

Mr. President,  
Excelsior,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me, in my capacity as Rapporteur of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to present to the General Assembly the Annual Report of the Committee, contained in document A/66/33. Allow me to summarize each section of the report.

The report covers, in Chapters I through III, the Committee's perspective on the events that have taken place in the course of the year, outline the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly, and contain a summary of the Committee's work during the year.

**STATEMENT BY**  
**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SAVIOUR BORG**  
**RAPPORTEUR**  
**COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE**  
**RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**  
**INTRODUCING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Chapter V reviews the action taken by the Committee, including the Chairman's participation in General Assembly and Security Council debates, statements issued by the Committee and its Bureau, and its Bureau's participation in international meetings and conferences organized by the Committee, as well as other mandated activities carried out by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Agenda item 37: Question of Palestine  
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Chapter VI provides an overview of the work done over the year by the Department of Public Information in pursuance of the respective General Assembly mandate. This Chapter also provides information on the valuable coverage given by the DPI to raise awareness to the question of Palestine especially through UN TV, UN Radio and the United Nations News Centre. The holding of the annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East held in Budapest in July, the training programme for young Palestinian journalists and the dissemination of information and organization of outreach activities.

The last chapter VI of the Report contains the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee, in which the Committee expresses its frustration at the current situation in the

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The report covers, in **Chapters I through III**, the Committee's perspective on the events that have taken place in the course of the year, outline the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly, and contain information on the organization of the Committee's work during the year.

Under **Chapter IV**, the report reviews the situation relating to the question of Palestine as monitored by the Committee during the past year and contains a detailed factual account of events that have taken place in the reviewed period. This includes the daily difficulties being faced by the population in the occupied territory as a result of restrictions, illegal settlements activities, demolitions, increased violence by Israeli settlers, the continued construction of the wall in the West Bank including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Highlighting the continued grave situation of Palestine refugees the Committee reiterates its appreciation for the dedication of UNRWA to its mission and calls upon all donors to increase contributions to ensure the well-being of the population of 4.8 million registered refugees under the mandate of the Agency.

**Chapter V** reviews the action taken by the Committee, including the Chairman's participation in General Assembly and Security Council debates, statements issued by the Committee and its Bureau, and the continued dialogue between the Committee and members of intergovernmental organizations. The Chapter also reports on the various international meetings and conferences organized by the Committee, as well as other mandated activities carried out by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Chapter V also highlights the close cooperation between the Committee and intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, and parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations.

**Chapter VI** provides an overview of the work done over the year by the Department of Public Information in pursuance of the respective General Assembly mandate. This Chapter also provides information on the valuable coverage given by the DPI to raise awareness to the question of Palestine especially through UNTV, UN Radio and the United Nations News Centre, the holding of the annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East held in Budapest in July, the training programme for young Palestinian journalists and the dissemination of information and organization of outreach activities.

The last chapter VI of the Report contains the **Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee**, in which the Committee expresses its frustration at the current stalemate in the

peace process and calls for a resumption of credible negotiations towards the two-State solution. The Committee reiterates that Israeli settlement activities are inimical to the peace process and contravene international law, Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and the Road Map.

The Committee also expresses its view that further progress towards the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians requires a dismantlement of the Israeli occupation and its associated regime of settlements, checkpoints, the separation wall, demolitions, land confiscations and expulsions, which have been alarmingly intensifying, particularly in East Jerusalem and in Area C. The Committee calls on donors to provide urgent and generous support to the Palestinian Authority to enable it to sustain its State-building momentum, and condemns any illegal and provocative seizure by Israel of the Palestinian Authority's revenues.

The Committee expresses its deep concern over the situation on the ground and the systematic violations of humanitarian and human rights law. The Committee reiterates that all attacks against civilians must stop immediately and unconditionally, including rocket fire from Gaza and air strikes on populated areas in Gaza, settler violence and the shootings of unarmed protesters. It calls for the Gaza blockade to be immediately lifted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860. The Committee calls on the Security Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to act urgently and decisively to guarantee the protection of civilians in all situations and ensure accountability for violations of international law.

The Committee recommends that its programme of international meetings and conferences in 2012 be focused on widening international support for the achievement of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as well as on strengthening international support for the resumption of the permanent status. The Committee will aim to mobilize increased international scrutiny of the developments on the ground, in particular the halt of all settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and an end to all other illegal Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It also supports global campaigns to challenge Israeli impunity and promote the concept of Israeli accountability for its actions towards the Palestinian people. The Committee will continue to pay special attention to highlighting the plight of the most disadvantaged Palestinians, such as the Palestine refugees, the Palestinians living in Gaza and Palestinian political prisoners. Taking into account the urgency of resolving the situation of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities, and as a follow up to its 2010 International Meeting on that issue, the Committee will hold an international meeting at the United Nations Office in Geneva on that topic.

The Committee will continue to mobilize support for the Palestinian institution-building and all other efforts to assist the viability of the Palestinian State. It will reach out to and engage Governments, parliamentarians and civil society to mobilize support for a just solution of all permanent status issues. It will pay particular attention to the inclusion and empowerment of women and their organizations in this process.

The Committee emphasizes the useful and constructive contribution of the Division for Palestinian Rights in support of the Committee's mandate aimed at enabling the Palestinian

people to exercise their inalienable rights. It strongly recommends that the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority carried out by the Division be continued and further enhanced where possible. The Committee requests the Division to continue its substantive and secretariat support, and to pay special attention to continued development of the "Question of Palestine" portal website and use of new technologies and media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

The Committee requests the continuation of the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information, with the necessary flexibility, which has made an important contribution to informing the media and public opinion of the relevant issues.

Finally, the Committee calls upon the Security Council and the General Assembly to favourably consider Palestine's application for United Nations membership, and supports the appeal made by President Abbas before the General Assembly to the States that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so.

In closing, I would like to express the hope that the Report I just presented will be of assistance to this General Assembly in its deliberations on the Question of Palestine.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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