Chapter VI

Middle East

The year 2014 was marked by the breakdown in April of the peace negotiations that started in July 2013 between Palestinians and Israelis and a major escalation of violence in July 2014 in Gaza. Palestinian State-building efforts were undermined by restrictions imposed by Israel on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which prevented the normal movement of persons and goods, economic activity and sustained development and growth.

With the freezing of the peace process, the situation in Gaza remained precarious. As at 31 December, the registered Palestine refugee population in the Gaza Strip stood at 1,276,926. A third war in six years between Israel and armed militants erupted on 8 July and lasted for 51 days. An estimated 2,251 Palestinians, 72 Israelis and eleven personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) were killed. At its height, the conflict displaced over 475,000 people in Gaza and forced nearly 300,000 to take shelter in 90 UNRWA schools operating as emergency shelters. An estimated 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and approximately 118 UNRWA installations were damaged. An open-ended ceasefire was brokered by Egypt on 26 August. A United Nations board of inquiry was established to review the incidents in which death or injuries occurred at, or damage was done to, United Nations premises in Gaza, or in which the presence of weaponry was reported at those premises.

In the West Bank, the abduction and killing of three Israeli youth on 13 June and the subsequent killing of a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem on 2 July were followed by increased tension, clashes and violence. The plans for expansion of settlements also continued. On 23 July, the Human Rights Council established a fact-finding mission to investigate all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 13 June.

Ten years after the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the construction of the separation wall and its associated regime continued, fragmenting Palestinian land, obstructing movement and access, further isolating East Jerusalem and harming the socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian people. In 2014, the Israeli blockade of Gaza entered its eighth consecutive year. In September, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process brokered a trilateral agreement between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations to enable work in the Gaza Strip, involving the private sector and giving a lead role to the Palestinian Authority, while providing security assurances through United Nations monitoring that dual-use materials would not be diverted from their civilian purpose; the mechanism became fully operational in November.

On 25 November, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/23, by which it reaffirmed its commitment to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

UNRWA continued to provide education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance to the growing refugee population in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan. However, a severe funding crisis put at risk the Agency’s core services to a population, as at 31 December, of 5.1 million registered Palestine refugees. On 31 March, Filippo Grandi of Italy completed his nine-year tenure as the UNRWA Commissioner-General and, on 1 April, was succeeded by Pierre Krähenbühl of Switzerland.

The General Assembly commended the 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

During the year, Lebanon’s stability was challenged by the political process, the deteriorating security and the protracted consequences of the Syrian conflict. In May, the Security Council stressed that the implementation of its resolution 1701(2006) remained crucial to ensuring stability and full respect for Lebanon’s sovereignty and political independence. The security situation in Lebanon was significantly challenged in the second half of the year by attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front, in areas bordering Syria. On 16 January, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. On 31 December, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Tribunal for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015.

In 2014, Syrians fleeing the conflict in their country sought shelter in Lebanon, which hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees and had a higher proportion of refugees relative to its national population than any country in the world. As at November, there were 1.124 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. As the number grew, Lebanon started to put in place a series of measures to restrict the flow of refugees.
Part One: Political and security questions

On the political front in Lebanon, President Michel Sleiman’s leadership upheld the country’s disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. On 25 May, when his term ended, the presidency remained vacant, despite fourteen sessions of Parliament that had been scheduled but had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a president, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam assumed the powers.

The stability along the Blue Line and in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict in July and August. Also, in August, the Security Council extended the mandate of Unifil for one year, until 31 August 2015, with no major operational changes.

In 2014, the conflict in Syria entered its fourth year. After two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria on implementation of the 2012 Geneva communiqué stalled. In February and in July the Security Council adopted resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), respectively, regarding the humanitarian situation. On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

On 29 April, a new fact-finding mission was established by Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to investigate allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, in particular chlorine, for hostile purposes at various locations in Syria. On 30 September, the Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic ended.

Failure to resolve the conflict in Syria produced an enabling environment for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusra Front and Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups that spread outwards from Iraq and posed a threat to regional and international peace and security. On 15 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 2170(2014), expressing concern that parts of Syria were under the control of such groups and demanding their immediate disarmament and disbandment. On 23 September, the international coalition undertook air strikes against ISIL and other targets, which continued into November on an almost daily basis.

In January, the Secretary-General issued his first report on children and armed conflict in Syria, which assigned blame on both Syrian Government forces and their associated militias; Syrian Kurdish armed groups; Free Syrian Army-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahrar al-Sham; ISIL; and other independent or unidentified armed groups for committing atrocities against children.

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established to supervise the observance of the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Syrian Golan and to ensure the separation of their forces, was renewed twice in 2014, in June and December, each time for a six-month period. The heavy fighting between Syrian armed forces and armed groups in proximity of the UNDOF headquarters in Camp Faour and other positions in the central area of separation had two major consequences for the Force: the abduction of 45 of its peacekeepers, later release unharmed, and the relocation of UNDOF personnel from the Syrian to the Israeli side, which significantly reduced the Force’s ability to carry out its mandate as agreed by the parties to the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

Peace process

Diplomatic efforts

On 28 March, Israel postponed the release of a fourth and final batch of 26 “pre-Oslo” Palestinian prisoners, which had been agreed under the United States-brokered deal that led to the restart of negotiations in July 2013. On 1 April, the State of Palestine submitted accession instruments to 21 international treaties and conventions. On the same day, Israel announced 708 reissued tenders for illegal settlement construction in East Jerusalem. On 23 April, the Palestine Liberation Organization and Hamas achieved reconciliation and agreed that a national consensus government would be formed within five weeks and elections held no later than six months after the Government’s formation. The following day, the Israeli Cabinet suspended peace negotiations. On 2 June, President Mahmoud Abbas swore in the Government of national consensus headed by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Israel declared its opposition to the unity Government and announced the construction of thousands of new settler homes, while the international community welcomed the consensus Government and the United States expressed its readiness to work with it.

Despite the breakdown of the talks between Israel and Palestine, the negotiators continued to meet to find a way out of the impasse. On 14 July, Egypt put forward a proposal for a ceasefire to end hostilities between Hamas in Gaza and Israel. In October, clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli security forces in many parts of East Jerusalem and the West Bank took place on an almost daily basis. At the end of the year, the parties took constructive steps to de-escalate
the tensions surrounding the holy sites, as per the understandings reached in Amman in November in the presence of United States Secretary of State John Kerry.

On 12 October, Norway, Egypt and Palestine co-hosted the Cairo International Conference on Palestine “Reconstructing Gaza”. Representatives of more than 90 countries and organizations participated and pledged $5.4 billion dollars—half of which would be allocated to recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

The Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, at meetings held on 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], 25 February [S/PV.7118], 18 March [S/PV.7140], 29 April [S/PV.7164], 20 May [S/PV.7178], 23 June [S/PV.7204], 10 July [S/PV.7214], 18 July [S/PV.7220], 22 July [S/PV.7222], 28 July [S/PV.7225], 31 July [S/PV.7232], 18 August [S/PV.7243], 16 September [S/PV.7266], 21 October [S/PV.7281], 29 October [S/PV.7291], 17 November [S/PV.7312], 15 December [S/PV.7339] and 30 December [S/PV.7354].

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Political and security developments


Security Council consideration (January—February). On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General addressed the Council’s open debate, saying that the year 2014 would be decisive in helping Israelis and Palestinians draw back from an unsustainable status quo. Secretary of State Kerry had laid out a framework—in which Jordan had paid an essential role—on all core issues to allow for continued negotiations towards a final agreement. Israeli and Palestinian leaders would be required to make bold decisions and painful compromises for peace, and must therefore prepare their peoples for those necessary steps. The Secretary-General expressed concern about the recurrent violence on all sides, as well as about the continued settlement activity, which was illegal under international law. Gaza also remained a cause for concern. The realization of the Arab Peace Initiative [YUN 2002, p. 419] would yield benefits for all the peoples of the Middle East: for Palestinians, it would encourage the implementation of the State-building agenda, and for Israelis, it would bring security and recognition in the region and beyond. Reminding that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was starting the year with an expected end-of-year shortfall of $67 million under its regular budget, the Secretary-General encouraged all Member States to provide additional funding.

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that Mr. Kerry’s efforts to forge a framework proposal as a basis for continued negotiation was reaching a defining moment and potentially would provide a credible horizon to achieve the two-State solution.

The situation on the ground remained fragile. In the West Bank, Israeli security forces carried out a total of 424 search and arrest operations. Clashes increased in and around Palestinian refugee camps, most notably in early February. Attacks by settlers on Palestinian property continued, as did the settlement activity, including in occupied East Jerusalem. In Gaza, the ceasefire understanding of November 2012 was eroding in both ending the hostilities and in opening the crossing for people and goods. The United Nations condemned the increased rocket fire towards Israel. Due to the ongoing closure of Gaza, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate. UNRWA urgently needed an additional $30 million to sustain critical emergency operations in Gaza, without which food aid would be cut back.

Meanwhile, efforts to bridge the Palestinian divide continued. Fatah and Hamas delegations met in Gaza to discuss the implementation of existing reconciliation agreements, including the formation of a national consensus government headed by President Abbas, and the organization of general elections.

Communication. In a letter dated 22 January to the Secretary-General [A/68/718-S/2014/49], Mo-
rocco transmitted the Final Communiqué of the twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (oic), held in Marrakech on 17 and 18 January.

Security Council consideration (March–April). On 18 March [S/PV.7140], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman briefed the Council that eight months since the resumption of talks between Israelis and Palestinians, United States-led efforts were ongoing. A business conference on the importance of improving socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, jointly organized by the Quartet and the United States Secretary of State, took place in Prague on 8 and 9 March. Unemployment had reached 23.4 per cent in 2013—the highest level since 2010. In February, the Palestinian Cabinet approved a $4.2 billion budget for 2014, reflecting a 9 per cent increase from 2013. The 2014 budget presented a deficit of $1.3 billion and development needs of $333 million.

On 3 March, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics stated that construction in the settlements more than doubled in 2013 as compared to 2012. The Under-Secretary-General also expressed his concern about any movement towards the approval of settlement projects in East Jerusalem, and reiterated that settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace. Further, tensions increased with respect to the Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif.

In Gaza, the foundations of the ceasefire understanding were undermined by the dangerous escalation of violence that took place between 11 and 13 March. At the same time, the economic and humanitarian situation was also worsening, severely affecting the lives of the population.

On 29 April [S/2014/764], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General Roberterry briefed the Council that the nine-month long United States-brokered peace talks between Israel and Palestine, supported by the Quartet, had faltered and ended without any agreement to continue the talks.

On 28 March, the Israeli Cabinet postponed its decision to follow through with the release of the fourth and last tranche of 30 pre-Oslo prisoners [YUN 2012, p. 382]. On 1 April, interpreting that as a breach of a diplomatic truce in return for the release of 104 pre-Oslo prisoners, the Palestinians, by a unanimous vote of the of the Palestine Liberation Organization (plo), proceeded with submitting accession instruments to many international treaties and conventions. On the same day, Israel reissued 708 tenders for settlement units in Gilo. Israel later indicated its understanding that they were nearing a deal to extend negotiations that comprised more than the aforementioned prisoners. In Israel’s interpretation, the original understanding was valid as long as there was progress within the talks. Despite those events, the negotiators continued to meet in an effort to find a way out of the impasse.

In subsequent developments, Palestinians reached a pause in the talks allowed for both parties to consider their next steps, while the Secretary-General remained committed to working with them to end the occupation that began in 1967 and establish a Palestinian State, living side by side in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders. It was the responsibility of the two sides not to take unilateral steps that would complicate efforts to return to negotiations.

Communications. In a 3 March letter [A/68/799-S/2014/185] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Iraq, as Chair of the Group of Arab States for that month, made reference to the communiqué that was issued by the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session (Cairo, Egypt, 26 February), condemning Israel’s aggressions against the Al-Aqsa mosque.

On 6 March [A/68/791-S/2014/161], Guinea, in its capacity as Chair of oic transmitted a letter to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, the oic’s concern about the attempt by Israel’s parliament at imposing its sovereignty over the Al-Aqsa mosque.

On 26 March [A/68/818-S/2014/227], Indonesia and Japan transmitted to the Secretary-General the joint statement adopted at the second ministerial meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, issued on 1 March in Jakarta.

On 21 April [S/2014/290], Jordan transmitted a letter to the Security Council President expressing it concerns for the developments in East Jerusalem, in particular in the Al-Aqsa compound.

Security Council consideration (May–July). On 20 May [S/2014/778], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fierrez-Taranco focused his remarks to the Council on the impasse of the nine-month long US-brokered peace talks between Israel and Palestine, stressing that without a credible political horizon the Oslo paradigm was in jeopardy. He added that parties could not be rushed back to the table without proper parameters in place. The current pause in the talks allowed for both parties to consider their next steps, while the Secretary-General remained committed to working with them to end the occupation that began in 1967 and establish a Palestinian State, living side by side in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders. It was the responsibility of the two sides not to take unilateral steps that would complicate efforts to return to negotiations.
On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Mr. Feltman said that with peace negotiations suspended since the end of April and despite the restraint initially displayed by both sides, the situation on the ground had turned highly volatile with several disturbing developments. Intensive search operations in the West Bank for three Israeli students abducted near Hebron were ongoing with a corresponding increase in violence. The hunger strike by Palestinian administrative and other detainees since 24 April was in its sixty-first day. New settlement units had been announced. Further, the fragile calm in Gaza was interrupted by multiple rockets fired at Israel, and by the Israeli military response. On 2 June, President Abbas announced the formation of a government of national consensus based on the PLO commitments of recognition of Israel, non-violence and adherence to previous agreements; President Abbas also said that elections would be organized within six months. Meanwhile, on 10 June, Israel elected Knesset speaker Reuven Rivlin as the President of Israel to succeed Shimon Peres.

On 10 July [S/PV.7214], the Secretary-General briefed the Council, as the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip deteriorated. Following the firing of more than 550 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched more than 500 air strikes on Gaza, primarily targeting Hamas/Islamic Jihad facilities and private residences of their members. Eighty-eight Palestinians, many of them civilians, were reported killed and 339 injured. As at 9 July, some 150 homes had been destroyed or severely damaged, with nearly 900 people displaced.

Two days later [SC/1472], Council members issued a press statement that called for de-escalation; reinstatement of the November 2012 ceasefire [YUN 2012, p. 381]; respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians; and support for the resumption of direct negotiations.

On 18 July [S/PV.7220], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported to the Council about the intensification of violence in and around Gaza. While Israel had legitimate security concerns, the international community was concerned over Israel’s heavy response. A ceasefire was indispensable and urgent as the impact of the Gaza crisis was extending, and started to be felt within the entire region. Once calm was restored, it was imperative to immediately tackle the causes of the violence, including putting an end to weapons smuggling, the full opening of the crossings and bringing Gaza back under one legitimate Palestinian Government adhering to the PLO commitments.

On 22 July [S/PV.7222], the Secretary-General briefed the Council by teleconference from Ramallah, with forty Member States participating. He reiterated that it was essential to reach a ceasefire but also to address the deeper causes of the crisis and not merely delay it for another time. The most promising prospect of a ceasefire was an initiative put forward by Egypt on the basis of the November 2012 understanding on a ceasefire. That effort had garnered the support of President Mahmoud Abbas and had been discussed with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Hamas, however, had yet to respond positively.

To address the causes of the crisis, it was imperative to tackle, among others, the question of governance. Tens of thousands of employees hired after 2007 and working in Gaza were not being paid, while more than 60,000 employees continued to receive salaries from Ramallah without performing essential government functions in Gaza. Underscoring that it was the third time that he had to participate in an emergency mission to the region since he took office, the Secretary-General said that the parties had to seize the opportunity not only to renew a ceasefire, but also to support a durable political, security, institutional and socioeconomic progress that stabilized Gaza.

On 28 July, the Council convened [S/PV.7225] to adopt a presidential statement (see below). On 31 July [S/PV.7232], the Council met on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, a day after Israel’s shelling of an UNRWA shelter. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl briefed the Council. Under-Secretary General Amos said that more than 1,300 Palestinians had been killed—more than 80 per cent of whom were civilians, including 251 children—and 6,000 injured. Israel had faced rocket fire with 59 killed, of whom three were civilians and 56 soldiers. Up to 440,000 people in the Gaza Strip were displaced, amounting to almost 24 per cent of the population, and more than 240,000 were hosted UNRWA in schools, while others were seeking refuge wherever they could.

More than 240,000 people had sought protection in United Nations facilities and more than 103 of those facilities had come under attack; including the UNRWA school the previous day, which was hosting more than 3,300 displaced people and where 19 were killed and more than 100 injured. The United Nations had lost seven staff members, and other humanitarian workers had been killed since the outbreak of hostilities.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 7225], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2014/13 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses grave concern regarding the deterioration in the situation as a result of the crisis related to Gaza and the loss of civilian lives and casualties.

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The Council calls for full respect of international humanitarian law, including the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and their protection.

The Council expresses strong support for the call by international partners and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance, and urges all parties to accept and fully implement the humanitarian ceasefire and the Eid period and beyond. The Council commends the Secretary-General and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. John Kerry, for their efforts in this regard.

The Council also calls upon parties to engage in efforts to achieve a durable and fully respected ceasefire, based on the Egyptian Initiative. In this regard, the Council welcomes the efforts of international partners and the convening of the international meeting to support the ceasefire, in Paris on 26 July 2014, and urges all concerned regional and international parties to vigorously support efforts to consolidate an agreement between the parties.

The Council emphasizes that civilian and humanitarian facilities, including those of the United Nations, must be respected and protected, and calls upon all parties to act consistently with this principle.

The Council calls for the full implementation of its resolution 1860(2009) and stresses the need for immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, including through urgent additional contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council recognizes and commends the vital role played by the Agency, along with other United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations, in addressing the critical humanitarian needs in Gaza.

The Council urges the parties and the international community to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders, as envisioned in Council resolution 1850(2008).

Communications. On 11 July [A/68/950-S/2014/486], Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the final communiqué of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of OIC on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds al-Sharif, which was adopted in Jeddah, on 10 July.

In a 21 July [S/2014/514] communication to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General transmitted a 13 July letter by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, which requested that the territory of the State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations, with the central aim of ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people.

In a 30 July letter [A/68/961-S/2014/561] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Bolivia and Iran, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China, transmitted the communiqué of the Committee calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Security Council consideration (August–November). On 18 August [S/PV.7243] Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry briefed the Council. He cautioned that the slide towards a state of permanent conflict and hopelessness must be halted at once, and that the retnative situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, along with the Gaza crisis, served as a bleak warning of what the future might bring if the negative trend towards a one-State reality was not reversed. The two-State solution remained the only viable scenario.

In his 16 September [S/PV.7266] briefing to the Council, Mr. Serry said that the ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt on 26 August had largely held but must be solidified. Under the agreement, provisions for entry of humanitarian and relief aid and construction materials, and an expansion of the fishing zone to six nautical miles had been made.

On the humanitarian front, critical priorities included emergency shelter, energy and water, the absence of which would hinder progress in all other sectors. In that regard, on 10 September, the United Nations and the Palestinian Government had called for international donors to provide $550 million in aid to help the hundreds of thousands of Gazans affected by the conflict.

Furthermore, Gaza must be opened for reconstruction and recovery, while legitimate security concerns with regard to dual-use material must be meaningfully addressed. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had brokered a trilateral agreement between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations to enable work in the Gaza Strip, involving the private sector in Gaza and giving a lead role to the Palestinian Authority, while providing security assurances through the United Nations that those materials would not be diverted from their civilian purpose.

In a 21 October [S/PV.7281] briefing to the Council following his first visit to Gaza since the conflict in Gaza, the Secretary-General reported on his participation in the International Conference on Palestine, which had been held in Cairo on 12 October and had focused on the reconstruction of Gaza.

Approximately $414 million were immediately needed for humanitarian relief. $1.2 billion for early recovery and $2.4 billion for reconstruction efforts. More than 100,000 residents of Gaza remained
homeless, with over 50,000 still sheltering in UNRWA schools. Many still lacked access to water and blackouts of up to 18 hours per day were common. Despite the harsh reality on the ground, the first supplies of construction materials were being delivered in Gaza under the temporary mechanism brokered by the Special Coordinator.

A united Palestinian government was beginning to take shape. The consolidation of the national consensus Government was crucial, as the effective management of Gaza’s borders would facilitate the flow of construction materials into Gaza and allow the restoration of trade between Gaza and the West Bank.

The situation in the West Bank also demanded renewed attention, particularly in the light of plans to construct residential housing units in occupied East Jerusalem. Reiterating that settlement activities were illegal under international law and would jeopardize the pursuit of a two-State solution, the Secretary-General urged the Israeli Government to reverse those activities. Furthermore, he expressed his concern about unilateral actions, restrictions and provocations at the holy sites in Jerusalem, as well as about the mounting number of attacks by settlers.

On 29 October [S/PV.7291], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jens Anders Franz Toyberg-Frandzen briefed the Council at an emergency meeting held in the light of worrisome developments in Jerusalem, including growing violence and renewed settlement activities. He said that the Secretary-General was alarmed by new reports about the advancement of planning for some 1,000 Israeli settlements units in occupied East Jerusalem, in addition to the decision taken at the end of September to accelerate the construction of some 2,600 residential units also in East Jerusalem. New settlements threatened the very viability of the future State of Palestine.

The situation in East Jerusalem grew tenser after 22 October, when a Palestinian man drove his car into a train station and ran over passengers disembarking from the train, killing a three-month old baby and injuring six other people, one of whom succumbed to her injuries. The driver was shot dead by Israeli police as he tried to flee the scene. Tensions also escalated in rest of the West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian-American teenager near Ramallah, reportedly following stone- and Molotov cocktail-throwing during a demonstration.

On 17 November [S/PV.7312], ad interim Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jens Anders Franz Toyberg-Frandzen briefed the Council on the tensions surrounding access to the holy sites in Jerusalem and violence in Jerusalem and the West Bank, with clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli security forces taking place on an almost daily basis. Violence had spread also elsewhere in Israel.

He also reported on an increase in demolition of Palestinian buildings; continuing Israeli settlement ex-pansion, which undermined efforts to calm the tensions in Jerusalem; and reconstruction progress in Gaza.

On 13 November, President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu had separate meetings with King Abdullah of Jordan and United States Secretary of State Kerry in Amman. On 14 November, the age restrictions for access to the Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif, were lifted and Friday prayers reportedly went without incident.

On 19 November, the Council issued a press statement [SC/11660], condemning in the strongest term the terrorist attack in a synagogue in Jerusalem that occurred a day earlier and resulted in the killing of four worshippers and a police officer.

Communications. In a 5 August letter [A/68/965], Bolivia transmitted to the Secretary-General its statement of 22 July.

On 22 August [A/ES-10/654-S/2014/615], Bolivia transmitted, on behalf of the countries that comprised the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples’ Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP)—Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela—a joint communication on the situation in the State of Palestine condemning the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

On 14 November [A/69/584—S/2014/814], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter on behalf of the oIC Ambassadorial Group expressing concern about the breaches of international law perpetrated by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in occupied East Jerusalem.

