

Nord –Sud XXI statement on Item 7 GD (Palestine)

We welcome the efforts made by the delegation of the State of Palestine and the overwhelming majority of other States to support the inalienable right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

We also welcome the special attention given at this session to condemning the settlements, which are among the most harmful manifestations of the occupation that is denying the Palestinian people self-determination.

We regret that stronger action has not been taken. The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has unequivocally declared that the settlements are illegal. The Court did this however in obiter dicta, not in response to a direct question on this issue. We ask the Council to urge the General Assembly to ask the Court specifically whether or not the settlements constitute a serious violation of international law, thereby incurring the State responsibility of Israel for an internationally wrongful act and all of its attendant consequences.

Israel's exploitation of the Palestinian people allows it's business and many foreign interest to benefit. This is wrong. It deserves also to be considered by bodies that can take real action against Israel. Until that happens we encourage all individuals, businesses and States to boycott, divest from and sanction any entity doing business with Israel.