounce violence and to acknowledge Israel's right to exist. Whomever supports the draft resolution today should be ashamed of themselves. If there is ever a day when their civilians, families and loved ones are murdered, raped and kidnapped, they should not come to the Assembly seeking justice. All they will find is silence.

The President: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia.

Mr. Mushelenga (Namibia): Allow me, first, to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. I also thank you for commencing your tenure by reconvening the tenth emergency special session, on illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, at the request of Member States.

This meeting takes place two months after the International Court of Justice rendered its seminal advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including

East Jerusalem, and the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. Namibia strongly supports and welcomes this advisory opinion, which, we believe, requires collective action so as to ensure it delivers justice for the people of Palestine. By convening this meeting, the General Assembly, pursuant to the advisory opinion, is able to consider precise modalities and further action to bring to an end, as rapidly as possible, the unlawful presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The request for this Assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice was anchored in the fervent belief that the international judicial system can provide rational advice to assist us in charting the way forward on the question of Palestine — among the oldest unresolved agenda items in the General Assembly.

The convening power of the General Assembly must continue to be used as a tool to effect meaningful change. As the world's most representative multilateral institution, the General Assembly continues to be an apt platform for the articulation of the voices of all nations of the world. We declare unequivocally in this forum that there is no substitute for peace and, therefore, move that Israel should, henceforth, genuinely commit to ending its 57-year occupation, in line with the relevant International Court of Justice advisory opinions and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. We must work in unison, using all legitimate means at our disposal, in order to halt Israel's non-compliance with international law.

Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, for our consideration during this emergency special session, is before an Assembly that has repeatedly affirmed its strong support for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The same Assembly has also affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to statehood.

It is incumbent upon all Member States to fulfil, in good faith, the obligations they have assumed in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, Member States should take cognizance of the consequential nature of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion and that, jointly and severally, Member States and international organizations, including the United Nations, are ascribed onerous responsibilities. Primary among them are the obligations not to recognize the unlawful presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Namibia has co-sponsored this draft resolution and will vote in its favour out of the fervent belief that its adoption would signify the international community's steadfast commitment towards ending impunity and supporting the progress towards lasting peace in the Middle East. We believe in embodying our responsibility and duty to humankind. Accordingly, we encourage similar conscionable action from all Member States.

The draft resolution provides the international community another opportunity to take a unified position in reasserting the key tenets of international law. Furthermore, it reasserts the primacy of self-determination as an inalienable right that is not subject to the conditions of the occupying Power. The draft resolution also sends a strong message to the world and, most especially, to the Security Council on the desires of the majority of the international community. Council

members cannot continue to use their veto power to perpetuate injustice and support impunity, especially at a time when the people of Palestine are ensnared by stalled ceasefire negotiations and a derailed peace process.

As the Council fails to execute its core responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, Gaza continues to be obliterated, offering no safe haven for civilians and humanitarian personnel. Infrastructure, including medical facilities, continues to be destroyed viciously, demonstrating the callousness of the occupying Power. Similarly, the situation in the West Bank continues to deteriorate daily. That is particularly worrisome. The international system must offer more than mere words of solidarity to the people of Palestine. It is high time that tangible steps are taken to oblige Israel to end its atrocious attacks on the occupied Palestinian territory.

In conclusion, Namibia will continue to tirelessly champion the cause for the total liberation of Palestine. We are pleased to see Palestine seated among the family of nations and will continue to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the full membership of Palestine in the United Nations and a renewed vision of a two-State solution that will enable the reconstruction of Gaza, leading to an independent Palestinian State, a safe Israel and peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in my capacity as Chair of the Group.

Let me begin by commending you, Mr. President, for the resumption of the tenth emergency special session. There is no doubt that the previous meetings of the session, which were dedicated to addressing the grave humanitarian conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, have achieved positive outcomes, as evidenced by the three landmark resolutions adopted by the Assembly since October 2023. The resolution on the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and elsewhere in the occupied Palestinian territory and the global support for the admission of Palestine as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations have justified the residual and complementary role of the General Assembly within the context of the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Group believes that it is deeply regrettable that, despite the hopeful expectations following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2728 (2024), on 25 March 2024, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, the human rights and humanitarian calamities in the occupied Palestinian territories have worsened. The death toll, made up predominantly of women and children, has tragically reached the unprecedented number of 41,680. In addition, more than 100,525 people were injured, and hundreds of thousands were displaced following the destruction of their homes, hospitals and heritage and cultural sites.

In view of all that and given the grave threat to peace and security resulting from the long-drawn-out Middle East crisis, our Group believes that it is high time that practical measures be taken to end Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine. Accordingly, our Group reiterates the call by the OIC on States Members of the United Nations to exert diplomatic, political and legal pressure and take the necessary deterrent measures to stop the crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory and Gaza.

In that connection, our Group welcomes and commends the objective of this emergency special session to consider an urgent follow-up action on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Similarly, our Group reiterates the recent OIC resolution adopted at the fiftieth Council of Foreign Ministers held in Yaoundé on 29 and 30 August 2024, welcoming the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegal Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory and the legal consequences for Israel, the United Nations and third parties. Specifically, the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice adjudged the continued presence of the State of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory to be illegal, thereby affirming Israel's obligations to end its presence in the occupied Palestinian territory as rapidly as possible.

In our Group's view, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which was issued upon the request of the General Assembly, has determined the legal obligations of States Members of the United Nations and international organizations with regard to the immediate implementation of the various provisions of the legal opinion by the principal judicial arm of the United Nations. Consequently, for our Group, the draft resolution being presented today (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1) is properly anchored in the principles of international law, as contained in relevant United Nations resolutions and the judicial determination arising from the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. It is therefore imperative to implement the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine, including the assertion that Israel must end its unlawful presence, cease settlement activities, evacuate settlers and provide reparations, and that States and international organizations should not recognize or aid Israel's illegal actions in the occupied Palestinian territory.

While commending this draft resolution for garnering an overwhelming number of votes in favour of its adoption by members of the Assembly, we note that pressure should be exerted and the necessary deterrent measures should be taken to stop the crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory. In that connection, our Group believes that it is important to note that the Assembly's anticipated positive action would provide the needed respite in this long-drawn-out crisis in Palestine. Without a doubt, this resolution will also contribute to the end of the settler colonial occupation of Palestine, which has always been at the heart of the Palestinian crisis.

Indeed, the global consensus, as evidenced by the various United Nations resolutions and relevant regional organizations, is that the definitive peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis resides in a two-State solution, the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Ultimately, the implementation of various United Nations resolutions remains the responsibility of this global body and all its peace-loving members.

Finally, for our Group, the adoption of this draft resolution in the run-up to the Summit of the Future would represent a beacon of hope for the global transformation that we seek to realize in order to confront a growing range of catastrophic and existential risks, attendant on the persistent crises and breakdown within the global setting.