Also on 14 November [A/69/601—S/2014/816], Morocco transmitted to the Secretary-General a press communiqué issued by the first meeting of the OIC Ministerial Contact Group that had met in Rabat on 12 November, following the Israeli incursions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Security Council consideration (December). On 12 December [SC/1169], the Security Council issued a press statement expressing sorrow at the death of Palestinian Minister Ziad Abu Ein, which occurred after a demonstration in the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya. The Council encouraged the parties to ensure that a swift and transparent investigation was undertaken; and took note of the willingness of Israel to conduct a joint investigation into the incident.

On 15 December [S/PV.7339], Mr. Serry, briefing the Council, described 2014 as a dramatic year during which efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement had stalled, a devastating 51-day war in Gaza had occurred, and violence throughout the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, had increased. Israel was heading to the polls following the collapse of the ruling coalition, less than two years into its tenure. While constructive steps had been taken by the parties to de-escalate the tensions surrounding the holy sites as per the agreement reached in Amman, the situation
on the ground remained explosive in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

In Gaza, as at 10 December, more than 17,000 individuals requiring material for shelter repairs had been cleared to purchase materials, and around 25,000 home owners were expected to have access to construction materials by the end of December.

On 30 December [S/PV.7354], the Council held a meeting to vote on draft resolution [S/2014/916] put forward by Jordan, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the end of 2017.

Communications. In a 10 December letter [A/ES-10/667-S/2014/881] to the Secretary-General and the Assembly and Council Presidents, Palestine condemned the killing of Minister Abu Ein by Israeli forces while he participated in a peaceful demonstration.

In a 16 December letter to the Council President [S/2014/901], Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as Chair of the oIC Ambassadorial Group in New York, expressed the Group’s condemnation of the killing of Minister Abu Ein.

Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

Communication. The League of Arab States annexed to a letter dated 1 September [S/2014/685] addressed to the Security Council President, the resolutions of the League’s Council adopted at its 142nd session, held in Cairo on 7 September, which included 10 resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Report of Secretary-General. In a September report [A/69/371-S/2014/650], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/15 [YUN 2013, p. 383] and covering the period from September 2013 to August 2014, the Secretary-General shared the replies received by the parties concerned to the notes verbales he had sent pursuant to that resolution, and presented his observations on the state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on international efforts to move the peace process forward.

In a May note, the Secretary-General had sought the positions of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, as well as the State of Palestine, receiving replies from Israel and Palestine. Palestine stated that the Assembly resolutions devoted to the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine usually received overwhelming support, which underscored the global approval of a solution that ensured Israel’s withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. Israel considered resolution 68/15 and similar resolutions passed annually by the Assembly one-sided and which only served to undermine the credibility of the United Nations as an impartial agent for the advancement of peace.

The Secretary-General observed that following the resumption of the peace process in July 2013 and the first formal round of talks of 14 August 2013, dialogue had intensified between Israelis and Palestinians with approximately 17 rounds of talks held by the end of the year. The negotiation efforts were, however, complicated by the repeated announcements of settlement expansion with each release of Palestinian prisoners.

On 28 March, Israel postponed its decision to release the fourth and final tranche of 30 pre-Oslo Palestinian prisoners, citing lack of progress in the peace talks. In response, on 1 April, and following the announcement on the same day of 708 reissued tenders for settlement units, President Abbas announced that the Palestinian leadership had unanimously voted to join 15 international conventions and treaties. On 24 April, Israel suspended the talks in response to the announcement a day earlier of an intra-Palestinian unity agreement for the formation of a national consensus government, stating that it would not negotiate with any Palestinian government backed by Hamas, which did not recognize Israel’s right to exist. On 2 June, President Abbas announced the formation of a Government of national consensus headed by Prime Minister Hamdallah, which would abide by the PLO commitments regarding the recognition of Israel, non-violence and adherence to previous agreements.

Following the discovery of the bodies of three Israeli students on 30 June, tensions in Gaza increased further and, starting from 8 July, escalated with the launch of the Israeli Defense Force operation Protective Edge, which aimed to destroy Hamas infrastructure and limiting rocket launches into Israel. On 17 July, the operation extended to Israeli ground incursions into Gaza, which had the objective of destroying the tunnel network.

At the peak of the crisis, there were approximately 520,000 internally displaced persons, or nearly 30 per cent of Gaza’s population. Approximately 16,700 housing units had been destroyed or severely damaged, affecting some 100,000 Palestinians. Six UNRWA schools harbouring civilians were directly hit by shelling or affected by rocket fire, with serious loss of life and injuries. On 29 July, the premises of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in Gaza were hit.

An open-ended ceasefire was brokered by Egypt on 26 August, ending the 50 days of fighting between Israel and Gaza militants. Tensions and violence, however, continued in the West Bank and East Jerusalem throughout the reporting period.

The increase in settlements was also particularly concerning, with settler violence remaining high. The Secretary-General had repeatedly stressed that settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, was illegal under international law. The demolitions and evictions that were
carried out in Area C of the West Bank—constituting over 61 per cent of the West Bank territory—were of deep concern. Palestinians required access to a fair planning and zoning regime, so as not to resort to the building of unauthorized structures that led to unjustified demolitions.

As at September, there were 450 Palestinians held under administrative detention, more than twice the number being held in May. The Secretary-General reiterated that administrative detention should be used sparingly and exceptionally and those detained either charged and brought to trial or released.

Palestinians continued to advance their State-building programme, albeit limited to the territory under the Palestinian Authority’s control, which excluded Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Despite strong international consensus that the Palestinian Authority was capable of running a State, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee was concerned primarily about fiscal sustainability and economic viability, owing to the Palestinian Authority’s fiscal difficulties during the reporting period.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/23 [draft: A/69/L.24 & Add.1] by recorded vote (148–6–8) [agenda item 36].

**Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,


Recalling the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Noting with concern that it has been 67 years since the adoption of its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947 and 47 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 68/15 of 26 November 2013,

Reaffirming the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Convincing that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

Stressing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, and reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening international peace founded upon freedom, equality, justice and respect for fundamental human rights and of developing friendly relations among nations irrespective of their political, economic and social systems or the level of their development,

Reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern about the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including on the contiguity, integrity and viability of the Territory and the efforts to advance a peaceful settlement in the Middle East,

Expressing grave concern also about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole,

Reaffirming also that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing Israeli policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern also about the consequent negative impact of such policies on the contiguity of the Territory and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which is a disastrous humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and on the efforts aimed at...
rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, while taking note of developments regarding the situation of access there, particularly the recent trilateral agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard.

Recalling the mutual recognition 21 years ago between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the need for full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515(2003), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the call in Council resolution 1850(2008) for the parties to fulfill their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations on a final peace settlement,

Stressing the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Recalling the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,

Urging renewed efforts by the international community aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Reiterating support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, for the advancement and acceleration of the peace efforts towards the fulfilment of its stated objectives,

Noting the important contribution to peace efforts 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 within the framework of the activities of the Quartet and with regard to the recent trilateral agreement regarding the Gaza Strip,

Noting also the continuing efforts of the Quartet’s Special Representative, in particular the efforts to strengthen Palestinian institutions, promote Palestinian economic development and mobilize donor support,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, and noting its recent meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2014, at which donor countries reaffirmed the necessity of continued and increased donor support in this critical period, in particular for urgently addressing the disastrous humanitarian situation and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure (2014–2016), including the National Strategic Framework for Development Policies and Interventions in Area C, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, while also expressing concern about the negative impact of the current financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government,

Recognizing also the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Welcoming the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Welcoming also the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and Jakarta in March 2014 as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including via exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

Recognizing the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, noting the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Gravely concerned over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the escalation of violence and any excessive use of force, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, the arbitrary arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians, the acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property, including religious sites, and infrastructure, the internal forced displacement of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and the consequent deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian causalities caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, and the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious
sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Expressing grave concern over the disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, in November 2012 and between December 2008 and January 2009, particularly as a result of the widespread destruction and trauma inflicted.

Recalling the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,

Stressing the need for calm and restraint by the parties, including by consolidating the ceasefire agreement of 26 August 2014, achieved under the auspices of Egypt, to halt the deterioration of the situation,

Reiterating the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full governmental responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza’s crossing points,

Expressing concern over the continued imposition of hundreds of checkpoints and obstacles to movement in and around Palestinian population centres by the Israeli occupying forces, and emphasizing in this regard the need for the implementation by both sides of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings,

Expressing grave concern about the imprisonment and detention by Israel of thousands of Palestinians, including children, under harsh conditions,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including the firing of rockets,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Welcoming the formation of the Palestinian Government of national consensus under the leadership of the President, Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles, and emphasizing the need for respect for and the preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Stressing the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, and initiatives to support the parties in building a climate for peace, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating the peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Acknowledging the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. Reaffirms the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

2. Calls for the intensification of efforts by the parties, including through negotiations, with the support of the international community, towards the conclusion of a final peace settlement;

3. Stresses the need for increased and renewed international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

4. Also stresses the need for a resumption of negotiations based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement, and in this regard encourages serious efforts by the United States of America, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, as members of the Quartet, and by the League of Arab States and all other concerned States;

5. Encourages continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace
Part One: Political and security questions

Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

6. Calls for, in this regard, the timely convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008), for the advancement and acceleration of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

7. Calls upon both parties to act responsibly on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in particular adherence to the road map, irrespective of reciprocity, in order to create the conditions necessary for the advancement of peace efforts;

8. Calls upon the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation, to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000, to take every possible step to promote conditions conducive to the success of peace negotiations and to refrain from actions that undermine trust or prejudge final status issues;

9. Calls upon the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem;

10. Underlines the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability, building trust and fostering the peace process, including the need for the further release of prisoners and an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions, and notes in this regard the recent release of prisoners;

11. Stresses the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

12. Also stresses the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

13. Reiterates its demand for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009);

14. Reiterates the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access, as well as for commercial flows and all necessary construction materials, and stresses the urgent need to promote reconstruction, including through the implementation of United Nations-led projects and civilian reconstruction activities, all of which are essential for alleviating the disastrous humanitarian situation, including the impact of the large-scale displacement of civilians in July and August 2014, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

15. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and all unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Territory, including via the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations, with a view to achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

16. Reiterates its demand for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

17. Stresses, in this regard, the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

18. Calls for the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

19. Demands, accordingly, that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its 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;

20. Reaffirms its commitment, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

21. Stresses the need for:

(a) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(b) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

22. Also stresses the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948;

23. Urges Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Government during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is disastrous in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/23:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bul-
garia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Honduras, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Vanuatu.

In resolution 6/165 of 18 December (see p. 000), the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent State of Palestine.

By decision 69/554 of 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda items on the situation in the Middle East and on the question of Palestine would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

**Israeli settlements**

The issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remained central to the question of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the peace negotiations. The Quartet road map [YUN 2003, p. 464] and the Joint Understanding [YUN 2007, p. 446] reached at the 2007 Annapolis Conference [ibid., p. 445] committed Israel to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since 2001 and to freeze, consistent with the 2001 report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee (Mitchell Report) [YUN 2001, p. 409], all settlement activity, including “natural growth”.


**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Assembly resolution 68/82 [YUN 2013, p. 387], which reiterated its demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/348], prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 15 May 2014. The report focused on both official and informal methods used by Israel to control land, which was then allocated to settlements; on how Israel had failed to maintain public order; and on how to ensure accountability for settler violence.

During the reporting period, Israel continued to expand existing settlements and approve new ones. According to an Israeli non-governmental organization (ngo), in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, tenders for 6,013 housing units in Israeli settlements were announced, and 9,712 housing units were supported. Further expansion of Israeli settlements was also encouraged through funding: approximately $172 million were reportedly transferred to Israeli settlements through budget adjustments that were not included in the State budget.

Since 2004—the year of the International Court of Justice (icj) advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [YUN 2004, p. 465]—the settler population in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, had increased from an estimated 415,000 settlers to between 500,000 and 650,000 in 2012.

Since 2013, one of the official methods used by Israel to seize land for creating and expanding settlements was by claiming land as State land. In April 2014, the body responsible for this practice—the Blue Line Task Force—endorsed the declaration of approximately 250 acres in the West Bank as State land. Previous practice indicated that once the declaration of State land was endorsed, the land was allocated to Israeli settlements. Another method was the creation and “legalization” of outposts combined with the failure to implement demolition orders of existing ones.

Supporting agricultural and archaeological projects was among the informal methods of seizing land. In addition, acts of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property took place on a regular basis. Of concern was the increase of settler violence in the Old City of Jerusalem, which rose from 3 in 2012 to 17 in 2013. Israel failed to protect Palestinians and Palestinian property from attacks by settlers, including the construction of physical obstacles impeding the access of Palestinians to their own farmlands,
intimidation and violence against Palestinian farmers, and destruction of trees and crops.

In the occupied Syrian Golan, during the reporting period, Israeli authorities continued to consolidate the presence of settlements. In January, the Government of Israel approved a five-year plan for the development of around 7,400 acres (30,000 dunams) of land near existing settlements. The plan involved the removal of mines and the improvement of water infrastructure systems to grant agricultural land for up to 750 settler families.

The report concluded that Israel played a leading role in the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and must, therefore, implement relevant United Nations resolutions and withdraw from territories occupied since 1967 and put an end to the creation and expansion of settlements. Furthermore, Israel must stop the funding and support of archaeological projects, often managed by settlers, as well as the forcible transfer of the Palestinian population, including the Bedouin communities and herders residing in the central West Bank and the eastern periphery of Jerusalem. Israel had also the obligation to provide Palestinian communities in Area C with adequate housing and access to water and services.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/454] adopted resolution 69/92 by recorded vote (159-7-12) [agenda item 51].

**Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan**

The General Assembly, Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/82 of 11 December 2013, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,


Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Affirming that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting that the International Court of Justice concluded that “the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law”,

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

Recalling the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Recalling further the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine on 1 April 2014 to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

Bearing in mind the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the credibility of the peace process and on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders,

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map, and in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Expressing grave concern in particular about Israel’s construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that
aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley.

Expressing grave concern about the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern in particular about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline in socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement.

Deeply concerned that the wall’s route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploring settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the de facto annexation of land;

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction;

Gravely concerned about the rising incidents of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands;

Taking note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Noting the special meeting of the Security Council convened on 26 September 2008, as well as the meeting of the Council of 18 February 2011,

1. Reaffirms that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. Calls upon Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49, and to comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. Reiterates its demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446(1979), 452(1979) of 20 July 1979, 465(1980), 476(1980) and 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003;

4. Stresses that a complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;

5. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

6. Reiterates its call for the prevention of all acts of violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands;

7. Calls for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stresses in this regard the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904(1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

8. Encourages all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements;

9. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, concerning the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/92:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland,
Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

Jerusalem

Report of Secretary-General. On 2 September [A/69/34], the Secretary-General reported that three Member States—Cuba, Mexico and Syria—had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement Assembly resolution 68/16 [YUN 2013, p. 389] on Jerusalem (see p. 000). The resolution stressed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/24 [draft: A/69/L.25 & Add.1] by recorded vote (144-6-10) [agenda item 35].

Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem,

Recalling also its resolution 36/120 E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 56/31 of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called “Basic Law” on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling further the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478(1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the “Basic Law” on Jerusalem,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its grave concern about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern also, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including provocations regarding the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on Palestinian access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudice a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

Expressing its grave concern further about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes, the revocation of residency rights and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, including Bedouin families, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city, including desecration of mosques and churches,

Expressing its concern about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

Reaffirming that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,

1. Retirates its determination that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. Stresses that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by people of all religions and nationalities;

3. Also stresses the need for the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, and expresses its grave concern in particular about the recent series of negative incidents in East Jerusalem;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/24:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.
Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoan, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.


Other matters

Israeli practices affecting human rights of Palestinian people

Special Committee on Israeli Practices. By an August note [A/69/355], the Secretary-General submitted the forty-sixth report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices), which was established by General Assembly resolution 2443(XXIII) [YUN 1968, p. 555] and was composed of three Member States: Sri Lanka (Chair), Malaysia and Senegal (see p. 000). The report covered the period from 27 June 2013 to 5 June 2014 and was submitted in response to Assembly resolution 68/80 [YUN 2013, p. 395], by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, especially Israeli violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The Assembly also requested the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

The Special Committee held its annual consultations with Member States concerned with the implementation of resolution 68/80 in Geneva on 26 and 27 March, and convened other meetings in Amman (1–3 June) and in Cairo (4–5 June). It was unable to hold meetings in Syria, owing to the situation in that country, but engaged with interlocutors who travelled from the occupied Syrian Golan to Amman. Due to the Government of Israel’s practice of non-cooperation, the Special Committee was unable to gain access to the occupied territories within its mandate or consult with the Israeli authorities.

According to information received from Palestinian officials, since the start of the occupation in 1967, the overall number of detainees held in Israeli prisons and detention facilities had exceeded 850,000, the majority of whom were Palestinians, including 25,000 children. As at June, 5,243 detainees were held in Israeli custody in more than 17 prisons, detention centres and military camps in the occupied West Bank and in Israel, including 198 children. In fact, the collapse of the nine-month-long peace negotiations brokered by the United States had been triggered by Israel reneging on its commitment to release, in March, the final group of 30 detainees held in Israeli custody since before the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993. As at June, 191 Palestinians, including eight Legislative Council members, continued to be held by Israel under administrative detention, without charge or trial, for an indefinite period of time.

On 23 April, approximately 100 Palestinian administrative detainees launched a hunger strike to protest the continued use by Israel of administrative detention, and to demand that a basic standard of due process be observed, namely to know what they were accused of and to be able to defend themselves. By early June, the total number of Palestinian detainees on hunger strike reached more than 290. Furthermore, during the year, the Special Committee heard testimonies indicating that the medical needs of Palestinian detainees within the Israeli prison system had been neglected, in some cases leading to deaths that might have been avoided with proper care and timely diagnosis.

Other Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were the torture of detainees held in Israeli custody, 73 of whom had died since 1967 as a result; the detention of children, 76.5 per cent of whom in 2013 had endured some form of physical violence; Israeli settlement expansion; designation of areas as closed military zones, national parks and archaeological sites; demolition of Palestinian structures and the forcible transfer of families and communities; interference with humanitarian assistance; settler violence; and the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces.

In the Gaza Strip, during its mission to the region in June, the Special Committee heard of the critical situation in relation to fuel, electricity, food, water and sanitation, and unemployment. The Israeli blockade, which entered its eighth consecutive
year [YUN 2007, p. 472] despite repeated calls by the international community to lift it, coupled with the access-restricted areas, was undermining the ability of Gaza’s population to sustain itself. The escalation of hostilities between Israel, Hamas and Palestinian armed groups that took place in July and August, prior to the ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt, had befallen the people of Gaza. Furthermore, Israel and foreign companies continued to exploit natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as reported in June by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The Special Committee reiterated its call on Israel to cooperate with it in the implementation of its mandate; end the current practice of administrative detention by either bringing to trial those administratively detained with all applicable judicial guarantees or by immediately releasing them; ensure that all Palestinian children detained by Israel had access to a lawyer; and prohibit the solitary confinement of minors. Furthermore, it recommended that Israel immediately cancel all existing demolition and eviction orders against Palestinian structures; end the blockade of Gaza; and cease the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Special Committee called upon the General Assembly to adopt measures to address Israel’s long record of non-cooperation with the United Nations, particularly regarding the implementation of Assembly and Security Council resolutions; and upon the international community to apply pressure to ensure the lifting of the blockade.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Assembly resolution 68/83 [YUN 2013, p. 392], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/347], prepared by OHCHR, on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, covering the period 1 July 2013 to 15 May 2014. The report focused on four main themes: an assessment of the impact of the wall and related measures in the light of the 2004 advisory opinion of the ICJ on the Legal Consequences of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [YUN 2004, p. 465]; Israel’s practice of administrative detention; the human rights situation in Gaza; and accountability for reported excessive use of force by security forces. It also provided an update on efforts to build Palestinian institutions.

A key component of the wall was what was known as the permit and gate regime. Since 2004, gates designated for agricultural access and the right to food of Palestinians had worsened with the extension of the wall affecting both those seeking to leave the area between the Green Line and the wall—the “seam zone”—and those seeking to access their land in the seam zone. The level of access was not enough for farmers to carry out adequate maintenance on their land and crops. Some parts of the wall had been rerouted because of Israeli court decisions, but still within the West Bank rather than along the Green Line or Israel. The expansion of the wall had also significant repercussion on the rights to health and education: it was estimated that approximately 11,000 Palestinians still had to pass through checkpoints to access education, health and other services.

Concerning the situation of Palestinians in Israeli administrative detention, on 18 May, a bill was approved by the Israeli Ministerial Committee on Legislation that allowed, under certain conditions, for detainees on hunger strike to be force-fed and given medical treatment against their will.

In Gaza, due to the blockade, residents had relied heavily on transit and trade with Egypt through the Rafah crossing, as well as through tunnels used to smuggle goods. Since July 2013, however, Egypt had severely restricted travel through Rafah—with the passage of persons in both directions dropping by 76 per cent from the first to the second half of 2013—and had destroyed most smuggling tunnels. This had resulted in shortages of affordable fuel, construction materials, medicine and other goods. During the reporting period, an excessive use of force against Palestinians had been reported both in Gaza, with the killing of six people and the injuring of 121 others, and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where 30 Palestinians had died and 2,019 had been injured in incidents involving Israeli security forces.

During the reporting period, the Israeli Military Advocate General opened investigations into at least 10 out of the 30 Palestinian fatalities in incidents involving Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. By the end of the reporting period, however, no criminal investigations had been opened into allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) during the escalation of November 2012, even though two fact-finding committees were formed to investigate specific incidents.

The Turkel Commission—established in June 2010, following the killing of nine civilians by the IDF during an interception at sea of a humanitarian flotilla sailing from Turkey to Gaza [YUN 2010, p. 439], to review the mechanisms used by Israel for investigating complaints of violations of the laws of armed conflict, was scheduled to report to the Government of Israel in September or October on the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission in its previous reports.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Governments of Israel and the State of Palestine carry out prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of unlawful killing or injury, or of torture or other cruel, inhu-
man or degrading treatment by their security forces, and that those responsible be brought to justice in fair trials. Moreover, Israel should fully lift the blockade of Gaza; ensure that the rules of engagement or open fire regulations of Israeli security forces were consistent with international law; and rescind all policies and practices that led to the forced eviction of civilians. The State of Palestine should implement the Palestinian National Development Plan, while Palestinian armed groups in Gaza must respect international humanitarian law, especially in relation to all rules on the conduct of hostilities.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur.** By an 11 August note [A/69/301 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report by Special Rapporteur Makarim Wibisono on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 [YUN 2007, p. 662]. (For information on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, see p. 000, and on the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel, see p. 000).

