

NOTES FOR THE CHAIRMAN

I declare open the 289th meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The provisional agenda for the meeting has been distributed by the Secretariat. If I hear no objections, the agenda is adopted.

It is so decided.

- Amman
- Arafat

The next item on the agenda is - 30th Anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, thirty years ago, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX).

I would like to read out a Statement issued today by the Bureau of the Committee in connection with this important occasion.

[CHAIRMAN READS OUT STATEMENT]

I would now like to give the floor to speakers who have expressed their wish to address the Committee on this occasion.

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of

[SEE LIST OF SPEAKERS]

I thank the representative of for his/her valuable statement.

We have heard the last speaker on my list.

- Before we proceed to the next item on the agenda, I would like to bring to your attention that on 5 August 2005, I received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations **H. E. Mr. Fermin Toro Jiménez**, in which he informed me that Venezuela wished to join the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People as an observer.

Since the inception of the Committee, Venezuela has been supportive of the mandate, objectives and various activities of the Committee. In the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, Venezuela has always stood firmly for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In light of this, I know I will be expressing the feeling of all Committee Members and Observers in welcoming Venezuela as an observer in the Committee.

Are there any comments or observations in this regard?

...

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of ...

As there are no [other] comments or observations, may I take it that the Committee wishes to approve the request of Venezuela to join the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People as an observer.

It is so decided.

On behalf of the Committee, I most warmly congratulate the distinguished representative of Venezuela on becoming an Observer in the Committee. I think it is indeed very significant that at this extremely difficult period for the Palestinian people, Venezuela has decided to extend its political support for the Palestinian people by joining our Committee as an Observer. We look forward to a close and productive cooperation with the delegation of Venezuela in all aspects of the Committee's work.

I now invite our distinguished colleague, the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations H. E. Amb. Toro Jiménez, to take a seat among the Committee's Observers.

[AMB. JIMÉNEZ TAKES HIS SEAT AMONG OBSERVERS]

I am delighted to give the floor now to **Amb. Toro Jiménez**.

Excellency, you have the floor.

[STATEMENT BY VENEZUELA]

I thank H. E. Amb. Toro Jiménez for his important statement. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to ask him to convey to the President of Venezuela H. E. Mr. Hugo Chávez our profound appreciation for the consistent and principled position that Venezuela has taken on the question of Palestine, as well as for its decision to join the Committee as an Observer at this pivotal time for the Palestinian people and peoples of the Middle East.

We shall move to the next item on our agenda – **Consideration of the draft resolutions on the question of Palestine.**

You have before you the four draft resolutions to be submitted to the General Assembly under agenda item 37 entitled “Question of Palestine.” The texts have been discussed and approved by the Bureau, which recommends them for approval by the Committee. The drafts have been updated to reflect the recent developments on the ground and in the peace process. . . For your ease of reference, all the updated parts or new text in the four drafts appear in bold.

A number of substantive, as well as editorial and technical changes have been made in this year’s drafts. I shall draw your attention **only** to the substantive amendments in the drafts.

The first two draft resolutions deal with the work of the Committee, and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat.

There are no substantive changes in the draft on the work of the Committee and on the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat.

On the draft on the Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information, no substantive changes have been made.

Are there any comments on the drafts covering the work of the Committee, the Division and the Department of Public Information?

I give the floor to ...

If there are no [other] comments, may I take it that the Committee wishes to approve the draft resolutions on the work of the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information?

It is so decided.

The fourth draft resolution is entitled “Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine”. In this draft, some substantive, editorial and technical changes, have been made in both the preambular and operative parts. Again, I will focus on the substantive changes **only**.

Preambular paragraph 18 now reads:

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institution,

The following preambular paragraph 19 now reads as follows:

Acknowledging the important contribution to the peace process of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including in the framework of the activities of the Quartet, **on behalf of the United Nations,**

Preambular paragraph 21 reads as follows:

Expressing its concern over the tragic events **that occurred** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000, including the high number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, **the deterioration of the socio-economic and humanitarian conditions** of the Palestinian people and the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property and infrastructure,

The following preambular paragraph 22 reads as follows:

Expressing its grave concern also over the repeated military actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the reoccupation of Palestinian population centres by the Israeli occupying forces, **and emphasizing the need in this regard for the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, including the withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, to pre-September 2000 positions,**

Last year's preambular paragraph 24 has been deleted.