Mr. Kwoba (Uganda): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the 121 member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

I thank you, Mr. President, for your swift response to the request to resume this tenth emergency special session, pursuant to the joint request made by the Chairs of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on behalf of their member States.

NAM welcomes the advisory opinion that was rendered by the International Court of Justice on 19 July, pursuant to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/247, of 30 December 2022. The determinations made by the Court in accordance with international law require immediate follow-up by the Assembly to address this prolonged, historic injustice, and particularly considering the extremely grave and worsening situation being endured by the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. NAM reiterates that respect for the Charter of the United Nations, international law and United Nations resolutions constitute the foundation for a just and lasting solution of the Palestinian question, as a cornerstone for regional and global peace and security. NAM acknowledges the role of the International Court of Justice in promoting justice and the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

The Non-Aligned Movement urges the Security Council to make greater use of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law to guide and assist international efforts to justly resolve protracted crises and conflicts and promote peaceful solutions. We further urge the Council to consider that its decisions be reviewed by the International Court of Justice, bearing in mind the need to ensure their adherence to the United Nations Charter and international law.

The General Assembly has rightly availed itself of the International Court of Justice in seeking its authoritative guidance regarding this prolonged crisis, the question of Palestine, which has been on the United Nations agenda since the Organization's inception. The Assembly's decision to turn to the Court has been made after decades of injustices endured by the Palestinian people, including the deprivation of their inalienable right to self-determination, the colonization and annexation of their land, and discrimination amounting, as affirmed by the Court, to violations of article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, concerning racial segregation and apartheid.

In response to the General Assembly's questions, the Court has clearly determined, *inter alia*, that Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is unlawful and must be ended as rapidly as possible. It is now time to translate the Court's authoritative determinations into action for accountability with a view to ending that illegal occupation in all its manifestations

and ensuring the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and the realization of long-delayed justice.

In that regard, the Movement reiterates that the policies and measures being carried out in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power, constitute grave breaches of international law and are in flagrant defiance of United Nations resolutions and the 9 July 2004 and 19 July 2024 advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice. In that regard, the Movement recalls the responsibilities of States not to support, facilitate or cooperate, directly or indirectly, with such unlawful policies, and to undertake practical measures to bring them to a halt. We also urge the undertaking of serious efforts, collectively and individually, to ensure respect for the legal obligations defined in the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion, including efforts by the General Assembly and by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Movement stresses that the United Nations Charter contains sufficient provisions regarding the use of force, including a clear pronouncement on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. That prohibition must be respected in all circumstances in order to maintain and preserve international peace and security, in full conformity with the relevant Charter provisions, including Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter, as appropriate, and consistent with international law as pronounced by the International Court of Justice.

In recent years the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement action in some cases and has been increasingly resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and security, while being silent and inactive in others, such as the Palestinian question, that the International Court of Justice considered, in its advisory opinions, as a conflict that continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, and that remains a matter of grave concern to the international community.

NAM reiterates the demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and fully abide by its legal obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention. NAM also notes the 29 December 2023 application filed by a member State of the Movement, South Africa, instituting proceedings against Israel before the International Court of Justice, concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

To conclude, the Movement seizes this opportunity to reiterate its long-standing call for immediate collective international efforts to uphold international law to bring an end to this grave and historical injustice. NAM member States reaffirm their commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. NAM reaffirms its support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve justice and fulfil their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to return and to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and stands ready to cooperate with and support the General

Assembly and Security Council in the fulfilment of their respective responsibilities in this regard.

Mr. Aldahhak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

At the outset, we congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. We wish you every success in this noble mission. I also thank you for responding to the request submitted by the Arab Group, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to resume the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, pursuant to the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 19 July on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and on Israel's continued illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The advisory opinion confirmed that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and that Israel is under the obligation to end that unlawful presence as soon as possible and to immediately cease all settlement activities, dismantle the settlements and evacuate all settlers from the Palestinian territory. The advisory opinion also underscores that Israel has the obligation to make reparation for the damage caused to all natural or legal persons concerned and that all States and international organizations are compelled to not recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful continued presence of the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory and to not render aid or assistance in maintaining the illegal situation.

The Arab Group welcomes the advisory opinion, which was issued upon the request of the General Assembly. We emphasize the need to follow up on and implement it, in line with the recommendation by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion's ninth paragraph, which states that the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as quickly as possible the unlawful presence of the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Pursuant to the Court's recommendation, the delegation of the State of Palestine, with the support of dozens of Member States, submitted the draft resolution before us today (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the State of Palestine on beginning to enjoy the rights and additional privileges set out by the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. As a result, the Palestinian delegation was able to introduce the historic draft resolution today. The Arab Group looks forward to the day when the State of Palestine is granted full membership to the United Nations in the very near future.

It has been almost a year since the onset of Israel's wanton aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The genocidal war waged by the Israeli occupation forces has led to more than 145,000 Palestinian civilians being killed, injured or missing. In addition, it has led to the displacement of nearly 2 million Palestinians; the systematic destruction of cities, villages, Palestinian camps and infrastructure; and the burning and destruction of homes, farms and property. Furthermore, Israel, the occupying Power, and settler gangs have expanded the

scope of their crimes to include the West Bank. They have killed hundreds of Palestinian citizens and seriously injured many more there.

The Arab Group strongly condemns the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. We call for their immediate and unconditional cessation. We also condemn the hostile policies and measures adopted by Israel, the occupying Power, to prevent the State of Palestine from achieving independence. We condemn their plans to annex the occupied West Bank and expand the colonist settlements in other Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Arab Group reiterates its condemnation of Israel's more than 11-month aggression against brotherly Lebanon. We condemn Israel's deliberate bombing of civilian areas, which has led to the martyrdom of more than 175 civilians, most of them women and children, as well as several journalists and relief workers.

The Arab Group reiterates its condemnation of Israel's repeated acts of aggression against Syrian territories and the targeting of civilians in residential neighbourhoods and infrastructure by Israel's occupation forces. The Arab Group reaffirms its solidarity with Syria and Lebanon and calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities by Israel to avoid further escalation, which would threaten regional and international peace and security.

The General Assembly has resumed its tenth emergency special session on three occasions over the past 11 months. It has adopted three important resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid and granting additional privileges to Palestine (resolutions ES-10/21, ES-10/22 and ES-10/23). The members of the General Assembly are called once again today to show their support for the Palestinian people and their prolonged struggle to end Israel's occupation of their land and exercise their established and inalienable rights to self-determination, the establishment of their sovereign and independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital and full membership in the United Nations. Solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights means that the draft resolution before us at this meeting must be supported and voted in favour of. That is the least that we can do to contribute to undoing the prolonged historical injustice that the Palestinian people have endured.

I should like to deliver the following remarks in my national capacity.

My country's delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States and by the Permanent Representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Once again, we congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming your tasks. I underscore that my country's delegation is ready to provide every form of support for the success of your work. We also thank you for swiftly responding to our request to convene this emergency session.