**UN Register of Damage.** On 9 September, in accordance with Assembly resolution ES-10/17 [YUN 2006, p. 529], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a progress report, dated 20 June, from the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [A/ES-10/658] covering the period from 15 June 2013 to 20 June 2014. During that period, the Board held three meetings in Vienna to review 3,570 claims for category A (agriculture) losses, 498 claims for category B (commercial) losses, 36 claims for category C (residential) losses and 217 claims for category E (access to services) losses. As at 20 June, the Board had decided to include most or all of the losses set out in 12,515 claim forms and to exclude 659 claim forms where none of the losses met the eligibility criteria, bringing the total number of decided claims to 13,174. There was a considerable gap between the number of claim forms collected and the ones processed by the Vienna Office of the Register of Damage, despite the diligent work of the secretariat. Further, despite donors’ support, the resources available would be soon exhausted, thus putting into question the continuation of the claim-intake activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

During the reporting period, the Board addressed and took decisions on duplicate agricultural claims; divergent markings of the Green Line; loss of access to health services; interruption of education; destruction of items at the crossing gates; and theft from property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, among others.

For its activities, the Board counted on the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage and local governors, mayors and members of village councils; and for its funding, on the contributions of 18 United Nations Member States, as well as the Fund for International Development of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Israel continued to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. Despite this, the Executive Director of the Register of Damage maintained constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities and, during the reporting period, the Office of the Register of Damage did not experience any problem with access, freedom of movement, security and delivery of needed materials or issuance of required visas by Israel.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

- **On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted resolution 69/93 by recorded vote (150-8-11) [agenda item 51].**

- **Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

  **The General Assembly,**

  **Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,**

  **Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,**

  **Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/83 of 11 December 2013 as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,**

  **Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,**

  **Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,**

  **Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Special Committee,**

  **Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,**

  **Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling in this regard its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,**

  **Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,**

  **Noting in particular the Court’s reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying
Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

Stressing also the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been imprisoned for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; the forced displacement of civilians; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites, and United Nations schools and facilities, the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and from the continuing and vastly negative repercussions of the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, in November 2012 and in July and August 2014, as well as about the firing of rockets into Israel,

Recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing also that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Expressing deep concern also about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, including through hundreds of obstacles to movement, checkpoints and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory’s contiguity, consequently violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and negatively impacting their socioeconomic situation and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, which remains that of a critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Expressing grave concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, the extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for prisoners who are ill, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits, that impair their well-being, and expressing grave concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment and all reports of torture of any Palestinian prisoners,
Expressing deep concern about the recent hunger strikes by numerous Palestinian prisoners in protest of the harsh conditions of their imprisonment and detention by the occupying Power, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Expressing concern about the possible consequences of the enactment by Israel, the occupying Power, of military orders regarding the detention, imprisonment and deportation of Palestinian civilians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard the prohibition in customary international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

Stressing the need for the prevention of all acts of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, and expressing deep concern about the violation of the human rights of Palestinians in this regard,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and in this regard recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Noting the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, and noting also the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Urging the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and to take every possible step to promote conditions conducive to the success of the resumed peace negotiations,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. Reiterates that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, the forced displacement of civilians, and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

3. Also demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. Notes the resumption of cooperation by Israel with the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and calls for full cooperation with the relevant special rapporteurs and other relevant mechanisms and inquiries of the Human Rights Council;

5. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

6. Calls for urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

7. Condemns all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among thousands of children and women, massive damage and destruction to homes, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, vital infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, religious sites and public institutions, including hospitals and schools, and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, and large-scale internal displacement of civilians;

8. Expresses grave concern at the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;

9. Reiterates its demand for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009);

10. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparations for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

11. Reiterates the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

12. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and in this regard to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 No-
ember 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue and massive reconstruction needs and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip, while noting the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard;

13. **Urges** Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

14. **Emphasizes** the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and welcomes in this regard the formation of the Palestinian national consensus government under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with the Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles;

15. **Urges** all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination;

16. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/93:**

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

**Abstaining:** Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

**Work of Special Committee**

In response to Assembly resolution 68/80 [YUN 2013, p. 395], the Secretary-General issued a July report on the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices [A/69/128]. The Committee collected testimony from 35 victims, witnesses, officials and representatives of organizations working to document and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Department of Public Information continued to cover, in multiple languages, the activities of the Special Committee through traditional and new media platforms. The Department’s Meetings Coverage Section produced press releases of the Committee’s meetings and statements in English and French. The Committee was also prominently covered on the UN News Centre portal, with news stories posted online and distributed through the portal’s e-mail service, RSS feeds, Facebook and Twitter accounts. UN Radio spotlighted issues and developments relating to the Committee’s mandate, including news stories and programmes about the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip; the activities of UNRWA and special rapporteurs; and the overall economic, social and human rights conditions of people living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted resolution 69/90 by recorded vote (88-9-79) [agenda item 51].

**Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 68/80 of 11 December 2013, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions S-12/1 of 16 October 2009 and S-21/1 of 23 July 2014,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Taking into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Oc-
ocupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling in this regard its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Gravely concerned about the continuing detrimental impact of ongoing unlawful Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in the death and injury of civilians and the widespread destruction of property and vital infrastructure, including during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as well as ongoing settlement activities and construction of the wall, the internal forced displacement of civilians, the imposition of collective punishment measures, particularly against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where continuing severe restrictions on movement amount to a blockade, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians,

Gravely concerned also about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands,

Gravely concerned in particular by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties to the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Deploring the killing and injury of thousands of civilians, including women and children, during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and thus an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

1. Commends the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. Reiterates its demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate, and deplores the continued lack of cooperation in this regard;

3. Deplores those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. Expresses grave concern about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as a complete cessation of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and military operations against the civilian population, settler violence, the destruction and confiscation of properties, the forced displacement of civilians, all measures of collective punishment, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians;

5. Requests the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. Also requests the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. Further requests the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and expresses grave concern about harsh conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners and recent hunger strikes, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 concerning conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation;

8. Requests the Secretary-General:
(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;
(b) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;
(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;
(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;
(e) To report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. **Decides to** include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/90:**

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States.

*Abstaining:* Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

**Economic and social situation**

In May, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/8 [YUN 2013, p. 397] and General Assembly resolution 68/235 [ibid., p. 400], prepared a report [A/69/81-E/2014/13] on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan. The report covered the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

During 2013, the overall economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued its negative trend. Unemployment was recorded at 38.5 in Gaza and at 18.2 in the West Bank, affecting 33.5 per cent of Palestinian women, 32.3 per cent of refugees and 39 per cent of youth. Food insecurity levels rose dramatically affecting over 1.5 million Palestinians (34 per cent of the population). Since 2000, UNRWA had spent more than $900 million in food and cash assistance benefiting the poorest refugees in Gaza, where more than 800,000 refugees depended on the Agency’s food assistance.

The poor quality and insufficient water and inadequate wastewater treatment posed a major public health problem, particularly for children in Gaza. The public health system in Gaza remained fragile, dependent on donor aid and vulnerable to the closure of borders, restrictions on the movement of people and goods, and Israeli military operations. Those conditions were exacerbated by power cuts of up to 16 hours a day owing to a shortage of fuel entering Gaza. In 2013, almost 15,000 patients had to leave Gaza to access life-saving medical care in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israel and Egypt. The volume of permit applications through the Erez crossing increased by 48 per cent in 2013 compared with 2012, reflecting more demand owing to drug shortages and reduced access via Rafah to Egypt.

During the reporting period, 40 Palestinian civilians were killed and another 3,654 injured by Israeli security forces and settlers throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The casualties included at least 5 Palestinian children killed and another 1,001 injured. A total of 4,881 Palestinians, including 183 minors, had been detained or imprisoned by Israeli security forces by January, with reported torture, ill-treatment and denial of rights. In 2013, 663 Palestinian structures, including homes, were demolished, displacing 1,103 people. Over 1 billion square metres of Palestinian land had been seized by Israel since the onset of the occupation in 1967. During 2013, Israel started construction on 2,534 housing units in settlements in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, comprising an increase of 123.7 per cent over 2012. Violence and attacks by settlers continued with impunity. In 2013, 93 attacks were recorded against Palestinians, including children, their property and holy places.
Israeli measures had a detrimental impact on the environment and natural resources and curtailed Palestinian development and livelihood through discriminatory policies, including in access to land and water allocation. Israeli settlers consumed six times more water than Palestinians in the West Bank. Ninety per cent of the water from the Gaza aquifer was not safe for drinking without prior treatment, further exacerbating the conditions of the Palestinians living there.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**


**Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan**

**The Economic and Social Council,**

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 68/235 of 20 December 2013 and 68/82 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 2013/8 of 19 July 2013,


Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Taking note, in that regard, of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,


Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law,

Convincing that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Commending the efforts of the Palestinian Government, despite the many constraints, to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water, and welcoming in that regard the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, launched on 15 August 2013, which is aimed at, inter alia, enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in that regard,
Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel’s construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and condemning in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis.

Expressing grave concern, in particular, about the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Recognizing the prolonged negative impact of the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and in November 2012 on the economic conditions, the provision of social services and the living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, including as a result of the heavy casualties among civilians, including hundreds of children and women, the internal displacement of thousands of civilians and the widespread damage to homes, vital civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools, food supply installations, economic, industrial and agricultural properties and several United Nations facilities in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dismounted by protocols and boarder closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, lack of proper medical care and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure, and commending in that regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance,
economy, social development and infrastructure, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, while also expressing concern about the negative impact of the current financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government.

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Welcoming the formation of the new Palestinian Government of national consensus under the authority of President Mahmoud Abbas, in line with the Quartet principles and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map, in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic and social conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. Calls for the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closures system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. Stresses the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. Also stresses the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. Demands that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;

5. Calls upon Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. Reiterates the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopenh…
Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice rendered on 9 July 2004 and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

14. **Calls upon** Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

15. **Emphasizes** the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and 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;

16. **Expresses appreciation** to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance, in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

17. **Reiterates** the importance of the revival and accelerated advancement of negotiations of the peace process on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), 425(1978), 1397(2002), 1515(2003), 1544(2004) and 1850(2008), the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

18. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

19. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its 2015 session the item entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan”.

**ROLL-CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2014/26:**

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

**On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/475], adopted resolution 69/241 by recorded vote (165–6–9) [agenda item 60].**

**Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources**

The General Assembly, **Recalling** its resolution 68/235 of 20 December 2013, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/26 of 16 July 2014,

**Recalling also** its resolutions 58/292 of 6 May 2004 and 59/251 of 22 December 2004,

**Reaffirming** the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,


**Recalling** its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

**Reaffirming** the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

**Recalling**, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

**Recalling also** the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

**Recalling further** its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Taking note of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

**Expressing its concern** about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

**Expressing its grave concern** about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,
including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard.

Expressing its grave concern also about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip during the military operations of July and August 2014, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the functioning of water and sanitation systems and the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stressing the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water and other vital civilian infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip.

Expressing its grave concern further about the negative impact on the environment and on reconstruction and development efforts of the thousands of items of unexploded ordnance that remain in the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict in July and August 2014.

Recalling, in this regard, the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and the 2012 report, “Gaza in 2020: A liveable place?”, by the United Nations country teams in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

Recalling the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Aware of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,


Stressing also, in this regard, the need for respect for the obligation upon Israel under the road map to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Stressing further the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;

2. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. Recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. Stresses that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

5. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. Also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to bring a halt to all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. Calls upon Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people, stresses the urgent need to advance reconstruction and development projects in this regard, including in the Gaza Strip, and calls for support for the necessary efforts in this regard, in line with the commitments made at, inter alia, the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014;
8. **Calls for the immediate and safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip and for support for the efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Service in this regard;**

9. **Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of national resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and decides to include in this provision a agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/241:**

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

**Abstaining:** Australia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Vanuatu.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted resolution 69/91 by recorded vote (163-7-9) [agenda item 51].

**Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories**

The General Assembly, Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/81 of 11 December 2013, Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, Recalling the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and also recalling General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Noting in particular the Court’s reply, including that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that Israel is in breach of several of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, held on 15 July 1999, as well as the Declaration adopted by the reconvened Conference on...
5 December 2001 and the need for the parties to follow up the implementation of the Declaration.

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention, as well as the continuing efforts of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions in this regard,

Noting the accession by Palestine on 1 April 2014 to the Convention and Additional Protocol I,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. Demands that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. Calls upon all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. Notes the ongoing consultations by Switzerland, the depositary State, regarding the requests to convene a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention;

5. Reiterates the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/91:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, German, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

Issues related to Palestine

General aspects

In 2014, the General Assembly, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) and other UN bodies addressed issues related to Palestine, and several UN programmes and agencies continued to provide assistance to the Palestinian people.

Committee on Palestinian Rights

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) was established by Assembly resolution 3376(XXX) [YUN 1975, p. 248] with the task of recommending a programme designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights. In 2014, the Committee was composed of 26 Member States and had 20 Member States as observers, in addition to the State of Palestine, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Committee report. In response to Assembly resolution 68/12 [YUN 2013, p. 403], the Committee submitted its annual report to the Assembly [A/69/35] covering the period from 7 October 2013 to 6 October 2014. During the reporting period, the activities of the Committee and its Bureau focused on bringing the attention of the international community to the 2014 International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, as proclaimed in that resolution, with the objective of mobilizing wide support for ending the Israeli occupation and realizing the two-State solution. The Committee reiterated that a permanent settlement of the question of Palestine could be reached only by ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967; by achieving the independence of the State of...
Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and by achieving a just and agreed solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees. The tragic events in Gaza, which had undergone three Israeli military assaults in six years, reinforced the view. The ceasefire should be solidified and the root causes of the crisis fully addressed, including a lifting of the illegal blockade on Gaza.

In March, the Committee organized an international meeting in Quito, Ecuador. In April, it held a round table in Geneva on legal aspects of the question of Palestine. In May, it organized an international meeting on the question of Jerusalem in Ankara, Turkey, in cooperation with the OIC and Turkey. In July, it held a seminar in Nairobi on assistance to Palestinian people. The Committee also organized a series of events within the framework of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including a joint meeting with the League of Arab States in Cairo, at which a joint declaration was adopted; a special meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the advisory opinion of the ICJ on the separation wall; and high-level briefings and film screenings at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Committee noted that the establishment of a Palestinian government of national unity under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, which the Committee strongly supported and which all UN Member States should support, provided an opportunity to stabilize Gaza. National elections should be held as planned, and Gaza crossings should be opened.

The Committee noted that the latest round of negotiations had failed, as it had happened in 2000–2001 and 2007–2008, in large part owing to the acceleration of Israel’s illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and its failure to honour the agreement to release Palestinian prisoners. The Committee observed that, in each case, the failure of negotiations was followed by an outbreak of violence. The repeated failure also reflected the limitations of the traditional format of bilateral Israeli-Palestinian final status talks facilitated by a single Member State. In that regard, the Committee suggested to propose innovative approaches and formats that could help break the deadlock.

The Committee welcomed the establishment, on 23 July, of a fact-finding mission by the Human Rights Council to investigate all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in Gaza, since 13 June. The Committee also welcomed the request by the Palestinian leadership addressed to the Secretary-General that the territory of the occupied State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations, and called upon the Secretary-General to expedite the review of that request and submit his recommendations to the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Committee further welcomed the accession by the State of Palestine, on 1 April, to 21 international conventions and treaties, and encouraged the signature of additional international instruments, which would allow it to pursue justice and accountability for Palestinian victims through the available international legal mechanisms. The Committee called upon the Assembly to establish provisions for a mechanism that would allow the United Nations to document the costs—an estimated $7 billion annually—borne by the Palestinian economy, particularly in Gaza and in Area C of the West Bank, owing to the Israeli occupation.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/20 [draft: A/69/L.21 & Add.1] by recorded vote (94-7-56) [agenda item 36].

**Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolutions 181(II) of 29 November 1947, 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 3236(XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375(XXX) and 3376(XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution 68/12 of 26 November 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004, Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,
Taking note of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report, including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof;

2. Requests the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and thereafter;

3. Also requests the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. Further requests the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, in the frame of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map;

5. Commends the efforts and activities of the Committee in commemoration of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2014, in cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations;

6. Also commends the efforts of the Working Group of the Committee in coordinating the efforts of international and regional civil society organizations regarding the question of Palestine;

7. Requests the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194(III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation that they have at their disposal;

8. Invites all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee in the performance of its tasks, recalling its repeated call for all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

9. Requests, as called for by the Committee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the facilities necessary for the performance of its tasks.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/20:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Communication. By a note verbale of 24 November [A/69/636], Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a message in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Division for Palestinian Rights

The Division for Palestinian Rights in the UN Department of Political Affairs, in cooperation with relevant technical and library services of the Secretariat, continued to administer, maintain, expand and develop the United Nations Information System
on the Question of Palestine and the “Question of Palestine” website on the UN home page. That included the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the technical components of the system and involved the expansion of the document collection to include relevant new and old United Nations and other documents. Through its Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as Twitter feeds, the Division disseminated information about the work of the Committee on Palestinian Rights, and the United Nations as a whole, on the question of Palestine; and continued to publish a periodic online bulletin on civil society initiatives. Furthermore, the Division carried out research and monitoring activities; conducted the annual training programme for government staff of the State of Palestine; and organized the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November). The Committee on Palestinian Rights, in its annual report [A/69/35], requested the Division to continue its work.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/21 [draft: A/69/L.22 & Add.1] by recorded vote (91-7-59) [agenda item 36].

**Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Taking note, in particular, of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution 68/13 of 26 November 2013,

1. Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 68/13;

2. Considers that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a most useful and constructive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee and under its guidance;

4. Requests the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, to organize international meetings and conferences in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community and to ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and international renowned experts in these meetings and conferences, to be invited on a par with the members of the Committee, to liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentary initiatives, including through the Working Group of the Committee and its associated “UN Platform for Palestine”, to develop and expand the “Question of Palestine” website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, to prepare and widely disseminate publications and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine and to develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. Also requests the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. Invites all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/21**

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.
Special information programme

As requested by Assembly resolution 68/14 [YUN 2013, p. 406], the Department of Public Information continued its special information programme on the question of Palestine during the reporting period from 7 October 2013 to 6 October 2014.

The Department organized two international media seminars on peace in the Middle East: in Istanbul, Turkey (8 and 9 October 2013) and in Tokyo, Japan (9 and 10 June 2014); it also organized the five-week annual training programme for Palestinian journalists (New York and Washington, D.C., 4 November to 6 December 2013).

The declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was prominently covered by the Department, as well as by the United Nations information centres. The Department developed an online portal dedicated to the Year in the six official languages of the Organization, while the information centres disseminated materials in official and non-official languages. During the reporting period, 132 scholars and students were briefed on the question of Palestine and the Middle East peace process, and some 138,000 visitors took the guided tour of United Nations Headquarters, which included a permanent exhibit on the question of Palestine.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/22 [draft: A/69/L.23 & Add.1] by recorded vote (147-7-9) [agenda item 36].

Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 68/14 of 26 November 2013,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 68/14;

1. Considers that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of peace efforts and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

2. Requests the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2015–2016, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the objective of peace;

(b) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual and online materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning relevant recent developments, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine displayed in the General Assembly Building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(d) To continue to disseminate information and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and peace efforts and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular through its annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;
4. Encourages the Department to formulate ways for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/22:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Czech Republic, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Assistance to Palestinians

UN activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/100 [YUN 2013, p. 408], the Secretary General submitted a report covering the period from May 2013 to April 2014 [A/69/84-E/2014/75], through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of assistance to the Palestinians. During the reporting period, the Palestinian Authority continued to implement the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013, and developed the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016. In support of those efforts, the United Nations came forth with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the State of Palestine 2014–2016, thus complementing the humanitarian programming outlined in the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which had a total budget of $390 million. UNRWA programme goals for the period 2010–2015 were reflected in the Agency’s medium-term strategy, which was estimated at $639.4 million for 2013–2014, excluding emergency relief interventions.

The 2014–2016 Framework focused on six priority areas: economic empowerment, livelihoods, decent work and food security; governance, rule of law, justice and human rights; education; health care; social protection; and urban development, natural resource management and infrastructure, which required $1.2 billion. As at April, one third of that budget had been mobilized.

The United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, to over 1 million people; water and sanitation assistance to over 1.5 million people; and health and nutrition services to nearly 2.5 million people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Despite continued closures in Gaza that hampered operations, the United Nations implemented development works worth nearly $450 million and, in 2013, through UNRWA construction projects, generated 4,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Regarding education, nine United Nations agencies continued to support the implementation of the “Education for All” package for the State of Palestine, from which 70 pilot schools had benefited. UNRWA had provided free primary education to 283,307 students enrolled in 344 elementary and preparatory schools across the West Bank and Gaza. In the context of health care, the Agency operated 42 facilities, one hospital and one non-communicable disease referral centre in Gaza and the West Bank, employing over 2,000 staff. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) supported the Ministry of Health in procuring polio vaccines, and coordinated a national immunization campaign from which 639,481 children under the age of five had benefited. UNICEF scaled up its psychosocial programmes implemented in family centres in Gaza through five psychosocial emergency teams and through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, reached approximately 150,000 children, half of them girls (of whom 37,145 were adolescents), with professional psychosocial support services.

In the field of employment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) targeted around 4,000 families across the West Bank and Gaza and focused on income-generating activities in microenterprise and small enterprise development, housing, education, health and rehabilitation. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), through 41 women’s centres, focused on job opportunities in food processing and marketing, which had directly benefited 536 women workers; and over 35,800 women had benefited from the overall services provided at the centres.
With regard to food security and agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had provided intensive training to 350 farmers on integrated pest management, global agricultural practices certification, integrated crop management and integrated plant protection. UNDP had finalized the development of an additional 240 hectares (2,400 dunums) for poor farmers in areas of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, that were in direct proximity to Israeli settlements or in the seam zones, bringing the total reclaimed land to approximately 1,200 hectares (12,000 dunums) in 2013.

In regard to human rights, UN-Women had established 49 women’s centres for survivors of gender-based violence and eight community-based women’s centres that also served as shelters. More than 300 women had benefited from psychosocial, social and legal counselling services at the first multipurpose anti-violence centre in Gaza, and a monthly average of 20 women had benefited from similar services at a women’s centre in the West Bank.

Regarding support to Palestinian institutions, the United Nations provided technical assistance to line ministries for the development of sectoral strategies that informed the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016. Technical assistance had also been provided to the Government of the State of Palestine in the area of human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had worked closely with the Government in the preparation of a guidance document on human rights to be incorporated in the Palestinian National Development Plan. That document had been adopted by the Government in January. UN-Women had supported the Ministries of Social Affairs and of Women’s Affairs supported the establishment of an observatory on women’s access to justice under the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights. The International Labour Organization (ILO) had finalized an actuarial assessment providing different scenarios for a new social security scheme, while the United Nations Office for Project Services had continued its programme of enhancing the operational capacity of the Palestinian Civil Police, the national security forces, the Presidential Guard and other security services, including the Civil Defence in their disaster risk response responsibilities.

During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had continued to ensure effective coordination among the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel. The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held one meeting in New York on 25 September 2013.

In 2013, Palestine had struggled to meet its financial obligations, since expenditures were slightly higher than expected and revenue was less than projected. Although external financing had been higher than expected, Palestine had accumulated considerable arrears during the year, particularly to the private sector and the pension system, and had increased its stock of debt to domestic banks to $1.2 billion by February 2014.

