

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement By

The Delegation Of
The Arab Republic Of Egypt

Before

the Third Committee

on

Agenda Item 68:
“Right of Peoples to Self-determination”

New York- 28 October 2011

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Mr. Chairman;

The Charter of the United Nations has established the right of peoples to self-determination as an inalienable right that represents an essential foundation for realizing the right of peoples in choosing their political, economic and social systems, and to choose their constitutional, parliamentary, and legislative systems that are best suit to meet their needs and priorities, taking into consideration their cultures and their relations with the outside world, and enabling them to ratify international human rights conventions and treaties.

The right to self-determination is essential for the promotion and protection of human rights, and comes at the forefront of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and is re-emphasized by the Universal Declaration of the Granting of Independence to the States and peoples under foreign occupation for the year 1960, and the historic resolution of the General Assembly in 1962 granting sovereignty to peoples over their natural resources, as well as in the International Convention of the United Nations to combat employment, training and financing of mercenaries for the year 1989.

Despite the significant progress and achievements of the United Nations Organization in enabling peoples to enjoy their right of self-determination, this august organization has been continuously politicized when it comes to the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, who have been under foreign occupation for over 65 years, and their legitimate rights are being flagrantly violated on daily basis, despite the reports and resolutions adopted by the United Nations and international committees and organizations.

We reaffirm today, after more than 2 years of Israel's war on Gaza, our call for the full implementation of the recommendation in the landmark report of the Goldstone committee, which has finally exposed the flagrant human rights violation against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The international community has a moral and legal responsibility to prevent the reoccurrence of such violations. This responsibility necessitates that the perpetrators of internal humanitarian law and human rights law are held responsible for their acts without impunity. There is no doubt that ending foreign occupation in Palestine and its full membership in the united nations will contribute to ending such violations.

As we welcome the report of the special procedure on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and its recommendations, and we take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-determination," we urge him to include in next year's report specific recommendations on how to enable the Human Rights Council to perform its role in investigating and dealing with Israel's human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. Chairman;

There is no doubt that the choice of the President of the Assembly for mediation as the main theme for our discussions during the 66th session of the General Assembly, underscores the need to ensure that such mediation is fair, objective, and effective in order to realize the needed objectives and priorities necessary for the realization of the right to self-determination at international, regional and national levels, for the people under foreign occupation.

Despite all efforts exerted by the United Nations and its different organs to end decolonization and to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples since 1960, decolonization remains incomplete and more effective efforts from the international community are needed to achieve it. The existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, and International Human Rights Instruments.

Mr. Chairman;

We welcome the findings and the conclusions of the Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2011, and believe that declaring the third decade for the Eradication of Colonialism 2011-2020 should send the right message, and encourage all parties involved to speed up work with the aim of achieving tangible results, and overcome the challenges ahead of us and we need to work relentlessly in a speedy manner in order to achieve our common objectives.

The United Nations has a responsibility to ensure the full and unconditional realization of the right to self-determination, and the full enjoyment of all peoples of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including for the Palestinian people and other populations who are under foreign occupation. We call upon this organization to uphold this responsibility more seriously, through building the needed confidence between all concerned parties with the aim of reaching a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis all international terms of reference, the United Nations resolutions and the Principle of "Land for Peace", to enable the Palestinian people to establish the state of Palestine within the 1967 boards and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The right to self determination is a just right, and as one of Britain's Prime Ministers "William Gladstone" once said "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied" and the international community has denied this justice to the Palestinian people for over half a century.

Thank you.