Syria reiterates its strong condemnation of Israel's ongoing barbaric aggression against the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The aggression represents a continuation of the massacres, acts of aggression, terrorism and systematic violations against international law perpetrated by the Israeli occupation for decades in perpetuating its occupation of Arab territories in an attempt to undermine any chance of establishing a Palestinian State. Syria reaffirms its full support for the brotherly

Palestinian people, who are facing Israel's killing machine in their struggle to end the occupation and enjoy their inalienable established rights, including their rights to establish an independent State, with Jerusalem as a capital, and to be granted full membership in the United Nations. My country welcomes the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and calls for its implementation in order to end the Israeli occupation.

Syria reaffirms that the Israeli occupation was, and remains, the main cause of instability in our region. Syria calls upon the United Nations to act immediately, implement its relevant resolutions and end the occupation, cease the aggression policies, expansion, settlement, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the occupation authorities. Those occupation authorities would not have persisted in doing so if not for the unlimited support provided for them by the United States Administration and some of its allies. Syria also calls upon the United Nations to end the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against its territories, including the most recent assaults against rural Hama governorate and Majdal Shams in the Syrian occupied Golan. We stress that the occupying authorities must be held accountable for their crimes and efforts made to ensure that they are not repeated in order to avoid more escalation in the region, threatening regional and international peace and security.

My country reaffirms its established right to defend the sovereignty of its territories and to recover the entire occupied Syrian Golan, using all means provided by international law. Syria also condemns the ongoing Israeli aggression against brotherly Lebanon. We reiterate our strong and firm solidarity with the Lebanese people and call for compelling the occupation entity to immediately and unconditionally stop that brutal aggression.

Mrs. Narváez Ojeda (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, we would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your recent election as President of the General Assembly. We extend our good wishes for success to the rest of the Bureau, which you will lead this year.

Chile aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We appreciate the convening of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly to discuss the draft resolution submitted by Palestine, entitled "Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1).

Our country co-sponsored this draft, and we urge members to support it. We recall that on 30 December 2022, in its resolution 77/247, entitled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. On that occasion, my country voted in favour of the resolution, as we will do on this occasion.

Chile has underscored the need for full and prompt compliance with the relevant resolutions that support the right of the Palestinian people to constitute a sovereign State, such as resolution 181 (II) and Security Council resolution 242 (1967), as well as related resolutions, such as Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which

reaffirms the establishment by Israel of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law. We reaffirm our support for the State of Palestine being admitted as a full Member of the United Nations.

We would like to again express Chile's condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims who have died in the conflict that is raging in the Gaza Strip and only escalating as the days go by. We are especially mindful of the innocent women and children who have suffered in this disaster. We stress that violence is not settled with more violence. We extend our profound solidarity to those who have been injured.

We reiterate our full support for the dedicated and courageous work being carried out on the ground by the United Nations, its agencies and, in particular, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It is with great sadness that we recall the death of more than 220 officials of that humanitarian agency in this war. We were shocked to hear about the Israeli attack on an UNRWA school last week, in which 18 people died, including six UNRWA employees. That is totally unacceptable and a clear violation of international law.

We recall Security Council resolution 2730 (2024), adopted on 24 May, which demands that the parties to the conflict comply with their obligations under international law and urges all States to immediately undertake thorough and impartial investigations into violations perpetrated against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. We underscore that the protection of human life must be our top priority and that the protection of civilians is a fundamental obligation. For that reason, the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law must be respected. Undoubtedly, that respect has been infringed by the terrorist acts perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the indiscriminate response by the State of Israel against the population living in the Gaza Strip, which has also affected the West Bank.

Chile has unreservedly condemned Hamas's actions, as well as all terrorist acts, acts of violence and hostilities against the civilian population. Therefore, we demand the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages still in the hands of Hamas, with a view to their well-being and humane treatment in accordance with international law.

We are concerned about the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, as it has left the population without basic necessities, such as food, water, medicine and fuel, causing widespread hunger and disease. We condemn Israel's military offensive against the city of Rafah. The consequences of this military operation are dire and only delay stability in the region. The ongoing violence is of deep concern.

We echo the call of the Secretary-General himself and the heads of other United Nations agencies to de-escalate tensions. We acknowledge the efforts of the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Ms. Sigrid Kaag, in her work, and we urge that she receive all the resources required to carry out her duties. We thank her for her clear briefing to the Security Council yesterday (see S/PV.9725).

Chile calls for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, a greater flow of humanitarian assistance to Gaza and guarantees for full, immediate, safe, unhindered and

sustained access to humanitarian aid. In other words, we call for all obstacles to such assistance to be removed, and for the use of all available land routes to enter the Gaza Strip. We commend the polio vaccination campaign in Gaza that is taking place during the agreed humanitarian pauses. We encourage aid teams to achieve the goal of reaching more children at risk.

We encourage all parties involved, as well as the international community, to continue working to end the war. This is possible only through diplomatic channels and dialogue. We recognize the efforts and results that friendly countries have achieved to reduce tensions. We hope that the good offices of the United States, Egypt and Qatar can be realized. We highlight the four resolutions adopted by the Security Council to reach a ceasefire, reduce tensions or facilitate humanitarian aid — resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023), adopted last year, and in particular resolutions 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024). We recall that all resolutions of that organ are binding and must be complied with and respected.

Chile promotes the two-State solution and the right of Israel and Palestine to live in harmony, within safe and internationally recognized borders, and with full respect for the human rights of all their inhabitants. Chile has always reaffirmed that a priority of its foreign policy is contributing to reaching a peaceful solution in the Middle East. We continue to express our support for a just and lasting solution, in accordance with United Nations resolutions. We recall that Chile, together with Mexico, submitted a brief on the situation in Palestine to the International Criminal Court so as to strengthen the investigation of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel. For Chile, clarifying facts and responsibilities, as well as accountability, are essential in ending impunity and preventing international crimes from being committed in the future.

We underscore that the provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice must be respected by all parties. On Thursday last week, Chile filed a declaration of intervention in relation to the proceedings initiated by South Africa against Israel regarding the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip. That declaration was submitted in accordance with article 63 of the Statute of the Court, which establishes the right of any State to intervene in matters pertaining to the interpretation of a convention to which it is also a party. The national submission focuses on analysing specific provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as Chile's position on its interpretation.

The text also refers to the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, of 19 July 2024, which concluded that the regime of comprehensive restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory “constitutes systemic discrimination based on, inter alia, race, religion or ethnic origin”. In our national submission, we maintain that the International Court of Justice should give particular weight to the content of statements by certain high-level Israeli public officials, who have called for the killing of all people living in Gaza or for their civilian status to be disregarded. Furthermore, we assert that direct and public incitement to commit genocide is a standalone crime, punishable under the Convention, even

if it does not produce the result expected by the perpetrator, there is no causal link between what was said and subsequent acts or no act of genocide occurs as a result.