The 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process for the Occupied Palestinian Territory had requested a revised amount of $401.6 million to tackle the most urgent humanitarian needs, of which 65.9 per cent had been funded. Despite the increasing needs, the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory had requested $390 million. As at 7 April, only 17 per cent had been raised. Additional support was also urgently needed for the UNRWA core budget, which faced a shortfall of $68.2 million for 2014, and for its 2013 Emergency Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which had an estimated $163.2 million shortfall.

On 16 July, by decision 2014/236, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General’s report on assistance to the Palestinian people.

**UNCTAD assistance to Palestinians**

At its sixty-first session (Geneva, 15–26 September) [TD/B/61/10 & Corr. 1 & 2], the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board considered a secretariat report [TD/B/61/13] on assistance to the Palestinian people.

The report considered the constraints imposed on Palestinian economic development, which had continued to lose ground in 2014 due to one more year of prolonged occupation.

Overall economic growth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory dropped from an average of about 11 per cent in 2010 and 2011 to a mere 1.5 per cent in 2013—the lowest rate of growth since 2006—well below that of population growth. In Gaza, growth fell from an average of 26 per cent in 2010 and 2011 to 4.5 per cent in 2013. Real gross domestic product was 20 per cent below its level in 1994.

Only one in four households in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was classified as food secure. The Israeli occupation of Area C, which included more than 61 per cent of the area of the West Bank and was under complete Israeli control, deprived the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory of much of its natural resource base, and cost at the very least one third of its gross domestic product every year. Area C included the most fertile agricultural areas and the bulk of Palestinian land reserves for development activities, thus constituting the backbone of Palestinian economy.

To tap the economic potential of Area C, UNCTAD recommended that Israel take measures such as removing the barriers it had installed that hampered investment; grant permits for critical projects, such as the construction of wells to meet growing demand for...
Part One: Political and security questions

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities, and recalling in this regard the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza,

Expressing grave concern about the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and the need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Underlining the importance of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Recalling the International Donors’ Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010, and the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Welcoming the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and in Jakarta in March 2014, as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including through exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

Welcoming also the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in Brussels on 19 March 2013 and in New York on 25 September 2013 and 22 September 2014,

Welcoming further the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure and the adoption of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016: State-building to Sovereignty, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary by the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held on 22 September 2014,
Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people.

Recognizing, in this regard, the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Welcoming steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

Welcoming also the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations regarding access to the Gaza Strip, and calling for its full implementation and for complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for humanitarian and commercial flows and for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Stressing also the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009, including by preventing the illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and by ensuring the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of existing agreements, including the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Stressing, in this regard, the importance of the effective exercise by the Palestinian Authority of its full government responsibilities in the Gaza Strip in all fields, including through its presence at the Gaza crossing points,

Noting the active participation 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 in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,


Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Expressing grave concern about continuing violence against civilians,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and ongoing efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, including with regard to the emergency humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip;
3. Also expresses its appreciation to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;
4. Stresses the importance of the work 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 and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;
5. Urges Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;
6. Welcomes the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians of 19 March and 25 September 2013 and 22 September 2014, the outcome of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014 and the generous donor response to support the needs of the Palestinian people, and urges the rapid disbursement of donor pledges;
7. Stresses the importance of following up on the results of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, to effectively promote economic recovery and reconstruction in a timely and sustainable manner;
8. Calls upon donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority’s national budget cycle;
9. Calls upon relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;
10. Expresses its appreciation for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;
11. Calls upon the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;
12. Stresses the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission’s Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socioeconomic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;
13. Urges Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

14. Calls upon the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

15. Stresses, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

16. Also stresses the need for the full implementation by both parties of existing agreements, including the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

17. Further stresses the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

18. Urges the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

19. Stresses the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995, including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

21. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance”, the sub-item entitled “Assistance to the Palestinian people”.

On 29 December (decision 69/554), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on assistance to the Palestinian people would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance to the growing refugee population in all its five fields of operation—the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Report of Commissioner-General. The UNRWA Commissioner-General, in his annual report on the work of the agency [A/70/13], said that in 2014, violence and marginalization continued to affect Palestine refugees in all five of the Agency’s fields of operation. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was marked by the breakdown of peace negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis in April, a major escalation of violence and continued restrictions on rights and opportunities for the Territory’s 1.9 million registered Palestine refugees. As at 31 December, the registered Palestine refugee population in the Gaza Strip stood at 1,276,926. The hostilities that occurred between 8 July and 26 August caused widespread loss of life, massive internal displacement and unprecedented damage to homes and infrastructure. An estimated 2,251 Palestinians were killed (1,462 civilians), including 538 children and 306 women. Approximately 11,000 injuries were reported and were estimated to have resulted in 1,000 long-term or permanent disabilities. Eleven UNRWA personnel were among those killed. Seventy-two Israelis and one foreigner were also killed (6 civilians), including one child. At its height, the conflict displaced over 475,000 people in Gaza; and nearly 300,000 took shelter in 90 UNRWA schools operating as designated emergency shelters. An estimated 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, affecting more than 600,000 people, and some 118 UNRWA installations were damaged, including 83 schools and 10 health centres. On seven separate occasions, UNRWA schools that had been sheltering displaced persons were struck directly or in the immediate vicinity by shells or other munitions because of Israeli actions, resulting in at least 44 Palestinians being killed and at least 227 injured.

Gaza entered its eighth year of blockade imposed by Israel. The almost continuous closure of the border by Egypt also exacerbated the situation. In 2014, UNRWA priorities for Gaza were the provision of humanitarian assistance, including the provision of food to 868,000 people, and child protection. Food insecurity in Gaza was primarily caused by a lack of economic access rather than by food unavailability. Unemployment rate among refugees in Gaza reached 40.9 per cent by the year’s end.

Technology was the only sector not crippled by the blockade, and UNRWA secured donor support for the social enterprise Gaza Gateway, launched in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 411], which combined skills development with service delivery to strengthen recent graduates’ employability, and introduced new buyers to Gaza’s information and communications technology industry. Education remained also paramount for
unrwa, with almost 240,000 students in 252 schools. Ninety per cent of the schools, however, continued to run on double shift.

The 774,176 Palestine refugees registered with unrwa in the West Bank continued to endure difficult economic and social conditions. The abduction and killing of three Israeli youth in the West Bank on 13 June and the subsequent killing of a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem on 2 July, were followed by increased tension, clashes and violence. During operations by Israeli security forces in 2014, the use of deadly force in the West Bank continued to increase, with 21 Palestine refugees killed by comparison to 17 in 2013. At least 122 Palestine refugees were injured by the use of live ammunition in and around refugee camps in 2014, an increase of 139 per cent from 2013. Of special concern to unrwa were Israeli plans to transfer Bedouin communities—a majority of whom were Palestine refugees—from Area C to three towns. If implemented, there were serious concerns that it would be contrary to Israel’s obligations under international law, including the prohibition on forcible transfer.

During the year, humanitarian-funded interventions supported 13,200 poor refugee households through cash-for-work opportunities or food vouchers. The family health team model—by which care was delivered by a multidisciplinary medical team, composed of at least one doctor, one nurse and one clerk—was implemented in 35 of the 42 West Bank health clinics or focal points, while the family protection programme and gender-based violence referral system was introduced in all 19 refugee camps. Primary education was provided to 50,566 students.

The crisis in Syria increasingly affected the 528,616 Palestine refugees registered with unrwa in the country. Since the start of the conflict, 14 unrwa staff members had been killed and 30 staff had been missing. Furthermore, many Palestine refugees had been killed or seriously injured by parties to the conflict, including in incidents that affected unrwa installations. In 2014, unrwa established 10 new health points to serve displaced refugee communities throughout Syria. The Syrian authorities continued to express support for Palestine refugees and to facilitate the work of unrwa. Use of 43 government school buildings allowed unrwa to almost double enrolment rates among Palestine refugee children, from 24,000 in 2013 to 46,000 in 2014, while the deployment of innovative learning (such as self-learning, Internet modules and televised lessons) reached children who could not access classes. Despite the cooperation from the Syrian Government, the pervasive nature of the conflict seriously affected the Agency’s operations in the country. At least 46 of a total of 219 unrwa schools, clinics and other facilities had been damaged. unrwa school buildings and its Damascus Training Centre continued to serve as temporary accommodation for Syrians and Palestine refugees.

More than 80 per cent of Palestine refugees resided in Damascus and the surrounding suburbs, which continued to suffer intense armed engagements throughout 2014. After near-total closure for more than twelve months, from January unrwa was able to intermittently secure humanitarian access into Yarmouk, in the Damascus area, distributing food and health kits to the 18,000 civilians trapped inside. The Agency was granted access to the Qabr Esrit camp, also in the Damascus area, which had been under government control since 2013. Cash assistance was expanded from two rounds of $42 per person in 2013 to three rounds of $64 per person in 2014. Events in Syria continued to have significant implications for unrwa operations in Jordan and Lebanon. The Agency recorded approximately 45,000 Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon and 15,000 in Jordan.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, of whom 452,669 were registered with unrwa, continued to face acute socioeconomic deprivation and barriers to fully enjoying a broad range of human rights. On 25 May, the term of President Michel Sleiman ended and the presidency remained vacant. unrwa continued to advocate for Palestine refugees’ right to work in Lebanon, which remained highly restricted. The conflict in Syria had a serious impact on Lebanon, with sporadic eruptions of clashes involving armed groups linked to that conflict. The Palestinian leadership reiterated its disassociation from all domestic and regional conflicts. In May, however, the Lebanese authorities imposed further restrictions to the entry of Palestine refugees from Syria into Lebanon, and unrwa appealed to the Lebanese authorities to uphold the principle of non-refoulement (non-expulsion) and equal treatment of all refugees in accordance with international standards. During the year, the implementation of the family health team approach was completed in Lebanon’s 27 health centres. Through unrwa’s Education in Emergency response, 7,300 Palestine refugee students could participate in regular classes, while large-scale improvements were undertaken in Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon.

Jordan hosted 2,117,361 Palestine refugees registered with unrwa, 15,000 refugees from Syria and increasing numbers from other countries. While Jordan had remained stable in an insecure region, the influx of people presented increasing challenges to Jordan’s resources and infrastructure. The vast majority of Palestine refugees enjoyed social, economic and political rights, but a group of 150,000 Palestine refugees, who had fled Gaza in 1967, was excluded from access to government services and was subject to a range of other restrictions. The same applied to Palestinian refugees from Syria, who lived in fear of arrest and deportation, especially since January 2013,
when the Jordanian Government had announced a policy of non-admission of Palestine refugees from Syria. UNRWA appealed to Jordan to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and equal treatment of all refugees, and requested Jordan to consider temporary access for Palestine refugees fleeing Syria.

In 2014, the roll-out of the family health team approach took place only in 18 of Jordan’s 24 health centres because of inadequate funding. Despite that limitation, UNRWA succeeded in ensuring good access to health services for Palestine refugees from Syria, who were eligible to access primary services at all the 24 health centres, with 97 per cent reporting that they had no problems accessing the medical care they needed. Approximately 2,100 children from Syria enrolled in UNRWA schools in Jordan in 2014.

UNRWA continued to follow the framework set out in its medium-term strategy 2010–2015, which provided direction based on 15 strategic objectives, each of which contributed to one or more of four human development goals: a long and healthy life; acquired knowledge and skills; a decent standard of living; and human rights enjoyed to the fullest. Concerning the first goal, UNRWA delivered primary health care to Palestine refugees through its 137 health centres, providing 9.3 million outpatient medical consultations to Palestinian refugees. In regard to acquired knowledge and skills, UNRWA provided general education to approximately 494,944 Palestine refugee children in about 666 elementary and preparatory schools, and developed and finalized the implementation of a policy framework supporting children with special needs. In the context of a decent standard of living, in 2014, UNRWA delivered a social safety net comprised of food, cash and specialized services to almost 290,000 Palestine refugees; financed 34,967 loans valued at $34.38 million; and provided training in technical and vocational skills to almost 7,300 students, of whom 43.4 per cent were women. As for the full enjoyment of human rights, internally, UNRWA promoted protection in and through its programming and service delivery, and externally, it promoted greater respect for international law. During the year, to address gender-based violence, UNRWA’s frontline staff benefited from 1,197 basic, 622 in-depth and 636 specialized trainings.

On 31 March, Filippo Grandi (Italy) completed his nine-year tenure as UNRWA Commissioner-General. His successor, Pierre Krähenbühl (Switzerland), was appointed by the Secretary-General effective 1 April.

Advisory Commission. The UNRWA Advisory Commission in its comments on UNRWA’s report on its 2014 activities [A/70/13] expressed concern about the effects that violence had on the Agency’s ability to serve the needs of Palestine refugees in areas affected by conflict; the increasing demands imposed by the conflict in Syria on UNRWA in the neighbouring countries; and the lack of access by the Agency to, and information on, its staff who had been detained by the relevant authorities. The Commission called on all relevant parties to comply fully with their obligations under international law, including humanitarian law, to respect United Nations resolutions, enable UNRWA to fulfil its humanitarian obligations without unnecessary hindrance or cost, and refrain from taking any actions that jeopardized the safety, security or neutrality of UNRWA staff and installations. It also urged all relevant parties to grant access for humanitarian purposes to refugee populations.

The Commission was also concerned about the persisting funding shortfalls, in particular for the UNRWA General Fund, which undermined UNRWA’s ability to promote human development and meet refugee needs. The Commission, therefore, urged donors and partners to mobilize the resources needed to secure service delivery.

Report of Conciliation Commission. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/76 [YUN 2013, p. 412], the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine submitted, in September, its sixty-eighth report [A/69/349], covering the period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014. The Commission, which was established by Assembly resolution 194(III) [YUN 1948–49, p. 203] to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and payment of compensation, said that it had nothing to report since its previous submission.

Communication. In a 29 January letter [A/68/723–S/2014/62] addressed to the Secretary-General, the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, the State of Palestine conveyed its grave concern about the critical humanitarian situation of Palestine refugees in Syria, underscoring the dire conditions of those refugees trapped in the Al-Yarmouk camp.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted resolution 69/86 by recorded vote (163–1–10) [agenda item 50].

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 68/76 of 11 December 2013, Recalling also its resolution 302(IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, Aware of the fact that, for more than six decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,
Affirming the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

Acknowledging the essential role that the Agency has played for over 60 years since its establishment in alleviating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the Agency covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

Expressing grave concern in particular at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. Notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. Also notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), and reiterates its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2015;

3. Affirms the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. Calls upon all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including with regard to increased expenditures arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

5. Commends the Agency for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate;

6. Decides to invite Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, in accordance with the criterion set forth in General Assembly decision 60/522 of 8 December 2005, to become members of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/86:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Paraguay, South Sudan, United States, Vanuatu.

Financing

In 2014, UNRWA expended $1.3 billion. The largest expenditure amounted to $669.7 million under the unrestricted regular budget, accounting for 52.1 per cent of total expenditure. Restricted fund activities, emergency activities and projects accounted for 3.7 per cent, 18.3 per cent and 25.1 per cent, respectively. Education remained the largest programme funded from the general fund, accounting for $401 million (59.9 per cent), followed by executive and support programme at $111.1 million (16.6 per cent); health at $105.3 million (15.7 per cent); relief and social services at $38.5 million (5.8 per cent); and infrastructure at $13.6 million (2 per cent).
An addendum to the Commissioner-General’s report on UNRWA’s work in 2013 [A/69/S/Add.4] included the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNRWA for the year ended on 31 December 2013.

**Working Group.** The Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA was established by Assembly resolution 2656(XXV) [YUN 1970, p. 280] to study all aspects of the financing of the Agency. In 2013, its mandate was renewed by Assembly resolution 68/76 [YUN 2013, p. 412]. In 2014, the Working Group consisted of 9 Member States and held six meetings, on 30 June; 15 July; 20 August, and 5, 10, and 18 September [A/69/391].

The Working Group noted that, as at August, with an expected cash deficit at year’s end of $55.9 million, UNRWA would not be able to meet its financial obligations by the end of October. As at the end of December 2013, the UNRWA General Fund cash balance was $2.9 million, with a monthly cash outflow of $55 million (comprising staff and non-staff costs), which meant that UNRWA had no working capital. An injection of some $165 million in working capital would be required to create a minimum safety cushion. The cash deficiency was recurrent in nature and had worsened over the recent years, as costs had risen faster than the rate of growth in traditional donor income.

The Working Group was concerned about the inadequacy of project funding in view of the Agency’s urgent need to meet the needs of a growing refugee population.

Following the military escalation in Gaza, on 8 July, UNRWA launched an emergency flash appeal for $295.4 million to provide emergency assistance to 500,000 people. Prior to it, in March, UNRWA had launched an emergency appeal for $300 million, of which 85 per cent would cover activities in the Gaza Strip and 15 per cent activities in the West Bank. To sustain the most critical emergency operations in Gaza, UNRWA required at least $118 million, the majority of which was needed for food aid. As at 31 August, the Agency had received pledges totalling only $111.1 (37 per cent of the emergency appeal target). UNRWA had been forced to suspend the school feeding programme since September 2013, which had provided one meal per day to the nearly quarter of a million students in Gaza, and an important psychosocial programme for children.

The Working Group noted with concern the large funding gap anticipated for the UNRWA General Fund in 2014. It encouraged the Assembly to keep the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 under review to ensure the Agency’s ability to deliver. It urged Governments to contribute to UNRWA on a regular basis, raise their level of support, or continue their contributions. The Working Group also urged donor Governments to put in place increased multi-year funding to allow UNRWA to better plan its activities.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted resolution 69/88 by recorded vote (166–6–6) [agenda item 50].

**Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 212(III) of 19 November 1948, 302(IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 68/78 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013,

Taking note of the letter dated 17 June 2014 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the Agency to the Commissioner-General,

Deeply concerned about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency, caused in part by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as its rising expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the conflicts and rising instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency, recovery, reconstruction and development programmes in all fields of operation,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,

Recalling also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Gravely concerned about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the recurrent military operations, continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees, with potentially lasting, long-term negative effects, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there, particularly the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations,
Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites, and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Deploring also attacks affecting United Nations installations, including Agency schools sheltering displaced civilians, and all other breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Gravely concerned about the lasting negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, as well as in November 2012, on the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip,

Commending the extraordinary efforts by the Agency to provide shelter to more than 290,000 Palestinian civilians, the majority of them Palestine refugees, as well as emergency relief, medical, food, protection and other humanitarian assistance during the military operations of July and August 2014,


Expressing regret over the continuing restrictions that impede the Agency’s efforts to repair and rebuild thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and calling upon Israel to ensure the unimpeded import of essential construction materials into the Gaza Strip and to reduce the burdensome cost of importation of Agency supplies, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access there, including the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard,

Expressing concern about the severe classroom shortage in the Gaza Strip, which has been compounded by the destruction caused to schools in the Israeli military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the continuing use of Agency schools to shelter displaced persons, and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children,

Stressing the urgent need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the timely facilitation of construction projects and by sustaining the swift entry of construction materials needed for projects managed by the Agency, and the need for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities,

Welcoming contributions made to the Agency’s emergency appeals for the Gaza Strip following the military operations in July and August 2014, and calling urgently on the international community for continued support in accordance with the Agency’s strategic response plan,

Welcoming also the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian national consensus government in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza’s crossing points,

Noting with appreciation the progress made towards rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, commending the Government of Lebanon, donors, the Agency and other concerned parties for the continuing efforts to assist affected and displaced refugees, and emphasizing the need for additional funding to complete the reconstruction of the camp and end the displacement of its 27,000 residents without delay,

Expressing deep concern at the critical situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and at the impact of the crisis on the Agency’s ability to deliver its services, and regretting profoundly the loss of life among refugees and the killing of 14 staff members of the Agency during the crisis since 2012,

Emphasizing the need for increased assistance to Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring open borders for Palestine refugees fleeing the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement under international law, and recalling in this regard the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013,

Aware of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees, and recalling the need for the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict,

Deploring the endangerment of the safety of the Agency’s staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency during the period covered by the report of the Commissioner-General, and stressing the need to maintain the neutrality of and safeguard the inviolability of United Nations premises, installations and equipment at all times,

Deploring also the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference and the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property,

Deploring the killing and injury of Agency staff members by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since September 2000, including the 11 Agency personnel killed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Deploring also the killing and wounding of refugee children and women sheltering in the Agency schools by the Israeli occupying forces during the military operations of July and August 2014,

Deeply concerned about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency’s staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency’s staff, which under-
mine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

Aware of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,

1. Reaffirms that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Commissioner-General of the Agency, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions, instability and crises faced during the past year;
3. Expresses special commendation to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for over 60 years since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight;
4. Commends also the extraordinary efforts of the Agency, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on the ground, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food and medical aid, to refugees and affected civilians during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the important support and cooperation provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;
6. Also expresses its appreciation to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;
7. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;
8. Commends the Agency’s six-year Medium-Term Strategy, which commenced in January 2010, and the continuing efforts of the Commissioner-General to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency’s programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, and welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the medium-term strategy for 2016–2021;
9. Also commends the Agency for sustaining its reform efforts, despite difficult operational circumstances, and urges it to continue to apply maximum efficiency procedures to reduce operational and administrative costs and to maximize the use of resources;
10. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the Agency, and urges all Member States to carefully consider the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, including the continued provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations;
11. Endorses the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continuing assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency’s fields of operation;
12. Encourages the Agency to provide increased assistance, in accordance with its mandate, to affected Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, as detailed in the Syria regional crisis response plans, and calls upon donors to urgently ensure sustained support to the Agency in this regard;
13. Welcomes the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahal el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the provision of the necessary support and financial assistance until the reconstruction of the camp is complete;
14. Encourages the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue making progress in addressing the needs and rights of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations, including through the provision of necessary psycho-social and humanitarian support, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, respectively;
15. Comments, in this regard, the Agency’s initiatives that provide recreational, cultural and educational activities for children during the summer, including in the Gaza Strip, and, recognizing their positive contribution, calls for full support of such initiatives;
16. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;
17. Also calls upon Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at all times;
18. Calls for a full and transparent investigation into all of the incidents affecting the Agency’s facilities during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, with a view to ensuring accountability for all violations of international law;
19. Urges the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;
20. Calls upon Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease the levying of taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency’s operations detrimentally;
21. Reiterates its call upon Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding or delaying the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended and urgently needed civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip;
22. Requests the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

23. Notes with appreciation the positive contribution of the Agency’s microfinance and job-creation programmes, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

24. Reiterates its appeals to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the Agency and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

25. Urges serious follow-up efforts by the Agency and the donor community to meet the goals set forth in the conclusions endorsed by the special meeting of a group of supporters of the Agency, held on 26 September 2013 on the margins of the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

26. Urges all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to support the Agency’s valuable and necessary work in assisting the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation by providing or increasing their contributions to the Agency in order to address the serious financial constraints and underfunding affecting the Agency’s regular budget, noting that financial needs have been exacerbated by conflicts and instability in the recent period and the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground;

27. Calls, in this regard, for the full and timely funding by donors of the Agency’s emergency, recovery and reconstruction programmes as set out in its emergency appeals and response plans.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/88:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

Displaced persons

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/77 [YUN 2013, p. 617] the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/435] on persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities. The resolution requested the Secretary-General, after consulting with the UNRWA Commissioner-General, to report to the Assembly on the progress made in implementing that resolution.