A new preambular paragraph 24 reads as follows:

Taking note of the importance of the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank and of the dismantlement of the settlements therein,

The following preambular 25 reads as follows:

Aware of the urgent need for revitalized and active international involvement, **including by the Quartet,** to support both parties in overcoming the current dangerous impasse in the peace process **towards the resumption and acceleration of direct negotiations between the parties for the achievement of a final peace settlement,**

Last year's preambular paragraph 27 has been deleted.

A new operative paragraph 5 reads as follows:

5. ***Takes note of the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank and of the dismantlement of the settlement within;***

A new operative paragraph 6 reads as follows:

6. ***Emphasizes* the need for the parties to speedily resolve all remaining issues in the Gaza Strip, including the border crossings, particularly the Rafah border crossing, the airport, the seaport, the removal of the rubble and the establishment of a permanent physical link between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and *welcomes* the positive role played in this regard by the Special Envoy of the Quartet, Mr. James Wolfensohn,**

Operative paragraph 7 now reads:

7. *Stresses* the need for the complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

A new operative paragraph 8 reads as follows:

8. ***Stresses also* the need for the immediate implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, including, inter alia, the withdrawal of the Israel occupying forces to pre-September 2000 positions outside of Palestinian cities and population centres, the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and the return of deportees;**

Operative paragraph 10 now reads as follows:

9. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004, **including, inter alia, the immediate cessation of the construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,** and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004;

Operative paragraph 15 now reads as follows:

15. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and Palestinian Authority during this critical period to help to alleviate the **humanitarian crisis being faced by** the Palestinian people, rebuild the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and support the restructuring and reform of Palestinian institutions;

Are there any comments regarding this draft?

I give the floor to ...

If there are no other comments, may I take it that the Committee wishes to approve the draft resolution entitled "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine"?

It is so decided.

I believe that the Committee has just approved realistic and sensible drafts, which should receive, as they have in the past, the large support of the General Assembly.

The delegations that intend to become co-sponsors of these four draft resolutions may sign the texts after this meeting is adjourned or contact the Secretariat as soon as possible.

We shall now proceed to the next item on the agenda, which is – **Accreditation of civil society organizations with the Committee**

The Committee has before it the application request of seven non-governmental organizations that express the wish to be accredited to the Committee. Copies of the applications have been included in **Working Paper No. 4**, which has been distributed by the Secretariat.

As is customary, the Bureau of the Committee, with the assistance of the Division for Palestinian Rights, has reviewed the applications and concluded that they are recognized local, national or international, non-profit organizations. They have declared their support for the United Nations Charter, the principles of international law and the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily its right to self-determination. They have also demonstrated that they had concrete programmes in support of the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

These organizations, therefore, fulfil the established criteria for accreditation with our Committee and the Bureau suggests that they be accredited. Three of the organizations, which are in the process of developing initiatives on the question of Palestine have requested observer status.

Are there any comments or observations?

...

As I see no [other] comments, may I take it that the Committee approves the application requests before it and decides to accredit these organizations?

It is so decided.

We shall now move to the last item on the agenda – **Other matters.**

Before I give the floor to the delegations wishing to speak under this item, I wish to make the following announcements on the upcoming activities:

- May I take this opportunity to remind you that the **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** will take place on Tuesday, 29 November 2005, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The invitations to attend this commemorative meeting have already been forwarded to all Member States and Observers. In view of the

importance attached to this annual event, I would like to request all Members and Observers of the Committee to be represented at this meeting, as is customary, at the ambassadorial level.

- I would also like to take this opportunity to strongly urge all Committee Members and Observers to actively participate in the **debate on agenda item 37 “Question of Palestine” at the General Assembly plenary, starting on 29 November, in the afternoon.** Kindly encourage, through your bilateral contacts and in the framework of the Groups, to which you belong, non-Committee members to do the same. Of course, the culmination of this process will be the voting on the drafts and I am sure all the Members and Observers will be there to cast the vote of support for the resolutions.
- Report of the Committee A/60/35.

Are there any other matters to be raised?

...

If there are no other matters to be discussed, I will adjourn the meeting.

The meeting is adjourned.

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