To conclude, I would like to share the following reflection. We are only a few days away from the Summit of the Future. We have all worked hard to agree on a Pact for the Future. However, there can be no sustainable future if we do not address and resolve such grave situations as the one in the Gaza Strip today. That is essential, first and foremost, to save the lives of the people in that territory, but it is also essential for the United Nations as an Organization that was created to ensure peace and security. If we commit ourselves to a renewed multilateralism, let us also commit ourselves to a world in which the agreements we have reached are honoured. Trust in the multilateral system also depends on a robust and effective response from this organ to the armed conflicts we face today.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): Please accept our felicitations, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. We also thank you for convening this meeting of the resumed tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly in response to the requests of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the OIC, and the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The purpose of this emergency session is to translate into action the historic and comprehensive advisory opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice on 19 July 2024 on the legal consequences of Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. Pakistan co-sponsored the draft resolution contained in document A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 — introduced by the State of Palestine with its enhanced rights — which seeks to implement the conclusions of the International Court of Justice.

The tragic history of Palestine and its people has been caused by a series of legal and political decisions imposed by colonial and imperial Powers, from the Balfour Declaration — the epitome of political betrayal — to the Anglo-American decision to allow Jews persecuted by the Nazis to emigrate to Israel, to the plan to partition Palestine embodied in the ignominious resolution 181 (II), adopted by the Assembly despite the just Arab and Islamic opposition to the precipitate admission of Israel to the United Nations.

Pakistan's founding father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, warned in 1948 that Israel's creation would have grave consequences for the peoples of the region. History is witness to those consequences: a State foisted on the land of the Palestinians; the brutal expulsion of Palestinians in the Nakba and the expansion of the illegal State; the complete occupation of all of Palestine by the Israeli military aggression in 1967; a brutal occupation that has lasted 50 years; the steady acquisition of Palestinian lands, properties and homes to accommodate illegal and aggressive Jewish settlers; the imposition of a segregated apartheid rule in occupied Palestine; the unlawful incarceration of thousands of Palestinians, subjected to torture, deprivation and humiliation; the 30-year siege of Gaza; and now, the frequent violations visited on innocent Palestinians, including indiscriminate aerial and land bombardment, killing thousands of people — mostly women and children — which is now writ

large in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. There have been 41,000 Palestinians killed and almost 100,000 more injured in a conflict that threatens to spread across and engulf the entire Middle East.

Against that grim background, the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion marks a milestone of justice, an expression of equity and a flame of hope. The Court's conclusions emphasize that Israel's occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza and its attempts to prolong the occupation and its security policies violate two basic principles of international law. The first is the right of peoples to self-determination, and the second is the principle of non-acquisition of territory by the use of force.

In accordance with the Court's advisory opinion, the draft resolution demands that Israel immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories; immediately put an end to its unlawful policies and procedures; make reparation for damage caused; comply with the Court's orders and ensure that the Palestinian people can exercise their right to self-determination without impediment. The draft resolution also underlines the need to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law and to bear the consequences of all its wrongful actions, including by making reparations for injury and damage caused through the establishment of an international mechanism and an international register of damage.

Importantly, the Court's advisory opinion also indicates the obligations of Member States in relation to Israel's occupation. Accordingly, the draft resolution, inter alia, calls on Member States, in compliance with their obligations, to promote Palestinian self-determination, refuse to recognize any change in the institutional structure and status of the occupied territory and not recognize or provide aid or assistance in maintaining the Israeli occupation. It also calls on international organizations, including the United Nations, not to recognize as legal the situation arising from Israel's illegal occupation. The Secretary-General has also been asked to submit a report on the implementation of the draft resolution within three months.

The adoption of the draft resolution will require a re-evaluation of the position of Member States and the United Nations, especially the Security Council, with regard to Palestine.

First, its adoption should reinvigorate the efforts of the international community to oblige Israel to halt its genocidal military campaign in Gaza and its operations in the West Bank and withdraw its forces from there forthwith.

Secondly, those States that are continuing to provide military and material support to Israel must halt that, in accordance with their obligation not to help in perpetuating the Israeli occupation.

Thirdly, we must take concrete steps to enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination. One important step would be to admit the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. Another would be to convene an international conference on Palestine to advance the two-State solution.

Pakistan will actively promote the realization of the objectives and decisions arising from the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1. Pakistan's solidarity with the Palestinian people predates the independence of our own country. We realized

independence through the exercise of self-determination. On 14 August 1947, my country's founding father, Quaid-e-Azam, stated that

“[n]o nation, no people who are worth living as a nation, can achieve anything great without making great sacrifice such as the Arabs of Palestine are making.”

In 1948, he pledged to aid the cause “of the Arabs in Palestine in every possible way”. We have lived up to that commitment and will continue to live up to that commitment. The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion and the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 will be a decisive step towards ending the suffering of the Palestinian people. Inshallah, Palestine will soon be free.

Mr. Mahmoud (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Group of Arab States.

We meet today after the Arab and Islamic groups and the Non-Aligned Movement requested the resumption of the tenth emergency special session to submit draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, entitled “Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory”, a proposal introduced — for the first time in the history of the General Assembly — by the State of Palestine. The draft resolution pertains both to the Court's advisory opinion (see A/78/968) and the implementation of resolution 77/247.

With the support of peace-loving countries that believe in international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the credibility of the United Nations, Palestine sought to obtain that advisory opinion and the adoption of definitive resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council, out of a genuine belief that there is a need for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question, in accordance with international law and the Charter, and that violence never has been and never will be the solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice affirms the clear and unambiguous rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination, end the occupation and establish a Palestinian State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Court emphasized that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip violates international law, and that the occupation is a flagrant violation of the right to self-determination, which is one of the peremptory principles of international law. The Court found that the continuing use of armed force on foreign lands with the aim of annexing them to Israel and illegally imposing its sovereignty over them lacks legitimacy, in addition to affirming that the Israeli practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories violate article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Court also determined that Israel must end its occupation, including through the dismantling of settlements, the evacuation of settlers, making reparations to the Palestinian people and allowing all the Palestinians who have been displaced during the occupation to return to their original places of residence.

We would like to remind the Assembly that most of the findings in the Court's advisory opinion had already been acknowledged by the Court 20 years ago in its advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory (see A/ES-10/273), which has remained merely ink on paper.

Egypt emphasizes that the Court's new advisory opinion recognizes that the international community as a whole — all States Members of the United Nations — have legal obligations, above all to work to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination. It also prohibits any actions that would recognize as legal the occupation or any of the conditions arising from it, including the transfer of embassies to the occupied Palestinian territories and entering into treaties or establishing commercial relations with Israeli activities that are related to the occupation. The advisory opinion also states that the United Nations and all its political organs and specialized agencies must work to end the occupation and take the necessary measures to ensure that Israel complies with the Court's opinion that the occupation must end immediately.