On 19 May, the Secretary-General sought information from Member States, including Israel, on action taken or envisaged to implement the provisions of Assembly resolutions 68/76 to 68/80. UNRWA was not involved in any arrangements for the return of unregistered refugees or displaced persons.

Its information was based on requests by returning registered refugees for the transfer of their UNRWA records from Jordan, Lebanon or Syria to the areas to which they had returned. The Agency would not necessarily be aware of the return of any registered refugees who did not request the transfer of their registration records. Based on information obtained from the UNRWA Commissioner-General for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, 242 refugees registered with the Agency had returned to the West Bank and 257 to Gaza from places outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The number of displaced registered refugees known by UNRWA to have returned since June 1967 amounted to approximately 35,628. The Agency was unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants who had returned, although it had kept records of registered refugees. The records were perhaps incomplete, particularly with respect to the location of such refugees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted resolution 69/87 by recorded vote (165-7-6) [agenda item 50].

Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolutions 2252(ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B(XII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,
Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237(1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259(1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 68/77 of 11 December 2013,

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East concerning the plight of Palestinian women, and concern for the above-mentioned purposes;

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

1. Reaffirms the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. Stresses the necessity for an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calls for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 on the return of displaced persons;

3. Endorses, in the meantime, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its seventieth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/87:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

Palestinian women

In a report to the 2014 session of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2014/6], submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/17 [YUN 2013, p. 419], the Secretary-General highlighted the situation of Palestinian women between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013 and gave an overview of UN assistance in education and training; health; economic empowerment and livelihood; the rule of law and violence against women; power and decision-making; and institutional development.

The impact of the protracted crisis continued to have a devastating effect on the psychosocial well-being of women and families. The living conditions of women varied depending on sociocultural factors and the different status applied to Palestinian women and men in different areas. Food insecurity remained a significant challenge due to factors such as the continued closure of the Gaza Strip, restrictions on access in the West Bank and related high rates of poverty, increases in food prices and threats to livelihoods. In 2012, female-headed households received a monthly average of $131 in assistance compared with $78 for male-headed households. The targeted assistance was successful in lowering the percentage of overall food-insecure households, from 54 to 36 per cent for female-headed households and from 37 to 33 per cent for male-headed households.

In the labour market, women’s overall unemployment rate had almost doubled, from 17 per cent in 2002 to 32.9 per cent in 2012, while for men it had decreased from 33.5 to 20.5 per cent over the same period. In 2012, the average daily wage for women was 86.8 per cent of that for men. Most women in formal employment worked in the public sector—health and education—outside of which they had few prospects of earning a living wage. Women were being pushed progressively into unpaid and family jobs...
in the agricultural sector, domestic work and a broad range of cleaning jobs.

Women’s health, as well as critical water, sanitation and hygiene situation, remained reasons of concern. In Gaza, less than 10 per cent of available groundwater resources were suitable for drinking purposes; and in the West Bank, over 1 million people continued to access less than 60 litres per capita per day of water. With regard to school enrolment rates, parity had been reached in primary education, and girls outnumbered boys in secondary and higher education. Illiteracy rates among individuals aged 15 years or older in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had fallen in the period 1997–2012 from 13.9 per cent to 4.1 per cent. There were, however, considerable differences between the sexes: 1.8 per cent for males compared with 6.4 per cent for females. Female illiteracy rates were highest in rural areas (8.6 per cent), followed by refugee camps (6.3 per cent) and urban localities (6.1 per cent).

While women continued to participate in a range of roles in political life, they remained underrepresented in decision-making bodies. As of September 2013, women held only 3 out of a total of 24 ministerial level posts in the Palestinian Government.

The Palestinian Legislative Council was not functional during the reporting period and, therefore, there was a hold on the passing of new laws or amending existing ones, including those that were discriminatory towards women and in contradiction to human rights. Violence against women remained a serious concern. According to the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society partners, 24 women were killed in the name of so-called “honour” between January and August 2013, in a significant deterioration over 2012, when 12 women were killed over the whole year. According to UNDP and UN-Women, the number of cases was most likely underreported.

The Palestinian Authority took noteworthy steps to strengthen capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs signed memorandums of understanding with six key line ministries for the operationalization of a national strategy to combat violence against women. The Ministry also finalized a national regulation for the establishment of women’s protection centres. In June, the Palestinian Civil Police launched a strategy for family protection units that provided a framework for addressing the rights of victims of violence in accordance with international standards.

UN entities continued to implement many initiatives to promote women’s and girls’ access to education and training. The programme “Education for All” was being piloted in 47 schools, and the World Food Programme (WFP) provided date bars and milk to 88,834 children (49 per girls). UNRWA continued to provide primary and secondary education in Gaza to 222,000 students (48.6 per cent girls), and primary education to 51,695 students in the West Bank (58 per cent girls), while UNICEF implemented after-school activities reaching out at 10,000 adolescents (50 per cent girls).

With regard to health, the United Nations Population Fund, supported the implementation of the national obstetric care protocol through the training of 316 health providers; provided home visits to 2,625 pregnant women, as well as postnatal care to 1,664 women in the West Bank and Gaza; and supported the launch, in August 2013, of the Youth Peer Education Network, whose aim was to promote healthy lifestyle among youth and raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

In the context of economic empowerment and livelihood, the International Labour Organization (ILO) provided direct support to six women’s cooperatives, and UNDP trained women entrepreneurs and gave technical assistance to 28 women’s cooperatives. WFP reached 310,148 female beneficiaries through food distribution and conditional voucher programmes.

Microfinance support continued to be a source of short-term poverty alleviation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the UNRWA microfinance programme provided 35 per cent of loans to women (out of a total of 10,067) amounting to 27 per cent of the total value of loans ($13.7 million); while in Gaza, the programme provided 39 per cent of loans to women (out of a total of 1,382), also amounting to 27 per cent of the total value of loans ($1.48 million). Also in Gaza, UNRWA reached a total of 1,108 female graduates through its Young Women Leaders Programme.

United Nations entities implemented a range of initiatives to improve women’s access to justice and prevent and respond to violence against women. Priority was given to the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women 2011–2019. UN-Women supported the institutionalization of the Family Protection Units in the Palestinian Civil Police, which, in 2012, had handled 2,849 cases of family violence. UNDP supported the Gender Unit of the Civilian Police, including the development of a diploma programme on gender-responsive policing targeting mid- and high-level officers. From 2011 to June 2013, UNDP provided legal aid services to a total of 43,609 women in Gaza and the West Bank, tripling the number of women who were granted legal representation in courts and almost doubling the number provided with legal information and advice. Through the gender-based violence referral system established by UNRWA in all its field operations, 414 cases were reported (75 per cent female) in the West Bank, the majority of which received individual counselling. In Gaza, 384 survivors of gender-based violence were detected through the system.
As for institutional development, in addition to the UN-Women assistance to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Planning, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization supported the Palestinian Women’s Documentation and Research Centre in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment through capacity-building, research, advocacy and documentation activities. ILO assisted the National Committee for Women’s Employment in developing its three-year strategic plan to advocate for gender-sensitive policies, legislation and capacity-building interventions; and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen the national child protection system so that girls and young women were afforded greater protection from violence, abuse and exploitation. One of the results was that an amended child law came into force.

The Secretary-General noted that high levels of unemployment and poverty persisted, and many Palestinian women and girls still faced significant obstacles in accessing basic services, health care, justice institutions, water and sanitation, and economic opportunities. The first ever United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Palestine—developed by the UN country team during the reporting period—and the new Palestinian National Development Plan should be used to improve efficiency among all development actors, the Secretary-General said. That included new joint programmes building on gender equality and the empowerment of women initiatives funded under the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (YUN 2007, p. 877) that ended in April 2013. More determined action was needed by all actors to increase women’s participation and representation at all levels of decision-making and to support women in elected and appointed posts, possibly applying UN-Women experience in building the capacity of women leaders in different regions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 22], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2014/27], adopted resolution 2014/1 by recorded vote (12-2-15) [agenda item 16 (j)].

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,

Recalling also its resolution 2013/17 of 24 July 2013 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and escalating settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and the insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement of civilians and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from Israeli military operations, including those in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of persons and goods, as well as the humanitarian consequences on Palestinian women and girls, including in particular the large number of pregnant women in Gaza in the second trimester of pregnancy who have no access to health services in Gaza for antenatal care, and the inability of those who do not have family in the West Bank to have access to health services in the West Bank,

Recalling the resolution 2013/17 of 24 July 2013 of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, on the recommendation of the General Assembly, and resolution 67/220 of 24 November 2013 of the Economic and Social Council, on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,

Calling on the General Assembly to adopt the 2017-2021 Doha Agenda for the Advancement of Women, which seeks to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in all areas, including through effective measures to support women and girls and their full and equal participation in all spheres of life, and to consider how to further improve the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and reviewing progress made in this regard at the forthcoming Commission on the Status of Women, adopting its resolution 2017/2 by recorded vote (12-2-15),

Decides to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, OCHA, UNDP, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNOCHA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the United Nations Office for People’s Assistance, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Women, OCHA and others to ensure the provision of additional assistance to Palestinian women and girls, including in Gaza, in line with the economic and social conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and frameworks, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and the Doha Agenda for the Advancement of Women; and

Recalling the Economic and Social Council resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, including in Gaza and the West Bank, in 1997 and all subsequent resolutions, in particular resolution 2017/2...
of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip.

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration into the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. Calls upon the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programs, commends the implementation of the August 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. Urges the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. Calls upon Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. Stresses the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbors, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;

7. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2014/1:

In favour: Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation.

Against: Canada, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Property rights

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/79 [YUN 2013, p. 420], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/351] on Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues. The Russian Federation, Mexico and Israel had replied to his request for information from Member States on action taken or envisaged in relation to the implementation of Assembly resolutions 68/76 to 68/80 [YUN 2013, pp. 412–420 & 395] and also in reference to the request contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 68/79.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted resolution 69/89 by recorded vote (165–7–6) [agenda item 50).

Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues

The General Assembly, Recallings its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 68/79 of 11 December 2013, YUN 2014—1st proof—15 February 2018
2013, as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014.

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394(V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

Noting the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report, and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Expressing its appreciation for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution 194(III),

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993, to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. Reaffirms that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice; 
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;
3. Calls once again upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;
4. Calls upon all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;
5. Urges the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status peace negotiations;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/89:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

**Lebanon**

In 2014, Lebanon’s stability was challenged by its political process, the deteriorating security and the protracted consequences of the Syrian conflict. On several occasions, the Security Council appealed to all Lebanese parties to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine it, and stressed the importance to respect Lebanon’s policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis. The implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583] remained crucial to ensuring stability in the country and full respect for Lebanon’s sovereignty and political independence. Lebanon hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees—approximately 80 per cent of whom were women and children—and had a higher proportion of refugees relative to its population than any country in the world. At the beginning of the year only, refugees crossing into Lebanon had totalled over 860,000—a six-fold increase over 2013. As at November, there were 1.124 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. On 31 May, Lebanon announced that Syrian refugees who returned to Syria after 1 June would lose their refugee status in Lebanon. Problems arose also in securing birth registration for Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon.

With regard to the political situation, President Michel Sleiman’s leadership upheld the country’s disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. On 25 May, however, when his term ended, the presi-
dency remained vacant despite fourteen sessions of Parliament that had been scheduled but had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a president, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam assumed the powers of the presidency. On 30 November, the Constitutional Court upheld the legality of the decision taken on 5 November by parliamentarians to extend the Parliament’s mandate until 20 June 2017.

No progress was made towards the delineation of the Lebanese-Syrian border, as called for in Security Council resolutions 1680(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 571] and 1701(2006). The delineation of the border was in fact crucial to extend the authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout the whole Lebanese territory and to enable the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to secure borders, thus preventing the entry of arms or related materiel. Further, there was no progress on the issue of the Shab’a Farms, the disputed agricultural area where Lebanon, Syria and Israel converged. There had still been no reaction from either Israel or Syria to the provisional definition of that area contained in the Secretary-General’s report of 30 October 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 488].

The area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remained relatively stable, despite serious violations by Israel of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity. In July and August, stability along the Blue Line was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict; rockets were fired from Lebanon towards Israel, to some of which Israel responded with artillery fire. Two serious incidents in the Shab’a Farms Area (Sector East) took place on 5 and 7 October. In each instance, the quick intervention by UNIFIL and positive engagement by both Lebanon and Israel helped to contain the situation. Tripartite meetings were held throughout the year: on 29 January, 24 March, 7 May, 23 July, and 17 September, in addition to a videoconference on 25 August that focused on rocket launchings; on each side’s concerns emanating from the situation in Syria; and on role of UNIFIL along the Blue Line.

There was no change in the status of the Israeli-occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which remained a violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty.

In 2014, LAF continued to work robustly to contain threats from armed groups along the border with Syria. Significant challenges to the security situation, however, came in the form of attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front in the Bekaa Valley. By year’s end, Lebanese soldiers and security personnel continued to be held hostage near Arsal by the Nusra Front and ISIL. On 14 August, Lebanon approved a grant of $1 billion from Saudi Arabia to support the Lebanese security forces and combat terrorism. On 23 December, the Future Movement—former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri’s party, led after his death by his son Saad Hariri—and Hizbullah initiated a dialogue under Speaker Nabih Berri’s auspices aimed at lowering tensions between the Sunni and Shia communities, and agreeing on a mechanism to elect a new president.

One year after its formation, the International Support Group for Lebanon was concerned that the challenges facing Lebanon had become more severe.

On 16 January, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. In December, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Tribunal for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015.

**Political and security developments**


On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General commended President Michel Sleiman’s leadership in upholding the country’s disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. On 16 January, nine years after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the trial of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon started. Violations of Lebanon’s border with Syria continued, including an escalation of rocket firing and air strikes into Lebanon’s Bekaa region. Refugees crossing into Lebanon had totalled over 860,000—a six-fold increase over 2013. The situation in the UNIFIL area of operations remained relatively stable thanks to the cooperation of the Lebanese and Israeli authorities to contain incidents. The Security Council and the International Support Group for Lebanon [YUN 2013, p. 422] called for generous support for the humanitarian response and stabilization efforts, as well as for the LAF, to whom Saudi Arabia pledged $3 billion in assistance.

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman welcomed the formation, on 15 February, of a government of national interest, despite the continued tensions stemming from a series of terrorist attacks, as well as incidents of shelling and shooting from across the Syrian border into Lebanon.

On 20 May [S/PV.7178], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco reminded Council members that the term of President Sleiman’s presidency would expire on 25 May and
reiterated the importance of holding successful elections in Lebanon—entirely Lebanese-owned and free of foreign interference—and of avoiding a vacancy in the presidency. The security plan approved by the Government of Prime Minister Tammam Salam had improved security in Tripoli and the Bekaa Valley, despite incidents connected with the conflict in Syria and incidents in the Palestinian refugee camps.

On 29 May, the Council convened [S/PV.7190] to adopt a presidential statement (see below).

On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman informed the Council that Italy had hosted a ministerial conference in Rome on 17 June within the framework of the International Support Group for Lebanon on support to the LAF.

On 4 August [SC/1507], the Security Council in a press statement condemned the attacks by violent extremist groups against the LAF and internal security forces in the area of Arsal, at the border with Syria, beginning on 2 August, which had led to at least 14 deaths, 86 injured, and 22 missing among the Lebanese security forces, in addition to civilian casualties.

On 14 August [S/PV.7241], the Council issued an official communiqué, following a closed meeting with the UNIFIL troop- and police-contributing countries and a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet.

On 26 August [S/PV.7248], the Security Council drew attention to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 31 July, by which the Secretary-General had recommended the renewal of UNIFIL’s mandate (see p. 000).

In his 16 September [S/PV.7266] briefing to the Council, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry said that the LAF had regained control of the border town of Arsal from militants from Syria, including of the Nusra Front and ISIL, but efforts to secure the release of 27 LAF hostages continued. Between 11 July and 25 August, 10 separate incidents of rocket launchings from southern Lebanon towards Israel had taken place, and on five occasions the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had responded with fire across the Blue Line—the United Nations-brokered delineation of the Israel-Lebanon border in 2000.

In a 21 October [S/PV.7281] briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General expressed his concern about the escalation of violence that had taken place in the country since the August attacks by ISIL and the Nusra Front on Arsal, and about the fighting that took place at the beginning of the month between the Nusra Front and Hezbollah outside the town of Brital.

On 15 December [S/PV.7339], Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Serry said that the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General was in Beirut for the launch of the new Lebanon crisis response plan to address the refugee presence in the country. He also reported that, on 5 December, a member of the Lebanese security forces had been executed by his captors, while 25 other Lebanese soldiers and security personnel were still being held hostage by the Nusra Front and ISIL. Further, on 2 December, six Lebanese soldiers had been killed in an attack on an army patrol by militants near the Syrian border.


Appointment. On 25 November [S/2014/860], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Sigrid Kaag (Netherlands) as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, succeeding Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom). The Council took note of the Secretary-General’s intention on 28 November [S/2014/861].

In resolution 69/212 of 19 December (see p. 000), the General Assembly reiterated its request to Israel to assume responsibility for compensation to Lebanon and other countries affected by the oil slick on Lebanese and Syrian shores caused by Israeli military action in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1215].


The Secretary-General submitted his nineteenth and twentieth semi-annual reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506], which called for strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government, the withdrawal of all remaining foreign forces from Lebanon, and the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias.

Report of Secretary-General (April). In April [S/2014/296], the Secretary-General, in his nineteenth semi-annual report, remarked that no tangible progress on key provisions of resolution 1559(2004) had taken place since his previous report in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 423]. Lebanon continued to face serious challenges to its stability and security, both internally and along its borders with Syria, including from arms smuggling and from further influxes of refugees. Despite being the smallest and most vulnerable of the countries neighbouring Syria, Lebanon hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees and, as a consequence, was facing significant humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges. Positive developments, however, had taken place on the political front.

Lebanon witnessed many terrorist incidents during the reporting period, leading to at least 65 fatalities.
and more than 400 injuries. On 27 December 2013, a former minister, Mohamad Chatah, was assassinated in a car bombing that also killed five other people. The conflict in Syria continued to have an impact on the security and stability of Lebanon, with at least five attacks by the Syrian air force on the area around the Lebanese town of Arsal, close to the Syrian-Lebanese border. Among the positive developments during the reporting period were the opening of the trial in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on 16 January of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the formation of a 24-member government on 15 February. The new Government committed itself to, among other things, preserving the sovereignty and improving the security of Lebanon; respecting Security Council resolutions; supporting the National Dialogue, including resuming discussions concerning the national defence strategy; building the capabilities of the armed forces; and following up on decisions agreed upon in the context of the International Support Group for Lebanon.

Since the adoption of resolution 1559(2004) on 2 September 2004, the provisions that had been implemented were the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections, the withdrawal of Syrian troops and military assets from Lebanon in April 2005, and the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria in 2009. The delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, however, had still not taken place. Further, the existence and activities of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias along the border continued to pose a threat to the stability of the country and the region. The delineation and demarcation of the boundaries of Lebanon remained essential to guaranteeing national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as provided for by resolution 1559(2004), and in line with the 1989 Taif Agreement. The occupation by the UN of the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line continued, in violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and resolutions 1559(2004) and 1701(2006).

During the reporting period, no progress was made in relation to the issue of the Shab'a Farms—a disputed agricultural area where Lebanon, Syria and Israel converged. Also in violation of resolutions 1559(2004) and 1701(2006), during the reporting period, unmanned aerial vehicles and fixed-wing aircraft of the Israeli armed forces made almost daily overflights of Lebanon. Lebanon had reiterated to the United Nations its intention to extend State authority over all Lebanese territory, as called for in the Taif Agreement and in resolution 1559(2004). The armed forces and internal security forces had played a crucial role in that respect under difficult circumstances. The ability of the Lebanese State to fully exercise its authority over all its territory, however, continued to be challenged. Several incidents—mostly linked to the war in Syria—had undermined national security and exacerbated sectarian tensions in Lebanon. Concern continued about the involvement of Lebanese fighters in Syria, notably those of Hizbullah. While Hizbullah publicly acknowledged its involvement in that fighting, the Lebanese Government continued to call upon all parties to adhere to the policy of disassociation agreed upon in the Baabda Declaration [YUN 2012, p. 422] during the National Dialogue session of June 2012.

Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias within the country continued to operate outside the control of the Government, in violation of resolution 1559(2004), with the armed component of Hizbullah being the most heavily armed. On 4 December, a Hizbullah commander was assassinated in Beirut. In addition, a number of Palestinian armed groups continued to operate in the country inside and outside the refugee camps.

The Secretary-General reiterated his support to the National Dialogue as the best way to deal with the issue of arms and achieve the goal of no weapons or armed forces in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State. A National Dialogue session was held on 31 March under the leadership of the President of Lebanon, to which the main Lebanese political groups participated, with the exception of Hizbullah and the Lebanese Forces.

An encouraging step had been the discussion of the President’s 2012 vision for developing a national defence strategy. The Secretary-General urged all parties to engage in the National Dialogue and to implement the decisions relating to the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada military bases. Further, he urged the Government and armed forces of Lebanon to take all measures necessary to prohibit Hizbullah from acquiring weapons and building paramilitary capacities outside the authority of the State, and called upon countries in the region to encourage the transformation of the armed group into a solely political party.

Report of Secretary-General (October). In October, the Secretary-General submitted his twentieth semi-annual report [S/2014/720] on the implementation of resolution 1559(2004), providing an update on the subject since the April report. In response to the political situation in Lebanon, the Security Council, in a 29 May presidential statement (see p. 000), expressed disappointment and concern that the presidential elections had not been conducted within the time frame set out in the Constitution.

During the reporting period, Lebanon witnessed further challenges to its security situation, including five terrorist attacks and car bombs that left at least three people dead and tens injured. There were also at least 15 attacks by the Syrian air force on the
area around the Lebanese town of Arsal. In its press statement of 4 August, the Council condemned the attack by violent extremist groups on the LAF and internal security forces around that town. The attack had started on 2 August and by the time it ended, on 7 August, caused some 100 fatalities and numerous injuries. Further, there were at least 23 cross-border shelling incidents and rocket attacks in the north-east of Lebanon, and reports of 22 air raids by the Syrian air force on Lebanese territory, which caused at least five deaths and more than 20 injuries. The Lebanese authorities had highlighted the need to defend Lebanon from such attacks and, on 25 July, the armed forces responded by firing back at the Syrian aircraft that had violated Lebanese sovereignty.

Until his term as President of Lebanon ended on 25 May, Michel Sleiman had maintained his calls for all Lebanese parties to disassociate themselves from the war in Syria. The Secretary-General, however, expressed his concern about the failure to elect a new president since Michel Sleiman's mandate had ended, leaving the position of Head of State vacant for more than four months and increasing the country's vulnerability. On 17 June, Italy hosted a ministerial conference on international support for the LAF. No sessions of the National Dialogue had been convened since 5 May. On 26 September, the Secretary-General met the Lebanese Prime Minister and highlighted the importance of international support for the security and stability in Lebanon.

At the border between Lebanon and Syria, reports continued of arms trafficking in both directions, which caused concern among several Member States. Israeli officials stated that they would act to prevent advanced weapons systems from being transferred to Hizbullah from Syria. Senior Hizbullah representatives, for their part, stated that they had no intention of acquiring chemical weapons. Despite the difficulty in controlling the border between Lebanon and Syria, the LAF had been deployed and were seeking to tighten security along the border to the best of their ability. No tangible progress towards the disbanding and disarming of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias had been made during the reporting period. The Secretary-General reiterated the view that the National Dialogue was the best way to deal with the issue of arms and achieve the ultimate goal of no weapons or armed forces in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State.

The humanitarian conditions for Palestine refugees in Lebanon was growing dire. The influx of an additional 44,000 refugees from Syria had increased the tension between the Palestine refugees who had been residing in Lebanon and those arriving from Syria. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on donors to support UNRWA and its vital work in providing services to Palestine refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. The Secretary-General welcomed the activation of the multi-donor trust fund, established with the help of the World Bank, and encouraged Member States to fulfil their burden-sharing responsibilities by contributing generously through that and other mechanisms. The Secretary-General also called upon Israel to adhere to its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions: to withdraw its forces from the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line; and to cease its overflights of Lebanese airspace.

Implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and UNIFIL activities

Security Council resolution 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583], which was approved by both the Lebanese and the Israeli Governments, brought about a ceasefire, effective 14 August 2006, between Israel and Hizbullah after a month-long conflict that caused hundreds of civilian deaths and major infrastructure damage throughout Lebanon. By the same resolution, the Council expanded the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to undertake substantial new tasks, in addition to tasks mandated under resolutions 425(1978) [YUN 1978, p. 312] and 426(1978) [ibid.], and authorized an increase in UNIFIL strength from 2,000 to a maximum of 15,000 troops. The Secretary-General updated the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) in three periodic reports during the year.

UNIFIL was established by Council resolution 425(1978), following Israel’s invasion of Lebanon [YUN 1978, p. 296]. The Force was originally entrusted with confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting Lebanon in regaining authority in the southern part of the country. Following a second invasion in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 425], the Council, in resolution 511(1982) [ibid., p. 450], authorized the Force to carry out the additional task of providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the local population. After the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 465], UNIFIL was reinforced in order to monitor those territories previously occupied by Israel, to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to create conditions for the restoration of Lebanese authority in the area.

the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). During security and military operational issues related to the tripartite forum chaired by UNIFIL Force Command in the southern Lebanon.

The parties continued to engage constructively with their UNIFIL counterparts, ensuring full respect for the Blue Line, and promoting security and stability in southern Lebanon. The discussions between UNIFIL and the parties continued to serve as the foundation in implementing resolution 1701(2006), safeguarding the cessation of hostilities, ensuring full respect for the Blue Line, and protecting security and stability in southern Lebanon. The parties continued to engage constructively with UNIFIL both at the tripartite and bilateral levels. The tripartite forum chaired by the UNIFIL Force Commander remained the key mechanism for addressing all security and military operational issues related to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006).

During the reporting period, three tripartite meetings were held, on 4 and 16 December 2013 and 29 January 2014.

UNIFIL observed a number of brief ground violations of the Blue Line committed by Lebanese shepherds and farmers, mainly in the Shab’a Farms area (Sector East). There was no change in the status of the Israeli-occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which remained a violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. Israel was yet to respond to the UNIFIL proposal regarding security arrangements aimed at facilitating IDF withdrawal from the area, submitted to both parties on 25 June 2011. The LAF had informed UNIFIL of its approval in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 463]. Air violations, mostly by unmanned aerial vehicles, continued almost daily in violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. UNIFIL protested to the IDF, calling upon the authorities to cease them. The Israeli authorities continued to claim that the reconnaissance overflights were necessary security measures.

UNIFIL generally enjoyed full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations. During the reporting period, however, UNIFIL troops encountered five cases of unfriendly behavior by civilians, some involving aggressive conduct towards peacekeepers and, in one instance, theft of UNIFIL equipment, which the Force reported to the Lebanese authorities. Despite those incidents, UNIFIL relations with the local population remained generally positive. The Force participated in joint outreach activities with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, providing medical, dental and veterinary assistance and implementing sanitation projects.

UNIFIL also provided assistance to the LAF in establishing an area free of armed personnel, assets and weapons between the Blue Line and the Litani River, other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL. Israel alleged that Hezbollah had been building up its military presence inside populated areas in southern Lebanon and that unauthorized weapons were being transferred into Lebanon, including into the UNIFIL area of operations. UNIFIL, however, had neither been provided with, nor found, evidence of the unauthorized transfer of arms into its area of operations.

The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued to carry out its dual mandate of conducting maritime interdiction operations and training the LAF. Along the line of buoys, UNIFIL observed IDF patrol boats dropping depth charges and flares, but it had no mandate to monitor that line, which Israel had installed unilaterally and which Lebanon did not recognize. UNIFIL also continued to work with the parties to establish visible markers along the Blue Line. As at 29 January,
the Force had cleared 300 points from mines, measured 230 points, constructed 203 points and verified 182 points.

As at 27 January 2014, the total military strength of **UNIFIL** was 10,113, including 365 women, supported by 52 military observers, including two women, of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). The civilian component consisted of 935 international and national staff, including 90 and 160 women, respectively. The Maritime Task Force consisted of three frigates, four fast patrol boats and two helicopters.

The Secretary-General remained concerned by the lack of progress towards achieving a permanent ceasefire to the conflict, envisaged in resolution 1701(2006), as major obligations under the resolution remained outstanding and required action by both parties.

**Communication.** In a 24 March letter [S/2014/216] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria transmitted its comments on the Secretary-General’s February report (see above). Since Council resolution 1701(2006) was adopted as a result of Israel’s military aggression against Lebanon, Syria believed that dealing with matters such as displaced Syrians in Lebanon and the demarcation of the border between Lebanon and Syria was outside the scope of resolution 1701(2006) and pertained to the national sovereignty of both countries.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 29 May [meeting 7190], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/10** on behalf of the Council:

> The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in Lebanon.

> The Council pays tribute to the work of the outgoing President of Lebanon, Mr. Michel Sleiman, and expresses its disappointment and concern that the election of a new President of Lebanon has not taken place within the constitutional time frame. The Council urges the Parliament to uphold Lebanon’s long-standing democratic tradition and to work to ensure that presidential elections take place as soon as possible and without external interference.

> The Council reiterates its full support for the Government of Lebanon to discharge its duties during this interim period in accordance with the Constitution, until the election of the new President.

> The Council looks forward to the continued engagement of the Lebanese authorities with the international community, in particular the International Support Group for Lebanon, to mobilize support for Lebanon. The Council reiterates the need for sustained international support to Lebanon in addressing the economic, security and humanitarian challenges facing the country and in meeting Lebanon’s international obligations.

Recalling the statement by its President of 10 July 2013, the Council appeals to all Lebanese parties to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine the stability of the country, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration, and stresses the importance for all Lebanese parties to respect Lebanon’s policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis.

The Council also stresses that effective implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006) and all other relevant Council resolutions remains crucial to ensuring stability in Lebanon and full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon.

**Report of Secretary-General (June).** In June, the Secretary-General submitted his second report for the year [S/2014/438] on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006), covering the period from 28 February to 26 June. The UNIFIL area of operations remained generally calm and stable. The cessation of hostilities was interrupted on 14 March, when the IDF conducted heavy artillery shelling into Lebanon and directed tank fire at two houses in response to a roadside explosion that hit its patrol in the area of Shab’a Farms, south of the Blue Line. Immediately after the incident, UNIFIL engaged both parties urging them to defuse tensions and facilitate the restoration of the cessation of hostilities.

The security situation in Lebanon saw notable improvement following the adoption by the new Government of Lebanon of security plans for Tripoli and the Bekaa region, whose implementation began on 1 April and led to the successful interdiction of people and materiel associated with terrorist activities. Three terrorist attacks did, however, occur; on 16 and 29 March, and on 20 June, killing a total of 8 people.

The ongoing conflict in Syria led to a further influx of Syrian nationals into Lebanon: as at 11 June, there were 1,093,603 registered Syrian refugees assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—an increase of approximately 197,906 since February. Lebanon established a committee chaired by the Prime Minister to address refugee-related issues. On 31 May, the Minister of the Interior announced that Syrian refugees who returned to Syria after 1 June would lose their refugee status in Lebanon. Approximately 80 per cent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon were women and children; problems arose also in securing birth registration for Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon, owing to a weak legal framework.

On the political front, upon the expiration of the term of President Sleiman, the powers of the presidency transferred to the Council of Ministers under the leadership of Prime Minister Salam, in accordance with the Constitution. On 5 March the International Support Group for Lebanon met in Paris.

**UNIFIL** continued to carry out, along with the **LAF**, daily activities between the Blue Line and the
Litani River. In 17 cases, UNIFIL patrols encountered unfriendly or hostile behaviour from local civilians, but the relations with the local population remained largely positive.

Two tripartite meetings took place, on 24 March and on 7 May, at which the incidents occurred during the reporting period were addressed. Following discussions at the 24 March meeting about the 14 March incident, UNIFIL increased its presence along the Blue Line in the Shab’a Farms area to deter possible illicit activities. UNIFIL continued to work with the parties to erect visible markers along the Blue Line; as at 3 June, the Force had cleared 307 points from mines, measured 235 points, constructed 216 points and verified 194 points.

Hizbullah continued to acknowledge publicly that it maintained a substantial military capacity separate from that of the Lebanese State, which allegedly served as a deterrent against potential aggression from Israel. President Sleiman continued to advocate the approach to the control of Hizbullah’s arms contained in the national defence strategy proposal that he had presented under the National Dialogue in September 2012. On 31 March and 5 May, President Sleiman chaired National Dialogue sessions, at which participants considered how best to take forward the national defence strategy proposal and to abide by Lebanon’s policy of disassociation pursuant to the Baabda Declaration of 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 422]. Arms outside the control of the State continued to threaten stability in Lebanon. Despite a drop in the frequency and size of attacks on civilians, suicide bomb attacks took place on 19 February, 16 and 29 March. While a greater degree of stability appeared to have been established in Tripoli, no progress was made in delineating or demarcating the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Al-Intifada—as decided during the 2006 National Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada. The existence of such bases compromised Lebanese sovereignty and impeded the ability of the State to monitor and control effectively parts of the Lebanese-Syrian border. On 28 March, leaders of Palestinian factions in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon signed a memorandum of understanding to insulate the camps from regional and local tensions. Despite that positive step, however, several camps witnessed increased intra-Palestinian violence.

UNIFIL cleared more than 1,307 square metres of hazardous areas to provide access to Blue Line points, found and destroyed 116 anti-personnel landmines and reached seven Blue Line points. No progress was made in delineating or demarcating the Lebanese-Syrian border, including in areas where it was uncertain or disputed, as called for in Security Council resolutions 1680(2006) and 1701(2006).

As at 8 June, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 10,112, including 407 women, from 37 troop-contributing countries, supported by 52 UNTSO military observers, including two women. The civilian component consisted of 962 international and national staff, including 236 women. The Force’s Maritime Task Force consisted of two frigates, including one carrying a helicopter, a corvette with a helicopter and five fast patrol boats.

The Secretary-General urged the parties to work towards fulfilling their respective obligations under resolution 1701(2006), and to make full use of the de-confliction tools UNIFIL put at their disposal. He remained concerned about incidents impeding UNIFIL movement and aggressive behaviour towards its personnel, and called for the implementation of earlier decisions of the National Dialogue, including the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the military bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In November, the Secretary-General submitted his third report of the year [S/2014/784] on the implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006), covering the period from 27 June to 5 November. In the first part of the reporting period, he noted that the prevailing stability along the Blue Line and in the area of operations of UNIFIL was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict in July and August. During that period, rockets were fired on nine occasions from Lebanon towards Israel. On five occasions, Israel responded with artillery fire. In addition, there were two serious incidents in the Shab’a Farms area (Sector East), on 5 and 7 October. In each instance, quick intervention by UNIFIL and positive engagement by both Lebanon and Israel through UNIFIL liaison and coordination channels helped to contain the situation. In spite of those incidents, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and worked with UNIFIL to mitigate tensions and preserve the general calm along the Blue Line.

The security situation in Lebanon was significantly challenged by attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and the Nusra Front, in areas bordering Syria. On 2 August, militant groups entered Arsal, precipitating five days of deadly fighting with the LAF that ended with the withdrawal of the militants to the outskirts of the town. On 14 August, Lebanon approved a grant of $1 billion from Saudi Arabia to support the Lebanese security forces and combat terrorism. In addition, Member States stepped up assistance to the LAF following the attack on Arsal. As of early November, there were 1.1 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon—an increase of 30,000 since June.

Since the end of President Michel Sleiman’s term in office on 25 May, fourteen sessions of Parliament
scheduled to elect a new President had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a President, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam had assumed the powers of the Presidency. The Parliament’s term was due to expire on 20 November and the political parties had been engaged in discussions about a further extension of the Parliament’s mandate if the parliamentary elections due to be held by 16 November did not take place. A ministerial meeting of the International Support Group for Lebanon took place in New York on 26 September in New York. Participants were concerned that on the first anniversary of the Group’s formation the challenges facing Lebanon had become more severe over the past year. The Group reconvened on 28 October in Berlin.

In the UNIFIL area of operations, there were nine incidents of rockets launched from Lebanon towards Israel between July and August, to some of which IDF responded by firing artillery shells into Lebanon. UNIFIL maintained close contact with both sides, investigated all the incidents, and shared its findings and recommendations with both parties. Violations of Lebanese airspace by the IDF continued, with almost daily overflights by unmanned aerial vehicles. Since June, UNIFIL had also observed a significant increase in the number of Blue Line violations mainly by the IDF, which the Secretary-General considered unacceptable. During the reporting period, there were also serious incidents involving IDF and LAF personnel aiming their weapons at peacekeepers. UNIFIL strongly protested each incident to the concerned party. In general, however, UNIFIL generally enjoyed full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations.

UNIFIL and the LAF continued to carry out their coordinated activities. During the reporting period, two regular tripartite meetings were held, on 23 July and 17 September, in addition to a videoconference on 25 August. The tripartite discussions largely focused on the rocket launchings and on each side’s concerns about the situation in Syria. At the centre of those discussions was the role of UNIFIL in maintaining stability in its area of operations and along the Blue Line.

UNIFIL made progress with the parties in establishing markers along the Blue Line. As at 14 October, the Force had cleared access lanes to 311 points from mines and unexploded ordnance, measured 238 points, constructed 225 points and verified 203 points.

As at 21 October, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 10,519 from 38 troop-contributing countries, including 410 women, supported by 55 UNTSO military observers, including one woman. The civilian component consisted of 1,159 personnel, including 238 women. With a view to streamlining the Maritime Task Force requirements while maintaining its operational capability, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations recommended reconfiguring the Maritime Task Force in phases by gradually substituting frigates with corvettes.

The Secretary-General urged the parties to take more tangible steps towards full compliance with resolution 1701(2006), as the deployment of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon could not substitute for a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution. At the same time, the parties must maintain their commitment to the cessation of hostilities; fully respect the Blue Line in its entirety; continue working with UNIFIL on confidence-building measures, including visibly marking the Blue Line; and further strengthen the liaison and coordination arrangements. There were also other actions that each party had to undertake separately. For Israel, they included the withdrawal of the IDF from northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which was long overdue, and the full cessation of violations of Lebanese airspace, which exacerbated tensions in the UNIFIL area of operations. For Lebanon, it was important to make further progress towards exercising effective authority over the entire Lebanese territory, preventing the use of its territory for hostile activities and ensuring the implementation of Government decisions and of resolution 1701(2006) with respect to an area free of armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government and of UNIFIL.

Four years into the Syrian conflict, the impact of that crisis on Lebanon had never been as severe. The Secretary-General called upon the Government of Syria and all parties fighting in that country to cease violations of the border and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. He also condemned the participation of Lebanese parties and citizens in the conflict in Syria in breach of the policy of disassociation adopted by the Government of Lebanon and of the principles of the 2012 Baabda Declaration.

The Secretary-General appealed to the international community to fully acknowledge the unique burden Lebanon bore in hosting the largest number of refugees from Syria, and to recognize the need for sustained international efforts to assist them and share the burden. Further, he welcomed Palestinian efforts to work with the Lebanese authorities to maintain order in the Palestinian refugee camps, and reiterated how crucial it was to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Recognizing that for both Lebanon and Israel the exploration and development of their offshore oil and gas reserves was a national priority, he encouraged both Governments to address the delimitation of their respective maritime exclusive zones.

UNIFIL

Appointment. On 12 June [S/2014/411], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Luciano
Portolano (Italy) as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL to succeed Major General Paolo Serra (Italy), who would complete his assignment on 24 July. The Council took note of the Secretary-General’s intention on 16 June [S/2014/412].

**Extension of UNIFIL mandate.** On 31 July [S/2014/554], the Secretary-General requested the Council to consider the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL, which was due to expire on 31 August, for one year. On 26 August, by resolution 2172(2014) (see below), the Council extended the mandate for one year, until 31 August 2015, with no major changes in deployment.

As at 23 July, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIFIL amounted to $19.2 million and amounts owed to UNIFIL troop-contributors totalled $24.1 million. Reimbursements of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs had been made for the periods up to 30 April and 31 March, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 26 August [meeting 7248], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2172(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/614] was submitted by France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,


Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for a new period of one year, without amendment, presented in the letter dated 25 July 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon to the Secretary-General, and welcoming the letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council recommending this extension,

Rerating its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701(2006) and aware of its responsibilities to help to secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in the resolution,

Calling upon all parties concerned to strengthen their efforts to fully implement all provisions of resolution 1701(2006) without delay,

Expressing deep concern at all violations in connection with resolution 1701(2006), and looking forward to the rapid finalization of the investigations by the Force with a view to preventing such violations in the future,

Welcoming the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in de-escalating tensions, and expressing its support for the efforts of the Force to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements,

Emphasizing the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by resolution 1701(2006),

Recalling the utmost importance that all parties concerned respect the Blue Line in its entirety, welcoming the continued progress in the marking of the Blue Line, and encouraging the parties to accelerate their efforts in coordination with the Force to visibly mark the Blue Line in its entirety, as well as to move forward on the marking of its points of contention, as recommended by the Strategic Review of the Force,

Condemning in the strongest terms all attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon, reaffirming its determination to ensure that no such acts of intimidation will prevent the Force from implementing its mandate in accordance with resolution 1701(2006), and recalling the necessity for all parties to ensure that Force personnel are secure and their freedom of movement is fully respected and unimpeded,

Recalling the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Commending the active role and dedication of the personnel of the Force, expressing its strong appreciation to Member States that contribute to the Force, and underlining the necessity that the Force have at its disposal all necessary means and equipment to carry out its mandate,

Recalling the request of the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory, and reaffirming the authority of the Force to take all necessary action, in areas of operations of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind and to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its mandate,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the Force, under close review, and stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Expressing its full support for the strategic priorities and recommendations identified by the Secretary-General in his letter dated 12 March 2012 to the President of the Security Council as a result of the strategic review of the Force, and requesting the Secretary-General to continue to update the Council on the implementation of the strategic review,

Calling upon Member States to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces as needed to enable them to perform their duties in line with resolution 1701(2006),

Determining that the situation in Lebanon continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon until 31 August 2015;
2. *Commends* the positive role of the Force, whose deployment together with the Lebanese Armed Forces has helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon, welcomes the expansion of coordinated activities between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, and calls for further enhancement of this cooperation;
3. Welcomes, in this regard, the engagement of the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the strategic dialogue, which aims at carrying out analysis of ground forces and maritime assets and setting a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of the Force vis-à-vis those of the Lebanese Armed Forces, with a view to identifying Lebanese Armed Forces requirements for implementing tasks mandated in resolution 1701(2006), and in this regard is encouraged by the progress made in the formalization of a regular strategic dialogue mechanism between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Force;

4. Commends, in this context, the Lebanese Armed Forces for their efforts regarding their wider capabilities development plan, of which the strategic dialogue plan forms a separate but integral component, consistent with the relevant recommendations of the strategic review of the Force, encourages Member States to support the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular through the established coordination tools of international assistance to build up Lebanese Armed Forces capabilities, including through training, as these forces are a central pillar of the country’s stability; and recognizes in this regard the importance of the International Support Group for Lebanon and the related meetings held in Paris and Rome, as well as substantial contributions already made by some donors;

5. Strongly calls upon all parties concerned to respect the cessation of hostilities; to prevent any violation of the Blue Line and to respect it in its entirety and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Force;

6. Welcomes, in this regard, the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in facilitating coordination and in de-escalating tensions, and expresses support for the efforts of the Force to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements;

7. Urges all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of the Force and other United Nations personnel and to ensure that the freedom of movement of the Force is fully respected and unimpeded, in conformity with its mandate and its rules of engagement, including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel, and in this regard calls for further cooperation between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular regarding coordinated and adjacent patrols, welcomes the commitment of the Lebanese authorities to protect the movements of the Force, and reiterates its call for the rapid finalization of the investigation launched by Lebanon regarding the attacks of 27 May, 26 July and 9 December 2011 in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of those attacks;

8. Also urges all parties to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make tangible progress towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in resolution 1701(2006), and emphasizes that more work remains to be done by the parties to advance the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006);

9. Urges the Government of Israel to expedite the withdrawal of its army from northern Ghajar without further delay in coordination with the Force, which has actively engaged Israel and Lebanon to facilitate such a withdrawal;

10. Reaffirms its call upon all States to fully support and respect the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and the Force;

11. Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) every four months or at any time as he deems appropriate;


14. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Financing

The General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General’s performance report on the UNIFIL budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/618]. Expenditures amounted to $545.3 million, representing an almost full utilization of resources, leaving an unencumbered balance of $7,500.

In February [A/68/757], the Secretary-General submitted the UNIFIL budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, amounting to $488,946,300. The budget provided for the deployment of 15,000 military personnel, 313 international staff and 653 national staff.

In May [A/68/782/Add.12], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the unencumbered balance of $7,500, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of $6,996,400, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the Assembly appropriate $487,208,400 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and assess an amount of $81,201,400 for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/928], adopted resolution 68/292 by recorded vote (138-3-1) [agenda item 159 (b)].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in
Lebanon and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 215 (2013) of 29 August 2013, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2014,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/279 of 28 June 2013,


Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 32.6 million United States dollars, representing some 0.5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 74 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;


6. Expresses concern at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. Emphasizes that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. Also emphasizes that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/235, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277 and paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

14. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

15. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 549,322,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 509,554,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 32,971,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,796,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;
Financing of the appropriation

16. **Decides** to apportion among Member States the amount of 91,553,770 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

17. **Also decides** that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,407,130 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,957,150 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 348,780 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 101,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. **Further decides** to apportion among Member States the amount of 457,768,830 dollars for the period from 1 September 2014 to 30 June 2015 at a monthly rate of 45,776,883 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

19. **Decides** that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,035,670 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,785,750 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,743,920 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 506,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

20. **Also decides** that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

21. **Further decides** that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. **Decides** that the increase of 2,250,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. **Emphasizes** that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

25. **Invites** voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon”.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/292:**

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Zambia.