We stress that the Israeli occupation, with its settlements and extremist settlers, would no longer be viable if countries that respect international law and the Court's rulings decided to boycott it and stop their cooperation and coexistence with it. Putting an end to the occupation and deterring Israel's hostile behaviour against the Palestinian people have become an urgent necessity to preserve international security — or to be more precise, what remains of regional stability — after Israel has gone too far in committing all its violations related to the occupation of the Palestinian territories. Moreover, Israel has also gone too far in its aggression against the United Nations itself, by killing more than 220 United Nations personnel and enacting a law that would criminalize the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East as a terrorist organization — taking the unprecedented action of labelling an agency of our Organization as terrorist.

The Court's advisory opinion was issued as the Israeli war machine continues to destroy the Gaza Strip. It has killed more than 40,000 martyrs and injured more than 94,000 Palestinians. It has obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid, in violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, especially Security Council resolution 2720 (2023). There is no clear horizon for bringing an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people. Israel is launching a military campaign against the West Bank and encourages settlement activity there and in East Jerusalem. It threatens the status quo of holy sites in Jerusalem. It continues to enforce limitations on the work of the Palestinian Authority, which is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Israel does all of that in order to eliminate the presence of Palestinians on their territories and in an attempt to liquidate their cause.

We once again stress our demands that the Security Council must adopt a resolution under Chapter VII that would oblige Israel to immediately cease its aggression and allow unfettered access of humanitarian aid, with a view to maintaining international peace and security, and it must hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law and its failure to implement Security Council resolutions.

Egypt believes in supporting regional peace and stability. As such, we will continue our mediation efforts alongside Qatar and the United States with a view to arriving at a ceasefire deal and putting an end to that unprecedented tragedy. Egypt

is doing so within its regional and international responsibilities, while disregarding the reckless statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister against Egypt, which only aim to distract Israeli public opinion and obstruct mediation efforts. Egypt will continue to work with our Arab brothers and international partners to resume the peace process and launch a negotiation process that will guarantee the Palestinian people the right to live in a liberated, contiguous State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international criteria, relevant resolutions and a peace process that acknowledges the two-State solution. That requires us all to exert a genuine effort, be committed and let the international community turn words into deeds and respond to Arab efforts. That also requires the adoption of a firm position against Israel in order to compel it to return to the negotiation table and end its occupation. The recent escalation demonstrates that the theory of Israeli security based on force and power is wrong and impossible.

For the sake of what is right and just, Egypt urges the General Assembly to vote in favour of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, on which action will be taken tomorrow, in order to maintain and preserve the credibility of the Organization, support a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian question and other causes, maintain the right to live in dignity and freedom and uphold justice and what is right.

Mr. Yıldız (Türkiye): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. Allow me to express our appreciation to you for convening this meeting, which reflects the gravity of the situation and the collective responsibility of the General Assembly to address it. As a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 introduced by Palestine and a committed advocate for International Court of Justice proceedings, Türkiye regards this meeting as both timely and essential.

The Court's advisory opinion, delivered on 19 July upon the request of the General Assembly, categorically determined the illegality of Israel's deliberately prolonged occupation of Palestinian territories. The ruling of the Court, as the highest judicial organ in the United Nations system, reaffirms what has long been the consensus of the international community, which is that the occupation is unlawful and must be ended. That conclusion not only provides a legal foundation but also reinforces the political will of the majority of Member States.

The forthcoming vote on the draft resolution introduced by Palestine is of historic significance — not only as the first draft resolution ever introduced by Palestine to the General Assembly but also as a pivotal step in the Palestinian people's pursuit of justice. It is not merely procedural; it is emblematic of a broader movement within the international community to rectify long-standing injustices. It is therefore vital that as Member States, we act in line with the Court's findings and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Türkiye urges all Member States to support the draft resolution, as it is consistent with international law and the legal framework established by the Court. Its adoption would mark a crucial reaffirmation of our collective commitment to upholding international legal norms.

Mr. Jackman (Barbados), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The draft resolution underscores three critical dimensions of the current situation.

First, it reinforces the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Implementing the Court's advisory opinion is imperative if we are to uphold the core principle that territorial acquisition by force is inadmissible.

Secondly, the international community must signal clearly that violations of international law will not be tolerated. The occupation and ongoing settlement activities in the West Bank are not only illegal but undermine the prospects for peace. Accountability, in this case, is not just a moral imperative but a legal one.

Thirdly, the ongoing conflict in Gaza, now in its eleventh month, exacerbates an already dire humanitarian crisis. Resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22, as well as Security Council resolutions 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024), which called for a ceasefire, remain unheeded. The suffering of the Palestinian people continues unabated and the lack of implementation highlights the urgent need for concrete action. The adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 will be crucial to reinforce the international community's call for a ceasefire and halt the illegal settlement activities that perpetuate the conflict.

Türkiye has been an active participant in the International Court of Justice process, contributing both written and oral submissions to the advisory opinion. We will continue our efforts to ensure an immediate and lasting ceasefire, as well as the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and will work towards the recognition of the State of Palestine and a viable two-State solution.

In conclusion, the decisions made in the Assembly will have lasting implications, not only for the people of Palestine but also for the credibility of international law and the United Nations. The international community must demonstrate that it is prepared to enforce the standards it has set, and that justice, even when delayed, will ultimately prevail.

Mr. Nasir (Indonesia): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting.

International law is the pillar of a stable global society, ensuring justice, protecting freedom and enabling countries to thrive. Without it, chaos disrupts global peace and progress. The International Court of Justice, the world's court, has made it clear: Israeli occupation of Palestine is illegal. Continued global inaction enabled by the idea that "might makes right" has allowed that occupation to thrive, causing injustices and tremendous suffering to the Palestinian people. The Assembly must now act on the Court's ruling. The occupation must end. Indonesia therefore wholeheartedly supports draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, introduced by the State of Palestine. It contains legitimate actions that address those injustices. In that context, allow me to emphasize three points.

First, the implementation of the Court's advisory opinion is the embodiment of our belief and commitment to international law and order. The ruling is more than a legal authority; it is a moral imperative. All States must recognize the State of Palestine, support its full membership in the United Nations and uphold its right to self-determination. The systematic structures of apartheid, discrimination and injustice must be dismantled.

Secondly, we must safeguard the integrity of the United Nations Charter and our basic human value. Allowing the illegal occupation of Palestine to continue undermines the very foundation of the international system that was built to preserve justice, moral values and humanity. Let us be honest: can we say to the

children in Gaza, in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem that there will be a tomorrow for them? No, we cannot. We cannot even say that to children staying in the Israeli-designated humanitarian safe zone. In the eyes of the general public, the General Assembly's default position is standing idle while the basic right to life of Palestinians is taken away by a vindictive Government. What will remain of the sanctity of international law?

Thirdly, we must pursue a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Court's rulings are clear on the illegality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. They demand clear political will from us all and that we must safeguard the two-State solution. We need to convene an international conference for peace negotiations in which Palestine stands on equal footing. The time for decisive action is now. We must move towards peace. Let us act with resolve to ensure that the promise of peace and dignity becomes a reality for every child and human being in Gaza and beyond.

Mrs. Frazier (Malta): On 19 July, the International Court of Justice, upon the request of the General Assembly, delivered its advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The Court found that Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and that it is under an obligation to end it as soon as possible. Among the legal consequences emanating from that advisory opinion is a responsibility on the part of the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council, to consider the precise modalities and further action required to end Israel's unlawful presence. In that context, Malta reaffirms its unwavering commitment to international law. Adherence to it is essential to advancing peace, security and justice. Respecting and implementing the findings of international judicial institutions, including the Court, is fundamental. All States must respect the decisions of our institutions and cooperate fully in their implementation. Our multilateral system depends on it.

Across the occupied Palestinian territory, Palestinians have been facing a desperate reality for 57 years. They are forced to contend with discriminatory legislation and frequent human rights violations. A continued occupation will only serve to make the two-State Solution and the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination seem like a distant and unattainable abstraction. As Member States, we have a responsibility to move that forward, a duty that was outlined by the Court. That includes not recognizing as legal Israel's unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the occupation. All settlement activities must cease immediately. They are illegal under international law, undermine the contiguity of a future Palestinian State and are a breach of the Palestinian people's fundamental right to self-determination.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in the Gaza war and many more have had their lives destroyed. Hostages abducted by Hamas and their families continue to live through a perpetual nightmare. An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza needs to be realized urgently. The hostages must be immediately and unconditionally released. We have echoed that message consistently since 7 October 2023. The catastrophic war has only illustrated the need to address the root causes of the conflict and take tangible steps towards the realization of the two-State solution in line with Security Council resolutions and internationally agreed

parameters. That path requires courage, principled decisions and full respect of international law. That is why Malta will support draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1.

Mr. El-Sonni (Libya): At the outset, allow me to speak in English, as today I wish my messages to be delivered clearly and not be lost in translation.

Libya aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We are here today to consider draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences arising from the unlawful occupation by the Israeli forces of the Palestinian territory. Libya was proud to join the deliberations thereon. The draft resolution introduced by the representative of the State of Palestine represents by itself a historic moment — its first action since being granted its well-deserved and long-awaited additional rights and privileges of participation earlier in the current special session. Unfortunately, it had to wait 79 years for that to happen. In that regard, it is therefore important to remind the Assembly that it is about time to also grant them full membership in the United Nations.

But as I stand here before the Assembly today, I find myself challenged and struggling to understand what exactly we are debating. Ordinary people watching us would ask that question because we are simply debating whether we should comply with the legal findings of the most prominent and prestigious international institution — the International Court of Justice. We are debating whether or not we should comply with international law.

As much as this International Court of Justice advisory opinion is important and timely, we should not neglect the fact that the occupation of the Palestinian territories will always remain unlawful. No one needed to wait all these decades for this advisory opinion to know that, but here we are. The real test begins now. The real test today is for those countries who preach and call others to respect international law and the rule of law. What will their position be now? The real test today is for those countries who preach and call others to stick to principles to respect the Charter of the United Nations and to comply with the decisions of its organs and bodies. What will their position be now? The real test today is for those countries who watched the ongoing massacres and genocide in Gaza for almost a year and witnessed the systematic destruction and dehumanization conducted by an apartheid regime for decades. What will their position be now?

On which side of history are they going to be on? What will the books of history say about them? What are they going to tell their people if they happen to vote against draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, or even abstain? What excuse are they going to use to justify such a decision? If they cannot vote for peace and justice and against occupation and illegal settlements, how will they be able to ask for support if one day they are occupied? How would they explain if their Government supports, in any way, such an occupation, in violation of international law, and not hold the occupiers accountable? And what will they say to those who will take aim at them and say, “welcome to the world of double standards”?

Speaking about double standards, just a while ago, we heard the representative of the occupying Israeli forces bashing the Assembly — as he and his predecessors

tend to do — performing a show and teaching and lecturing us about humanity and morality. He is totally disconnected from reality. Even today, he could not cite any justification or speak about the topic we are discussing — the illegal settlements. He could not address the resolution and kept trying to show that the world started only on 7 October, thus neglecting the facts of history. If he considers the Assembly a circus, guess what? I consider him a clown performing in this place, always bringing his props, trying to produce a show, failing to make us laugh, trying to deceive us. That is what he and his predecessors try to do, but they have failed dramatically. I therefore ask him, if he thinks this place is a circus, why is he performing in it? Why is he still a member?

It is time to show action and not words. Nearly a year has passed, and the massacres and genocide in Gaza and the West Bank are continuing. The inability of the international community, especially the Security Council, to stop these atrocities and reach a ceasefire and the silence of many here is what allowed the killing of tens of thousands, the injury of hundreds of thousands, the displacement of almost 2 million and the spread of famine and diseases.

Today, therefore, do some justice for the innocent and vote in favour of this draft resolution, which would send a message from the world to the occupying forces and those who support them blindly. Say enough is enough and it is time to act. Libya reaffirms its position — it will not define resistance against occupation as terrorism. What country did not gain independence without resistance, especially when the doors of peaceful solutions are completely shut down?

Libya affirms its position that the only peaceful solution to these seven decades of aggression and occupation is by recognizing the Palestinians' right to defend themselves and resist occupation and their right to self-determination and to have an independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

In conclusion, it is time now for all to comply and respect the outcome of the International Court of Justice. This Court, as we all know, was established to help ensure peace and justice and to ensure that international law prevails over the use of force. We therefore call on one and all to vote in favour of this draft resolution in order to pave the road for peace. History will remember the countries that took a principled moral, legal or humane stance, and it will also remember those whose humanity lay in a deep coma and were aware and deliberately participated in this live broadcasted atrocity, especially the twenty-first century Holocaust, the Holocaust of Gaza. Voting in favour of this draft resolution today is a vote for peace and for justice.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate you. Mr. President, on your election to preside over the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and I thank you for responding to the request to resume the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, convened under resolution 377 (V), also known as the Uniting for Peace resolution.

Jordan aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Our meeting today has been convened to consider the draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, introduced by the brotherly Palestinian delegation in the light of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued in July on the

legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in response to the request of the General Assembly in late 2022. While Jordan expresses its full support for the Palestinian draft resolution, we call on Member States to vote in favour.

Jordan considers the Court's advisory opinion to mark a watershed in the history of the Palestinian question, as it affirms what we have all been aware of for decades, namely, that the Israeli occupation is illegal, that the presence of its settlements and settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and invalid and that its practices against the Palestinian people under occupation are primarily racist practices that amount to racial discrimination and apartheid.

The implementation of the advisory opinion of the Court is our duty as States, international organizations and international community. The advisory opinion reflects the position of international law on the issue of the Palestinian question, the Israeli occupation, the right to Palestinian self-determination and the grave Israeli violations of jus cogens norms of international law. In the near future, we will see how the content of the advisory opinion will be reflected in the legal proceedings taken by national, regional and international forums against the occupation and Israeli practices.