On 29 December (decision 69/554), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNIFIL would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

**Special Tribunal for Lebanon**

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 505] to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the terrorist bombing on 14 February 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 551] that resulted in the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 21 others in Beirut. It succeeded the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission, which was established by Security Council resolution 1595(2005) [ibid., p. 553]. The Tribunal consisted of the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence Office and the Registry. On 16 January, the Special Tribunal opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the killing of Prime Minister Hariri.
Extension of mandate. On 23 December [S/2014/949], the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to extend the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015, as the work of the Tribunal had not been completed. On 26 December [S/2014/950], the Council took note of the Secretary-General’s intention.

Syrian Arab Republic

In 2014, the conflict in Syria entered its fourth year. After two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria Implementation of the 2012 Geneva communique [YUN 2012, p. 448] stalled. Between March 2011 and March 2014, more than 100,000 people had been killed; more than 600,000 people injured; and more than 9.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 6.5 million of whom were internally displaced. Nearly 2.6 million people had sought refuge in neighbouring countries and North Africa. Approximately half of the 540,000 Palestine refugees registered in the Syria had been displaced within the country, with at least another 70,000 displaced abroad. Some 5.5 million Syrian children needed assistance.

During the year, the continuing non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2139(2014) (see p. 000) prompted the Council to adopt resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 000), which enabled the United Nations and partners to reach more locations where assistance was urgently needed.

On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

On 29 April, a new fact-finding mission was established by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (opcw) to investigate allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, in particular chlorine, for hostile purposes at various locations during the year.


Failure to resolve the conflict in Syria produced an enabling environment for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (isl), and Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups, spreading outards from Iraq and posing a threat to regional and international peace and security. On 15 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 2170(2014) (see p. 000), expressing concern that parts of Syria were under the control of such groups and demanding their immediate disarmament and disbandment. On 23 September, the international coalition undertook air strikes against isl and other targets, which continued into November on an almost daily basis.

In January, the Secretary-General issued his first report on children and armed conflict in Syria, which assigned blame on both Syrian Government forces and their associated militias; Syrian Kurdish armed groups; Free Syrian Army (fsa)-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahrar al-Sham; isl; and other independent or unidentified armed groups for committing atrocities against children.

Political and security developments


On 11 February [A/68/769-S/2014/92], Saudi Arabia, in response to a 2013 letter transmitted by Syria, affirmed that, since the Syrian crisis began, it had consistently supported efforts to arrive at a peaceful resolution and had cooperated with the international community as it responded to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war waged by the Syrian regime against its people.

On 14 February [S/2014/108], the Sudan, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Arab States for the month of February, expressed the Group’s support to a Security Council draft resolution concerning the humanitarian assistance to and protection of civilians in Syria.
On 2 April [S/2014/244], France transmitted a report on the torture and summary execution of persons incarcerated by the Syrian regime. The report was made public in January and was prepared by a commission of inquiry consisting of legal, medical and medical imaging experts, chaired by the former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On 9 April [A/68/833-S/2014/255], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General a declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the escalation of tensions in north-western Syria, which was adopted in Moscow on 3 April.

On 19 May [A/68/884-S/2014/361], Switzerland transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter sent to all United Nations Member States and Observers calling upon them to co-sponsor the French draft Security Council resolution referring the situation in Syria since March 2011 to the International Criminal Court.

**Security Council consideration.** On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General, addressing the Council’s open debate, expressed his gratitude to the many countries that had pledged generous funding at the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference on Syria, held in Kuwait City on 15 January.

On 22 February [S/PV.7116], the Council held a meeting to vote on a draft resolution, which was adopted unanimously as resolution 2139(2014).

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that significant developments had taken place in relation to the Syrian crisis, with the holding of the Geneva Conference on Syria, which started on 22 January, and the Council’s adoption of resolution 2139(2014) on 22 February, regarding the humanitarian situation in the country.

On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs summarized the six points made by the Secretary-General on 20 June concerning Syria to help address the situation in the country in an integrated way.

On 14 July [S/PV.7216], the Council held a meeting to vote on a draft resolution, which was adopted unanimously as resolution 2165(2014).

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 22 February [meeting 7116], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2139(2014). The draft [S/2014/115] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,


Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Being appalled at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the death of well over 100,000 people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including over 10,000 children, as reported by the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

Expressing grave alarm at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular the dire situation of hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in besieged areas, most of whom are besieged by the Syrian armed forces and some by opposition groups, as well as the dire situation of over three million people in hard-to-reach areas, and deploiring the difficulties in providing, and the failure to provide, access for the humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need inside the Syrian Arab Republic,

Emphasizing the need to respect the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance, and stressing the importance of such assistance being delivered on the basis of need, devoid of any political prejudices and aims, commending the efforts of the United Nations and all humanitarian and medical personnel in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries, and condemning all acts of threats of violence against United Nations staff and humanitarian actors, which have resulted in the death, injury and detention of many humanitarian personnel,

Expressing grave concern at the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons caused by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which has a destabilizing impact on the entire region, and underscoring its appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate the more than 2.4 million refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of the ongoing violence, while acknowledging the enormous political, socio-economic and financial impact of the presence of large-scale populations in these countries, and underscoring the need for all parties to respect and maintain the security and civilian character of camps for refugees and internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the pledges totalling 2.5 billion United States dollars made at the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, hosted by Kuwait on 15 January 2014, and expressing its appreciation to Member States and regional and subregional organizations that have pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need in all parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, including internally displaced persons, as well as to refugees in neighbouring host countries, and calling upon all Member States to ensure the timely disbursement of pledges and continued support in line with growing humanitarian needs,

Calling upon all parties to immediately end all violence which has led to human suffering in the Syrian Arab Republic, save the Syrian Arab Republic’s rich societal mosaic and cultural heritage and take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of its World Heritage Sites,
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**Strongly condemning** the increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, and reiterating its call upon all parties to commit to putting an end to terrorist acts perpetrated by such organizations and individuals, while reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed.

**Expressing its regret** that the statement by its President of 2 October 2013 has not yet translated into meaningful progress on the ground, and that humanitarian aid delivery continues to be impeded throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, while condemning all cases of denial of humanitarian access and recalling that arbitrary denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supply and access, can constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

**Emphasizing** that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution to the crisis, reiterating its endorsement of the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria (Geneva communiqué) of 30 June 2012, and demanding that all parties work towards the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué aimed at bringing an immediate end to all violence, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law, and facilitating the Syrian-led political process launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, leading to a transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future.

1. **Strongly condemns** the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities, as well as the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by armed groups, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape, attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment and use as human shields, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic;

2. **Demands** that all parties immediately put an end to all forms of violence, irrespective of where it comes from, cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights and reaffirm their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and stresses that some of these violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. **Also demands** that all parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, and recalls in this regard the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and further recalls, in particular, the obligation to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks and attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such;

4. **Further demands** that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, fully implement the provisions of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013, including through facilitating the expansion of humanitarian relief operations, in accordance with applicable provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance;

5. **Calls upon** all parties to immediately lift the sieges of populated areas, including in the old city of Homs (Homs), Nubul and Zahra (Aleppo), Madamiyet Elsham (Rural Damascus), Yarmouk (Damascus), eastern Ghouta (Rural Damascus), Daraya (Rural Damascus) and other locations, and demands that all parties allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, cease depriving civilians of food and medicine indispensable to their survival, and enable the rapid, safe and unhindered evacuation of all civilians who wish to leave, and underscores the need for the parties to agree on humanitarian pauses, days of tranquillity, localized ceasesfires and truces to allow humanitarian agencies safe and unhindered access to all affected areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, recalling that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited by international humanitarian law;

6. **Demands** that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, promptly allow rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes;

7. **Urge** all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all humanitarian actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including by promptly facilitating safe and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance in all areas under their control, and encourages further cooperation between the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all parties concerned, including Syrian civil society organizations, to facilitate access and the delivery of assistance in the entirety of the Syrian territory;

8. **Demands** that all parties respect the principle of medical neutrality and facilitate free passage to all areas for medical personnel, equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, and recalls that under international humanitarian law the wounded and sick must receive, to the fullest extent practicable, and with the least possible delay, medical care and attention required by their condition and that medical and humanitarian personnel, facilities and transport must be respected and protected, and expresses grave concern in this regard at the removal of medical supplies from humanitarian shipments;

9. **Also demands** that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that in this regard the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities.
10. **Further demands** that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects;

11. **Strongly condemns** the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances, and demands the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons, starting with women and children, as well as sick, wounded and elderly people, and including United Nations personnel and journalists;

12. **Urges** all parties to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, those of its specialized agencies, and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses that the primary responsibility in this regard lies with the Syrian authorities, and further stresses the need not to impede these efforts;

13. **Stresses** the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and reaffirms that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic must be brought to justice;

14. **Strongly condemns** the increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, urges the opposition groups to maintain their rejection of these organizations and individuals which are responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in opposition-held areas, calls upon the Syrian authorities and opposition groups to commit to combating and defeating organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, demands that all foreign fighters immediately withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic, and reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed;

15. **Emphasizes** that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution, welcomes in this regard the Geneva Conference on Syria, launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, and demands that all parties work towards the comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 leading to a genuine political transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future, and further stresses that rapid progress on a political solution should include full participation by all groups and segments of Syrian society, including women, and represents the only sustainable opportunity to resolve the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic peacefully and to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and journalists;

16. **Urges** all Member States to contribute or increase their support to the United Nations humanitarian appeals to meet the spiralling needs of people affected by the crisis and to provide this support in coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full, and further urges all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the neighbouring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support;

17. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular paragraphs 2 to 12, in 30 days from its adoption and every 30 days thereafter, and upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General expresses its intent to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the present resolution;

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014)**

**Report of Secretary-General (March).** In March [S/2014/208], pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139(2014) (see p. 000), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it every 30 days on the implementation of the resolution by all parties in Syria, the Secretary-General provided information on the humanitarian situation in the country covering the period from 22 February to 21 March. The information was based on the data provided by the Syrian Government and the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria.

Indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, including aerial bombings, shelling, mortars and car bombs in populated areas, caused mass civilian death and injuries, and forced displacement. Clashes between government and opposition forces continued in most parts of the country. Many car bombings and suicide attacks, including against civilian targets were claimed by inns and the Nusra Front. Clashes also took place between armed opposition groups and inns, mainly in the north. Government-controlled cities and towns, including Damascus, were subject to mortar attacks by armed opposition groups. Reported daily death tolls were on average more than 200 people, including civilians. Fighting was particularly intense in Aleppo, Deir’A and Rural Damascus governorates. At least, 500,000 people had been displaced from Aleppo since late January, and 159,000 from Deir’A as at the end of February. In Rural Damascus governorate, around 50,000 people had fled the city of Yabroud—which was recaptured by Government forces on 16 March—including nearly 14,000 who had fled to Arsal in Lebanon.

Despite the worsening security situation, in February, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partners were able to provide food to 3.7 million people in 13 of the country’s 14 governorates. Between 22 February and 8 March, UNHCR and partners delivered essential relief items for more than 1 million people in all governorates, except Deir ez-Zor. On 25 February, the International Organization for Migration reached Deir ez-Zor governorate for the first time since March.
2013 with basic life-saving commodities for 13,000 internally displaced persons. Since 23 February, UNRWA delivered food for 140,000 Palestine refugees, and primary education to 41,500 children throughout the country. UNICEF provided water treatment supplies benefiting approximately 1.8 million people, and the World Health Organization (WHO) reached nearly 441,000 beneficiaries with medicines (excluding vaccines) in six governorates.

During the reporting period, the fourth round of the polio vaccination campaign was carried out, reaching 2.8 million children under 5 years of age.

The independent international commission of inquiry on Syria presented the findings of its report, covering from 15 July 2013 to 20 January 2014, to the Human Rights Council. The report stated that Government forces and pro-government militia had committed crimes against humanity and war crimes, including massacres. Torture and ill-treatment were routinely committed at official detention facilities by intelligence agencies, at checkpoints around besieged areas, in house raids and as part of the sieges of communities. Armed opposition groups had also committed war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law, including massacres, and had inflicted severe physical or mental pain on civilians in areas under their control, during apprehension and/or detention. Hospitals, ambulances and medical staff continued to come under attack, and medical facilities also continued to be used for military purposes.

As the conflict intensified, more people were slipping out of the reach of humanitarian organizations: as at the end of March, around 3.5 million people were estimated to be in need of assistance in hard-to-reach areas, an increase of 1 million since the beginning of 2014. Following the adoption of Council resolution 2139(2014), the Government of Syria established a working group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the United Nations country team in Syria and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to discuss ways to enhance humanitarian access and implement the resolution. At the request of the United Nations, the working group also included representatives of the government security forces. In a 19 March letter to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) pledged the commitment of the Coalition and the Free Syrian Army to complying with that resolution. The formation of the working group notwithstanding, there was no progress in streamlining and speeding up procedures to facilitate United Nations convoys during the reporting period. The governmental process for approval remained extremely complex and time-consuming.

Around 220,000 people remained besieged in various locations: approximately 175,000 people by Government forces and 45,000 by opposition groups. No new ceasefires were reached in besieged areas during the reporting period. In Homs, following the ceasefire that allowed the evacuation of 1,366 people from the old city in early February, shelling and bombing returned to pre-ceasefire levels. Since 15 March, an additional 200 people had been evacuated from the old city following an agreement between the parties and the Governor of Homs.

The Secretary-General remained concerned about the participation of foreign elements and groups in the fighting, and called upon all States, organizations and groups to immediately cease supporting the violence and to use their influence to promote a political solution instead. He urged the Government of Syria to speed up convoy procedures, ensure the safe passage of humanitarian convoys at all Government-controlled checkpoints; facilitate the passage of medicines, including surgical supplies, and continue to speed up the approval of visas. Further, he urged opposition forces to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access and grant safe passage to convoys, particularly at checkpoints under their control; and ensure the safety and security of humanitarian staff.

**Communications.** In letters [S/2014/182, S/2014/224, S/2014/287] transmitted between 13 March and 17 April by the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom to the President of the Security Council, the Syrian Coalition expressed its assessments of the first two rounds of the Geneva Conference on Syria; the Coalition’s commitment to Council resolution 2139(2014); and the Coalition’s concern about the Syrian Government’s violation of that resolution, respectively.

In identical letters dated 24 March to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President [A/68/811-S/2014/212], Syria provided an overview of the humanitarian cooperation between its Government and the United Nations in accordance with resolution 2139(2014), including the establishment of a joint Government-United Nations committee, which met four times in March.

On 11 April [A/68/845-S/2014/269], Qatar reiterated that it had sought to find a political solution to the crisis through the League of Arab States, as the competent regional organization; and that Qatar had welcomed resolution 2139(2014).

**Report of Secretary-General (April).** In his April report [S/2014/295], on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 22 March to 21 April, the Secretary-General observed that two months since the adoption of that resolution, none of the parties to the conflict had adhered to the demands of the Council. Fighting between government and opposition forces, as well as between various opposition groups, continued in many parts of Syria. In Aleppo, fighting had esca-
lated with significant shelling and the continued use of other heavy weaponry by Government forces. The use of missiles and rocket launchers by opposition groups had also resulted in a high number of casualties and injuries; an average of 20 shells and missiles were reported to have fallen daily on neighbourhoods in Aleppo. Foreign fighters supported all sides of the Syrian conflict, including extremist groups, armed opposition groups and the Government. The United Nations, however, was unable to provide a verified assessment of their presence and activities. Thousands of people were forcibly displaced, the largest numbers from opposition-held areas into areas under Government control, which were considered safer.

The treatment of civilians under the control of parties to the conflict continued to raise serious concerns, as there were reports of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, kidnappings, and increasing sexual violence. In addition, there had been reports of child recruitment and child labour. On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. On 29 March, ISIL reportedly executed and mutilated the bodies of members of the Free Syrian Army held hostage. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received the names of 24 victims of the incident. Concerns also remained about the situation of civilians in other areas under opposition control, particularly around Kassab, as well as about the situation of detainees in the Government-run Aleppo Central Prison, which had been surrounded by several armed groups since mid-2013.

Approximately 9.3 million people, more than 6.5 million of them internally displaced, needed urgent humanitarian assistance. It was estimated that 3.5 million people resided in areas that were difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach. That included at least 242,000 people who lived in areas besieged by either government or opposition forces. WFP reported an increase in the number of people supported with food in hard-to-reach areas with an estimated 297,750 people reached, up from 115,500 during the previous period. The assistance provided, however, only reached 34 out of the 262 locations identified as being hard to reach or besieged, a mere 13 per cent of locations.

Distribution of the aid transported between 20 and 25 March from Turkey to Syria through one border crossing was ongoing in opposition-, Government- and Kurdish-controlled areas. Requests made by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities to urgently authorize the use of additional border crossings remained pending. The delivery of medical supplies was negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and was restricted by the Government for delivery in opposition-held areas. Negotiations, however, were ongoing to allow at least medicines and medical supplies into opposition areas. Prior to distribution, supplies were checked multiple times by security forces. The March round of the polio vaccination campaign had reached almost 3 million children while there was no progress on the demilitarization of hospitals.

A total of 18 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were authorized to work in Syria, but they were prevented from partnering with national NGOs.

The Secretary-General regretted that, while the crisis in Syria could be resolved only through a political solution, after two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria on implementation of the 2012 Geneva communiqué had stalled. He urged the parties, and in particular the Government of Syria, to honour their obligations under international humanitarian law, as Council resolution 2139(2014) left no room for interpretation or further negotiation of access. He also called upon all parties to the conflict to work with the United Nations to establish lasting arrangements at key border and combat line crossings to facilitate access, and called on Syria to streamline convoy procedures.

Communications. On 28 April [A/68/860-S/2014/304], in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria presented its position with respect to the Secretary-General’s April report (see above), commenting, among other things, that the report failed to make the connection between the humanitarian situation in Syria and the need to combat terrorism.

In letters [S/2014/308, S/2014/362] of 30 April and 21 May transmitted by Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands to the Council President, the Syrian Coalition expressed its concern about the Syrian Government’s failure to abide by Council resolution 2139(2014) and expressed the Coalition’s support to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

Report of Secretary-General (May). In his May report [S/2014/365], on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 22 April to 19 May, the Secretary-General observed that violence continued unabated across Syria. In Aleppo, Government forces continued to carry out indiscriminate air strikes, while opposition forces had detonated large tunnel bombs underneath Government military positions in the centre of the city, destroying dozens of buildings. Further, the city experienced significant cuts in its water supply from 5 to 13 May. Non-Syrian fighters continued to support
both opposition groups and Government forces, and messages designed to recruit them circulated on various social networks. On 8 May, France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States met in Brussels to discuss measures to improve cooperation among their countries to prevent the travel of their nationals to Syria to join the fighting.

Disrespect for human life and dignity remained a defining feature of the Syrian conflict and was at the root of the continued killing, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions, kidnappings and the sexual and gender-based violence. Explosive weapons continued to be used indiscriminately in populated areas, where children were at the forefront of the casualties. Approximately 241,000 people were deliberately forced to live under the inhumane and illegal conditions of siege warfare, and for over 3.5 million others, access to humanitarian assistance was extremely inadequate.

The Secretary-General noted that the Government of Syria was failing in its responsibility to look after its own people through its refusal to give consent to humanitarian organizations to use all means at their disposal, including the use of border crossings operated by opposition groups, for the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. The Government of Syria arbitrarily withholding consent for the opening of all relevant border crossings was a violation of international humanitarian law, and non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014).

Resolution 2139(2014) demanded that sieges be immediately lifted, that schools and hospitals be respected and protected from attack, that medical personnel and supplies be immediately allowed to reach all those in need. The parties to the conflict, however, were not heeding those demands, and resolution 2139(2014) had yet to make a difference to the lives of the millions of people in need in Syria. The Secretary-General called on the Council to consider what steps it would take to secure compliance with its demands. The Secretary-General, following consultations with the League of Arab States, had accepted with deep regret the request of Lakhdar Brahimi to relinquish his duties as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, effective 31 May.

Communications. On 27 May [A/68/893-S/2014/378], in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria presented its position with respect to the Secretary-General’s May report (see above) deploring the attempts of some Member States and United Nations Secretariat officials to legitimize the violation of Syria’s sovereignty under the pretext of delivering humanitarian assistance, and disapproved the use, in the report, of the term “armed opposition” to refer to what the Government of Syria considered terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda.

In letters [S/2014/379, S/2014/389, S/2014/432] transmitted between 28 May and 23 June by the United Kingdom, Qatar and France to the Council President, the Syrian Coalition drew the attention of the Council to the systematic violations by the Syrian regime of Council resolution 2139(2014); the presidential elections under way in Syria and the obstacles that they posed to the realization of peace and stability in the Middle East; and the threat posed by ISIS and that organization’s links with the Bashar Al-Assad regime, respectively.

On 2 June [A/68/901-S/2014/386], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President a press release of the same day issued by the Syrian High Relief Commission, regarding the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014) and the relevant humanitarian response plan.

On 13 June [S/2014/407], Syria informed the Secretary-General and the Council President that presidential elections were held on 3 June across the country and abroad with 3.8 per cent of the total ballots being invalid. Syria also said that the allegations that the elections could hinder a peaceful solution to the crisis in the country had been proved false.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In June [S/2014/427], the Secretary-General submitted his fourth report on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 20 May to 17 June. Severe levels of violence were ongoing with intensified use of barrel bombs by Government forces against civilian populations, and the continuation of mortar attacks against residential neighbourhoods by the armed opposition forces. There was no progress made towards the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué. On 3 June, the Government of Syria held presidential elections, in which no opposition candidate ran. The elections were held outside the framework of the Geneva process.

OHCHR continued to receive reports of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill treatment, allegedly perpetrated by members of the Syrian security apparatus, including military intelligence, political security, State security and air force intelligence. On 22 May, Syrian armed forces entered Aleppo Central Prison, breaking the siege imposed by several armed opposition groups since mid-2013. On 9 June, President Bashar Al-Assad issued a legislative decree granting a general amnesty for crimes committed before 9 June.

The humanitarian situation had further deteriorated during the reporting period. Estimates indicated that the number of people in need had reached 10.8 million. Clearance requirements imposed by the Government further undermined access to people in desperate need of assistance; by 9 June, only
12 per cent of the planned 4.25 million people in the WFP food dispatch plan were reached in comparison to 26 per cent in April.

By early June, eight opposition groups had signed a declaration of commitment on compliance with international humanitarian law and facilitation of humanitarian assistance. Six of those groups signed during the reporting period.