In line with the advisory opinion and Jordan's submission to the Court, we reiterate that Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territory have sought to undermine the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. That is something the international community cannot accept. Therefore, we emphasize the need to compel Israel to implement the relevant contents of the advisory opinion, including by ending the Israeli occupation that has continued since June 1967 as soon as possible, immediately halting all settlement activities, evacuating settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory and ending Israel's arbitrary and oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in their occupied territory.

We reiterate our unequivocal support for the advisory opinion, which also compels Israel to return properties to their rightful owners and to provide compensation to those affected by Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory. We also support the measures included in the Palestinian draft resolution, which include ceasing the importation of any products originating in the settlements and the provision or transfer of arms to or from Israel. In addition, we support the draft resolution's emphasis on the need to take all possible measures to stop violations aimed at modifying the historical status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Refraining from providing support to Israel to continue its crimes and violations against the Palestinian people is not an intellectual luxury, but rather a legal obligation that every country and the international community as a whole must fulfil. Those who support settlements must stop doing so, and those whose companies are fuelling the Israeli machine of murder and violence against the Palestinian people must be forced to stop. Those who support Israel's actions to create a new reality on the ground against Palestine should understand that those actions are bound to fail.

The Court's advisory opinion emphasized the unity of the Palestinian territory and the right of Palestinians to return, in addition to rejecting forced displacement. Therefore, we must all work to implement that advisory opinion by all possible

legal means through adopting the necessary national legislation and individual and collective measures to achieve that goal. We must also intensify international efforts to pressure Israel to stop its heinous crimes against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Those crimes have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians since the outbreak of Israel's barbaric and terrorist war nearly a year ago. The Security Council and the international community should put pressure on Israel to end the war immediately, allow adequate and sustained humanitarian aid to Gaza, refrain from targeting aid workers and United Nations teams and implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2735 (2024).

We also call upon the international community to take a unified position condemning Israel's continued unilateral practices and violations of the historical status quo in Jerusalem. The international community must compel Israel and its extremist Government to halt its violations in the West Bank and its policies aimed at dragging the region into an all-out regional war with devastating consequences.

In conclusion, we reiterate Jordan's historic and absolute support for the right of Palestinians to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent and sovereign State along the lines of 4 June 1967, with occupied East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and on the basis of the two-State solution as the only way to achieve a comprehensive peace. We stress the need for Israel to respect the historical status quo in Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites under the historic Hashemite custodianship of those sites.

Mr. Bendjama (Algeria): We gather today to discuss the question of Palestine, a stark reminder of the importance of multilateral action and, at the same time, evidence of the limits of its frameworks, including the United Nations itself. On the one hand, without international law, without the global forums of nations, the Palestinian cause would have faded into oblivion in a world dominated by narrow interests. On the other hand, multilateral action has shown its limitations, despite the consensus of the international community and the successive binding resolutions, resolutions that plainly affirm and reaffirm the Palestinian right to self-determination and the Palestinian right to their land, Palestinians' right to their statehood. Yet we find ourselves unable to enforce them. That failure can be attributed to an occupying Power that disregards international law and thrives on impunity, acting as though it is above the law.

In Gaza, in the West Bank, the Israeli occupier continues to kill, continues to arrest, with the toll of victims in nearly one year surpassing 41,000 martyrs, almost 100,000 wounded and more than 10,000 Palestinian detainees. The Israeli occupying Power desecrates the holy sites of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and forcibly displaces its people. Just this morning, we witnessed another assault by Israeli settlers, protected by the Israeli police, the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The occupying Power openly denies the rights of the Palestinian people and seeks to undermine the establishment of their State.

Against the backdrop of that bleak reality, which threatens to extinguish hope in the hearts of the Palestinians and peace lovers around the world, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice has come. That historic and comprehensive decision by the highest judicial body in the world challenges the Israeli occupation narrative and exposes its apartheid policies. It reaffirms the

illegality of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and the need to end that occupation. Now, as President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has emphasized,

“We, the advocates of a just peace, bear the responsibility to end the historic injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people, an outcome achievable only by compelling the occupying Power to comply with international law.”

The voice of justice has spoken, and it is imperative that we all abide by its ruling. Failing to do so will disrupt the very foundations of the international order. We should ensure the full implementation of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion.

For that purpose, the State of Palestine introduced to the General Assembly the historically significant draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1 — the first draft resolution introduced by the State of Palestine in its national capacity in the history of the United Nations. That is another victory on the path to full membership of the United Nations. The draft resolution is also historic in terms of its content, as it outlines a road map to end the occupation and enable the Palestinian people to fully enjoy their rights.

My country, Algeria, having always stood by Palestine, promptly sponsored this draft resolution and calls on all Members to support it and vote in favour of it. We must be united in our support for and our solidarity with the Palestinian people today. We must stand together in defence of international law. We must stand united for peace.

Mrs. Thomas-Greenfield (United States of America): The United States has worked with determination to support a comprehensive peace agreement that would permanently resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. There is no other path that both guarantees Israel's security and future as a democratic Jewish State and ensures that Palestinians can live in peace and dignity in a State of their own. Consistent with that position, we have long opposed unilateral measures that undermine the prospect of a two-State solution. That includes the advancement of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and it includes draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which the Palestinian representative has put before us today. For the better part of four decades, the United States has been clear about our policy concerns with Israel's programme of settlements. Earlier this year, we also expressed the view that the programme of settlements is inconsistent with international law. We maintain firm opposition to settlement expansion, which in our judgment only weakens Israel's security.

The United States also respects the important role of the International Court of Justice in advising the United Nations General Assembly and helping to peacefully settle disputes. However, the adoption of a one-sided draft resolution that selectively interprets the substance of the International Court of Justice's opinion does not advance what we all want to see, which is progress towards two States, living in peace, side-by-side. The draft resolution advances the flawed — and indeed false — idea that adopting a text here in New York can somehow resolve what is easily one of the most complex and persistent diplomatic challenges of our time. We all know that is not true. We all know, as the Security Council has repeatedly underscored, that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be achieved through negotiations between the two parties — negotiations that are grounded in some basic principles, including the notion of land for peace.

Regrettably — but very significantly — the Palestinian draft resolution makes no mention of that reality. It also fails to acknowledge, among other things, that Hamas, a terrorist organization, is currently exerting power, control and influence in Gaza. And it refuses to address the reality that Israel, a State Member of the United Nations, simply has a right to protect and defend its people from acts of terror or violence.

I understand the past few months have been devastating for the Palestinian people. Families have endured hell in Gaza and the West Bank, owing to the new round of fighting that Hamas set in motion on 7 October 2023. But the draft resolution put forward by the Palestinian delegation does nothing to end the current conflict with Hamas in Gaza, nothing to bring the hostages home to their families and nothing to surge life-saving assistance to Palestinian civilians in Gaza. It does not offer a concrete path forward for how, consistent with Security Council resolution 2735 (2024), the Palestinian Authority in Gaza intends to reunify the Gaza Strip with the West Bank. It does not address the calls for reform of the Palestinian Authority, coming not only from the international community, including numerous Arab States, but also from the Palestinian people. And despite the fact that Hamas just upended ceasefire negotiations by brutally murdering six hostages and despite the fact that Hamas continues to use Palestinian civilians as human shields in Gaza, the draft resolution does not include any measures to pressure Hamas to heed Security Council resolution 2735 (2024), accept the deal on the table and implement it without delay or further conditions.

Using inflammatory language in the draft resolution is not going to advance the cause of peace. Demanding that every Member State impose economic sanctions on Israel and its officials is not going to reinvigorate the peace process, let alone create a path towards a two-State solution. Creating more special committees and convening a conference ostensibly for no other purpose than to pressure Israel is not a viable substitute for the one thing we all know and that the Security Council and General Assembly have long agreed is necessary to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — and that is direct negotiations. Rather, much like other symbolic gestures pursued by the Palestinian delegation in recent months, many of which do little or nothing to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian civilians in Gaza, the draft resolution is a stark reminder that there are no short cuts to peace.

In the dark months since 7 October 2023, I have heard and sensed a feeling of hopelessness with regard to the prospects for peace, not only among Israelis and Palestinians but more broadly in the region. But we must not be guided by fear and despair. We know what needs to be done to achieve peace, starting with an immediate ceasefire with hostage release based on the principles of Security Council resolution 2735 (2024).

The United States will continue to do everything possible to put forward ideas and proposals to achieve a deal that would help lay the foundation for a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike. But there is no path forward or hope offered through draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1. Its adoption would not save Palestinian lives, bring the hostages home, end Israeli settlement or reinvigorate the peace process. For that reason, I urge members to vote against it and instead join the United States in pressing both parties, Israelis and Palestinians, to recommit to the hard work of direct negotiations and press Hamas to take the deal on the table.

Mr. Alwasil (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Group of Arab States; the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, respectively.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the President and Vice-Presidents on their elections to preside over the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. We wish them every success and we thank the President for resuming the tenth emergency special session on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and from Israel's continued illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The International Court of Justice concluded on 19 July that the continued presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories is illegal, that it must end and that the resulting settlement activities must be addressed. The Court also found that Israel is obligated to provide reparations for the resulting damage and that international organizations, including the United Nations, are required not to recognize the legality of the situation arising from Israel's unlawful presence. The advisory opinion was issued pursuant to the General Assembly's request in resolution 77/247. My country welcomes the Court's advisory opinion on Israel's policies and practices, which emphasizes the illegality of Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Maintaining international peace and security is among the top priorities of the Organization. Today it is clear that the Organization has either been delayed in carrying out that role or unable to carry it out. Its delay in reaching a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian question has led to a decades-long humanitarian tragedy and the tragic consequences that we are currently witnessing. Israel, the occupying Power, is committing all kinds of crimes against the Palestinian people. It ignores the resolutions of international legitimacy, international law and international humanitarian law. It even believes that it is above those resolutions and laws. It believes that it has immunity and no accountability. That is why it persists in its brutal aggressive policies, perpetrating all forms of crimes and implementing measures that violate Palestinian rights.

The Court's advisory opinion is in line with the international community's belief concerning the rights of the Palestinian people. It reaffirms that Israel's decades-long illegal practices continue to escalate in terms of the violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people. We look forward to the immediate follow-up process of implementing the advisory opinion in order to address the historic injustice that has gone on for far too long. The international community, represented by the General Assembly, is called upon to guarantee respect for the advisory opinion and oversee the implementation of Israel's obligations. The genuine change that we all aspire to creating through the United Nations begins with respecting its resolutions and strengthening its organs' role.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to the adoption of draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, and we call on peace-loving Member States to vote in favour of it, as it reaffirms the international community's respect for the Court's advisory opinion. It also underscores the stolen Palestinians' rights and the beginning of a process leading to peace. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reaffirms

the need for practical and credible steps to reach a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian question, in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and resolutions of international legitimacy, in order to guarantee the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State, within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Ms. Brattested (Norway): The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion of 19 July is a very important ruling by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The Court's message could hardly have been any clearer. Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character. That has been brought about by Israel's violations of the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. Consequently, the Court states that Israel has the obligation to bring an end to its unlawful presence as rapidly as possible. The Court also reaffirms that Israel's settlement activity violates international law and concludes that Israel must immediately stop all new settlement activity, evacuate all settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory, repeal all legislation and measures creating or maintaining the unlawful situation and provide full compensation to all affected Palestinians. That is an unequivocal message that Israel must comply with without delay. The Court further emphasizes that all other States are required to not assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel. It urges the General Assembly and the Security Council to consider measures to help end the illegal presence. That places a responsibility on all of us. Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1, which builds on the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion, will be put to the vote. It is aligned with the Court's opinion and aims at ensuring that the latter is upheld. Norway will therefore vote in favour of it and we encourage everyone to do the same. Respect for international law is a prerequisite for maintaining global peace and security.

Turning to the dramatic situation on the ground, Norway continues to call for an immediate ceasefire and the release of all remaining hostages, who remain in captivity after Hamas's terror attack on 7 October 2023, which we have condemned in the strongest possible terms. After more than 11 months of war, the situation in Gaza is catastrophic. The scale of destruction, the massive number of casualties and the extreme humanitarian needs are unprecedented. The living hell that the civilians in Gaza are going through every single day is happening on our watch. No one can claim that we do not understand the extent of the ongoing violence and destruction. Still, we have been unable to prevent it. That is unforgivable.

In the occupied West Bank, the rapidly deteriorating situation is highly dangerous and could have serious implications for a region already on the brink of a full-scale war. The dire economic situation, the recent large-scale Israeli military operations and the unabated settler violence continue to inflict severe harm on the local Palestinian population — and all of them contribute to the escalation of an already tense situation.

The Palestinian people have a right to self-determination, as reaffirmed by the Court in its advisory opinion. According to the Court, Israel, as the occupying Power, has an obligation not to impede the Palestinian people from exercising that right to self-determination. That includes the right to an independent and sovereign State over the entirety of the occupied Palestinian territory. Israel's continued occupation and unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is not

compatible with the realization of a strong Palestinian State and ultimately the two-State solution.

There is no way to provide lasting security for Palestinians and Israelis alike without the establishment of a Palestinian State. The two-State solution requires an Israeli State and a Palestinian State. Norway's recent recognition of the State of Palestine reaffirms Norway's long-standing commitment to the two-State solution, through the establishment of a sovereign, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side with the State of Israel, in peace and within secure and recognized borders. Through that recognition, Norway affirms its support for a Palestinian leadership that is committed to the two-State solution, diplomacy and abstention from violence in its efforts to achieve peace. Norway is of the view that the great majority of all States support the realization of the two-State solution. Let us therefore also be committed to taking concrete and irreversible steps to that end. It is more urgent than ever before.

The current trajectory is not sustainable. A change of course is urgently needed. The Court has provided a framework to remedy the situation. It deserves all our attention.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.