Deteriorating security and direct attacks on aid workers continued. On 24 May, a warehouse run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Douma was attacked while the United Nations team was present. One Red Crescent driver was injured and several civilians were killed. As at June, 29 United Nations staff were detained.

The sixth country-wide polio vaccination campaign reached 2.8 million children in all 14 governorates. As at 9 June, however, there were 36 confirmed cases of polio, and 160 cases of measles. As at 17 June, the total funding for the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 29 per cent ($6.5 billion requested, $1.9 billion received) with the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan 26 per cent funded and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan 31 per cent funded.

The Secretary-General expressed his concern about the indiscriminate use of hundreds of barrel bombs on defenceless civilians in populated neighbourhoods, which was a war crime.

Communication. In a 25 June communication [S/2014/439] to the Security Council President, Germany transmitted a letter of the same day from the Syrian Coalition highlighting the Coalition’s efforts to implement resolution 2139(2014), as well as what the Coalition considered the resolution’s non-compliance by the Government of Syria.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 July [meeting 7216], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2165(2014). The draft [S/2014/490] was submitted by Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,


Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Being appalled at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the death of more than 150,000 people, including well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict, as reported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

Expressing grave alarm at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, at the fact that the number of people in need of assistance has grown to over 10 million, including 6.4 million internally displaced persons and over 4.5 million living in hard-to-reach areas, and that over 240,000 are trapped in besieged areas, as reported by the Secretary-General,

Deploring the fact that the demands made in its resolution 2139(2014) and the provisions of the statement by its President of 2 October 2013 have not been heeded by the Syrian parties to the conflict, as stated in the reports of the Secretary-General of 22 May and 20 June 2014, and recognizing that, while some steps have been undertaken by the Syrian parties, they have not had the necessary impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic,

Commending the indispensable and ongoing efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all humanitarian and medical personnel in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries to alleviate the impact of the conflict on the Syrian people,

Reiterating its appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate the more than 2.8 million refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of ongoing violence, including the approximately 300,000 refugees who have fled since the adoption of resolution 2139(2014), and urging again all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support these neighbouring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support,

Strongly condemning the continuing widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities, as well as the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by armed groups,

Stressing the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights, and reaffirming that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic must be brought to justice,

Expressing grave alarm, in particular, at the continuing indiscriminate attacks in populated areas, including an intensified campaign of aerial bombings and the use of barrel bombs in Aleppo and other areas, artillery, shelling and air strikes, and the widespread use of torture, ill-treatment and sexual and gender-based violence as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children, and reiterating that some of these violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Reiterating its demand that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in the Syrian Arab Republic and reiterating that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to en-
sure the protection of civilians, and recalling in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel.

Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

Expressing grave alarm at the spread of extremism and extremist groups, the targeting of civilians based on their ethnicity, religion and/or confessional affiliations, expressing further grave alarm at the increased attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction, indiscriminate shelling by mortars, car bombs, suicide attacks, tunnel bombs, as well as hostage-taking, kidnappings and attacks against civilian infrastructure, including deliberate interruptions of water supply, condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling in this regard its decisions contained in resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, 2129(2013) of 17 December 2013 and 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014.

Deeply disturbed by the continued, arbitrary and unjustified withholding of consent to relief operations and the persistence of conditions that impede the delivery of humanitarian supplies to destinations within the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and noting that the Secretary-General that arbitrarily withholding consent for the opening of all relevant border crossings is a violation of international humanitarian law and an act of non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014).

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the crisis, reiterating its endorsement of the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria (Geneva communiqué) of 30 June 2012, and demanding that all parties work towards the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué aimed at bringing an immediate end to all violence, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law, and facilitating the Syrian-led process launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, leading to a transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future.

Recalling its intent, expressed in its resolution 2139(2014), to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the resolution.

Determining that the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council,

1. Reiterates that all parties to the conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and must fully and immediately implement the provisions of its resolution 2139(2014) and the statement by its President of 2 October 2013;

2. Decides that the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners are authorized to use routes across conflict lines and the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyyah and Al-Ramtha, in addition to those already in use, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, reaches people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic through the most direct routes, with notification to the Syrian authorities, and to this end stresses the need for all border crossings to be used efficiently for United Nations humanitarian operations;

3. Also decides to establish a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the Secretary-General, to monitor, with the consent of the relevant neighbouring countries of the Syrian Arab Republic, the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners at the relevant United Nations facilities, and any subsequent opening of the consignments by the customs authorities of the relevant neighbouring countries, for passage into the Syrian Arab Republic across the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyyah and Al-Ramtha, and with notification by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities, in order to confirm the humanitarian nature of these relief consignments;

4. Further decides that the United Nations monitoring mechanism shall be deployed expeditiously;

5. Decides that the decisions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present resolution shall expire 180 days from the adoption of the present resolution, and shall be subject to review by the Security Council;

6. Also decides that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall enable the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance directly to people throughout the Syrian Arab Republic by the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, on the basis of United Nations assessments of need and devoid of any political prejudices and aims, including by immediately removing all impediments to the provision of humanitarian assistance;

7. Notes, in this regard, the role that ceasefire agreements that are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law could play to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to save civilian lives, and further underscores the need for the parties to agree on humanitarian pauses, days of tranquillity, localized ceasefires and truces to allow humanitarian agencies safe and unhindered access to all affected areas in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with international humanitarian law, and recalls that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited by international humanitarian law.

8. Decides that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, those of its specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities as required by international humanitarian law, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses the need not to impede or hinder these efforts, and recalls that attacks on humanitarian workers may amount to war crimes;

9. Reiterates that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process with a view to full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June
2012, endorsed in its resolution 2118(2013) and contained in annex I thereto, pays tribute to the efforts of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and welcomes the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura:

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution and on compliance with it by all Syrian parties to the conflict, within the framework of his reporting on resolution 2139(2014);

11. Affirms that it will take further measures in the event of non-compliance with the present resolution or resolution 2139(2014) by any Syrian party;

12. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communication. In a letter dated 16 July [S/2014/505], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, pursuant to Council resolution 2169(2014), he had requested the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to work on the establishment of the monitoring mechanism, including its expeditious deployment.

Report of Secretary-General (July). In July [S/2014/525], the Secretary-General submitted his fifth report on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 18 June to 21 July, during which no major changes took place as compared with the previous reporting period.

Heavy fighting continued in and around Aleppo, with air and ground bombardment by Government forces on opposition-held districts between 6 June to 14 July. In Dar’a governorate, barrel bombs were used on opposition-held areas, while in Idlib governorate, Government air strikes resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians. Government-controlled cities and towns continued to be subject to indiscriminate mortar attacks, shelling and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by armed opposition groups and extremists, notably the cities of Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hamah. All parties to the conflict were increasingly targeting vital services resulting in interruptions to the supply of safe drinking water and electricity. Following negotiations since 2 June to access the water pumping station to conduct repairs and provide fuel, on 19 July repairs to the damaged water network began.

On 29 June, ISIS declared an Islamic caliphate, stretching from Aleppo governorate to Diyala governorate in eastern Iraq, covering an area with an estimated population of up to 7 million people. Fighting intensified in Syria between ISIS and the Government and armed opposition, resulting in the displacement of 250,000 people. Developments in the Ninewa governorate of Iraq had resulted in displacement and insecurity in areas along the Syrian-Iraqi borders. UNHCR had started the registration of an estimated 3,000 newly arrived Iraqi refugees in Syria, while an estimated 1,000 Syrians previously seeking refuge in Iraq had crossed back into the eastern part of Syria. Estimates indicated that hundreds of Syrians were returning to their country daily.

On 20 June, the Secretary-General set out six key areas for urgent action. First was bringing an end to the violence. Second, protecting the human rights, safety and dignity of the Syrian people. Third, starting a serious political process for a new Syria. Fourth, addressing the issue of accountability for the serious crimes committed by all sides. Fifth, completing the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities, which had been achieved, and sixth, the need to address the regional dimensions of the conflict, including the extremist threat. On 10 July, the Secretary-General appointed Staffan de Mistura as his Special Envoy for the Syrian Arab Republic to replace Lakhdar Brahimi.

The Secretary-General underscored that the parties had continued to obstruct humanitarian assistance to those most in need, and to withhold consent for operations in a completely arbitrary manner as a tactic of war. He said that it was the continuing non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014) (see p. 000) that had led the Security Council to adopt resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 000), a resolution which should not have been necessary. Resolution 2165(2014) made four additional border crossings available to the United Nations and its implementing partners, and could help humanitarian actors to reach up to 2.9 million more people, if security and other conditions allowed. Therefore, he called upon the parties to the conflict, in the strongest terms, to comply with the demands of the Council contained in resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014).

On 28 July, the Council issued presidential statement S/PRST/2014/14 (see p. 000), stressing the obligation of the Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and expressing grave concern over the reports of the access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in Syria and Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Security Council Committee, namely ISIS and the Nusra Front.

Communications. On 29 July [A/68/958-S/2014/547], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the fifth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2139(2014). The letter summarized efforts by the Government to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and raised concern about the reference in the report to the area of separation in the Golan, as that area was covered by the Secretary-General’s reports on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

In a 31 July letter [S/2014/559] transmitted by Turkey to the Security Council President, the Syrian Coalition drew the Council’s attention to the Syrian regime’s refusal to implement Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014).
Report of Secretary-General (August). In August [S/2014/611], the Secretary-General submitted his sixth report pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139(2014) and paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 000), covering the period from 22 July to 18 August.

The United Nations established the monitoring mechanism foreseen in paragraph 3 of resolution 2165(2014) to ensure that additional cross-border operations authorized under that resolution were transparent. As a result, new cross-line and cross-border openings became accessible. The mechanism became operational on 23 July in Turkey and on 2 August in Jordan, following the deployment and training of advanced teams of United Nations monitors. Deployment of monitoring teams to Iraq remained pending owing to ongoing fighting and insecurity in the north-western part of that country.

During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments—four from Turkey and one from Jordan—of food, non-food, water and sanitation, and medical supplies to Syria under the terms of resolution 2165(2014), using two border crossings. United Nations teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the border crossing. In line with resolution 2165(2014), the United Nations notified the Government of Syria in advance of each shipment, including details about content, destination and number of beneficiaries, and confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment.

The protection situation worsened. Reportedly, over 1,000 civilian deaths occurred in August only, the deadliest month since the start of the war. The prolongation of the conflict in Syria had created fertile ground for radical armed groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaeda. During the reporting period, events taking place in Iraq and the latest fighting in Arsal, Lebanon, demonstrated the devastating impact of the Syrian conflict on the neighbouring countries. Isil increased its influence in Syria making advances in three governorates and taking over, in one of them, two of the three remaining Government-controlled military bases. In Idlib governorate, the Nusra Front took full control of a strip of the Turkish-Syrian border, including one border crossing, following an offensive on the Free Syrian Army. The Nusra Front was in control of the smuggling trade on the border, a key source of income for armed opposition groups.

On 14 August, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2170(2014) (see p. 000), condemning the recruitment by isi, the Nusra Front and all other entities associated with Al-Qaeda of foreign terrorist fighters. Meanwhile, the isi communication and recruitment campaigns continued to promote the “Islamic Caliphate” through professionally made audio- and visual material in different languages. The territory encompassing the isi-declared Islamic caliphate, from Aleppo governorate to Diyala governorate in eastern Iraq, was extending and was estimated to have a population of up to 9 million people.

The Secretary-General asked Special Envoy de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy to look for new openings to launch a political process that would contribute to the implementation of the six points he presented on 20 June.

Regarding the humanitarian access, access across borders, following the adoption of resolution 2165(2014), had resulted in broader reach to areas in five governorates, including Aleppo. There had also been new openings in access across conflict lines in three governorates. Many of those locations had not received assistance since the onset of the conflict. Of particular note was that, in August, medical supplies, including surgical items, reached a number of opposition-held areas. Overall, assistance reached 48 (approximately 17 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard to reach. Food assistance by wfp and unrwA reached 469,510 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 95,838 people in 14 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. Unhcr, unrwA and unicef delivered non-food items to 81,151 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 62,090 people in 29 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. Designated terrorist groups, however, continued to severely constrain access to the eastern governorates of Syria.

Communications. On 26 August [A/68/983-S/2014/631], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the sixth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). The report did not reflect accurately the number of Iraqi refugees who had entered its territory, which stood, as at 24 August, at 95,000. Syria found deplorable that, in all its reports, the Secretariat had failed to mention the facilities that the Government provided to United Nations organizations in connection with the delivery of assistance; that the Secretariat said it was incapable of verifying whether foreign fighters were present in Syria; and that the United Nations officials responsible for drafting the Secretary-General’s sixth report continued to ignore the fact that armed terrorist groups were primarily responsible for the worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria.

In a letter of 27 August [S/2014/637] transmitted by Norway to the Security Council President in relation to the implementation of Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), the Syrian Coalition said that, one year after the gravest chemical weapons attack of the twenty-first century, in which nearly 1,500 Syrians were killed, no one had been held accountable.
Part One: Political and security questions

Report of Secretary-General (September). The Secretary-General submitted his seventh report in September [S/2014/696] on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), covering the period from 19 August to 17 September.

Civilians continued to be displaced because of ongoing fighting and conflict. Parties to the conflict targeted vital services and infrastructure. Reduced availability of water and electricity was reported in four governorates. During the reporting period, ISIL increased its influence in Syria, predominantly along the main supply lines and in areas with border crossings, natural resources and key infrastructure. Although the United Nations did not have the means to independently verify numbers and origins, non-Syrian fighters, including designated terrorist groups, increasingly were participating in the fighting in Syria, on all sides of the conflict. Estimates on the number of new foreign fighters joining ISIL per month in Syria ranged from about 200 to 300 to up to 6,000 fighters in July alone.

On 11 September, the 45 UNDOF peacekeepers, who had been detained by the Nusra Front since 28 August, were released and were found in good condition. The situation in UNDOF on the Syrian side and the area of separation significantly deteriorated in mid-September, when armed groups made advances around UNDOF positions, posing a direct threat to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers. As a result, all United Nations personnel in those positions were relocated.

The Special Envoy for Syria, de Mistura, and his Deputy, Ramzy, visited Damascus from 9 to 13 September for initial discussions with Government officials, opposition representatives, and representatives of civil society organizations and women’s groups. It was their first visit to the country since the new Special Envoy took up his assignment on 1 September.

On 27 August, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria released its eighth report, based on 480 interviews and evidence collected between 20 January and 15 July. The commission reported that both Government forces and the armed groups named in the report, including ISIL, had committed massacres and war crimes. Women and children continued to be severely affected by the conflict. As at 17 September, about 130 of the 153 students abducted by ISIL on 29 May continued to be held by the group. Furthermore, ISIL targeted media personnel and educational institutions. The commission of inquiry had yet to receive any response from Syria to its latest letter of 30 July—the third in 2014—asking for access to Syria, which continued to be denied.

The Secretary-General underlined that ISIL was a consequence, not a cause, of the conflict in Syria, which had deep political roots and needed to be resolved through negotiations. He observed that the lack of progress in finding a political solution and the continued deterioration of the security situation was driving increasing numbers of Syrians to negotiate local agreements to stop the fighting. Some local ceasefires, however, were the result of coercion and deliberate starvation; they were not credible and should not be supported. The involvement of the United Nations as a guarantor in such negotiations was being sought. The Secretary-General urged all sides, especially the Government of Syria, to consider cooperating with the United Nations in identifying ways to build lasting local agreements, ensuring that such agreements met international standards and included relief and recovery elements.

Communications. On 26 September [A/69/411-S/2014/705], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the seventh report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). Syria noted that the report continued to ignore the realities of the situation in Syria, and described armed terrorist groups as “armed groups”, although the international community had affirmed that those groups were terrorist entities. The report also strayed from the mandate established for the Secretary-General, in that it addressed issues removed from the humanitarian situation, such as the UNDOF situation and the use of chlorine.

On 25 September [S/2014/703], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Security Council President a letter of the same day from the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) about the attacks carried out against Syrian refugees trapped in Arsal, Lebanon, near the border with Syria.

Report of Secretary-General (October). The Secretary-General submitted in October [S/2014/756] his eighth report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) covering the period from 18 September to 17 October.

In the month since the previous report (see above) heinous attacks and atrocities against civilians continued, committed by all sides in the Syrian conflict. On 1 October, twin bomb attacks occurred close to a school in Homs, killing over 50 people, including 29 children, and injuring dozens more, a large majority of them children. The Government of Syria accused “armed terrorist groups”. No party claimed responsibility for the attacks. The international coalition undertook air strikes on 23 September against ISIL and other targets in Syria. The Secretary-General, however, observed that while the international community had rightly mobilized to counter the threat posed by terrorism, a military campaign alone could not resolve the crisis in Syria or halt the spread of terrorism from Syria and Iraq. In response to coalition air strikes, ISIL,
the Nusra Front and other Islamist groups accused the international coalition of fighting a war against Islam and called for retaliation against the coalition and those perceived to be “collaborators”, including civilians, thus heightening the insecurity of aid workers. Recruitment of fighters, including foreign fighters, had reportedly increased following the beginning of the international coalition air strikes.

The threat posed by ISIL raised serious additional protection concerns, as evidenced by the offensive on the Kurdish town of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane City in Aleppo governorate, on 16 September, which resulted in the massive displacement of civilians, including into Turkey, and large numbers of deaths and injuries. More than 190,000 refugees had crossed into Turkey since the offensive began. The Secretary-General observed that the international community must better share the burden of hosting over 3 million refugees fleeing Syria.

He said that while the world’s attention had focused on the barbarity of ISIL and its advance in Syria, people throughout the country faced grave abuses at the hands of the Government and other parties to the conflict, who continued to violate international human rights and humanitarian law.

Access to hard-to-reach areas, where some 4.7 million people were in need, remained very limited. Approximately, 241,000 people remained besieged, the majority by Government forces, despite the Government’s repeated statements that it was looking after its civilians, including women and children. Humanitarian actors on the ground continued to serve people in need throughout Syria at great personal risk.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria presented its eighth report noting that Government forces used chlorine gas, an illegal weapon. In addition, the commission reported that members of ISIL had committed massacres targeting civilians, had captured soldiers, and had deliberately exposed civilians, including women and children, to violence and indoctrination. Anti-government armed groups continued to commit crimes without regard to international law. The commission repeated its call to the Security Council to consider referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. Members of the commission of inquiry, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continued to be denied access to the country.

In early October, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Syria, de Mistura, resumed his consultations, visiting Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Communications. On 28 October [S/2014/769], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the eighth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). Syria noted that the report continued to describe armed terrorist groups as “armed groups” or the “armed opposition”, contradicting international acknowledgement, albeit belated, of the terrorist nature of those groups.

In a 29 October communication [S/2014/772] to the Security Council President, Denmark transmitted a letter of the same day from the Syrian Coalition highlighting the Coalition’s efforts to implement resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), as well as what the Coalition considered the non-compliance of the resolutions by the Government of Syria.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In November [S/2014/840], the Secretary-General submitted his ninth report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), covering the period from 18 October to 16 November and providing a review of events since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014).

Government forces, armed opposition groups and designated terrorists continued to attack, kill and injure civilians with impunity. Attacks by the Government, many of which were carried out with barrel bombs, took place in Aleppo, Damascus and Homs, among other places, killing many civilians, including children. Armed opposition and designated terrorist groups continued to shell Government-controlled areas, including in civilian-populated zones, using mortars and small rockets, causing civilian deaths and casualties. The use of improvised explosive devices, including vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and suicide bombs, were also reported.

Civilians continued to be displaced; as at late October, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent had registered 100,000 internally displaced in two locations alone. During the reporting period, ISIL and the Nusra Front, both listed terrorist groups, increased efforts aimed at recruiting domestic and foreign fighters.

The international coalition continued to carry out air strikes against ISIL in Syria on an almost daily basis. Approximately, 865 people had been killed, including 50 civilians, in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hasakeh, Idlib and Raqqa since the strikes began. In response to the attacks, ISIL placed its fighters in populated areas, raising additional concerns for the protection of civilians, and changed its main positions.

On 14 November, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria released a paper based on the first-hand accounts of 300 victims and witnesses, which detailed the use by ISIL of the terror and brutality inflicted upon those not confirming to its mores.

Fighting also took place in Idlib between the Nusra Front and the Syrian Revolutionary Front, a group being considered as part of the Free Syrian Army; and between ISIL and the Kurdish People’s Protection Units for the city of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane.
Briefing the Security Council on 30 October, Special Envoy de Mistura, laid out an action plan that included a strategic de-escalation of violence that focused on select zones of stability anchored on a “freezing of the fronts” between Government and opposition forces, starting with Aleppo. Following a meeting with the President of Syria on 10 November in Damascus, the Special Envoy took note of the Government’s intent to implement a freeze in Aleppo.

As at late October, 12.2 million people were in need of assistance—nearly 5 million of whom lived in hard-to-reach areas, despite the additional access granted through resolution 2165(2014)—and 7.6 million people internally displaced. Another 3.2 million people had fled to neighboring countries, with approximately 212,000 people besieged.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the international community’s resolve to address the threat posed by ISIL and other Al-Qaida-affiliated groups but remained concerned that a military campaign alone could lead to further radicalization and spark a cycle of renewed violence. The adoption of resolution 2165(2014) had enabled the United Nations and partners to reach more locations where assistance was urgently needed, but humanitarian needs continued to rise and the situation on the ground continued to deteriorate.

While the international community had to do whatever it could to make sure that the rights of people in Syria were respected and their needs met, it was the ultimate responsibility of the parties to the conflict to reduce the violence and end the conflict. The proposal made by the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to establish incremental freezes, beginning with the city of Aleppo, was exactly intended for that purpose: to lead to a strategic de-escalation of violence, starting from specific areas with a national impact.

**Report of Secretary-General (December).** In a later report [S/2015/48], the Secretary-General provided an update of the situation in Syria for December. Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continued throughout the country, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar’a, Quneitra and Raqqa. Indiscriminate aerial bombings, including the use of barrel bombs, by Government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition, extremist and listed terrorist groups, resulted in deaths, injuries and the displacement of civilians.

In the governorate of Aleppo, aerial bombardment and shelling of opposition-controlled eastern Aleppo continued; while in Rif Dimashq, there were Government aerial bombardment against opposition-held areas, with the districts of Douma, Hamouria, Khan al-Sheikh and Zabadani being the most affected. Severe levels of violence were reported in Dar’a, killing at least 200 people, including 37 children and 16 women. In the governorate of Homs, at least four civilians, including a child, were killed in the district of Waer as a result of Government shelling.

In mid-December, Ahrar al-Sham, the Nusra Front and other armed groups took control of two strategic military bases in Wadi al-Daif and Hamidiyah in Idlib. They also surrounded the Abou al-Dohour airport in rural Idlib and targeted roads between Hama and Aleppo and Idlib and Latmikiyah, reinforcing their presence in rural Hama. Parties to the conflict continued to target civilian facilities, including vital services and infrastructure. In late December, the Nusra Front and possibly other armed groups cut electricity and water supplies in Idlib and Aleppo cities, affecting approximately 1.7 million people. International coalition airstrikes against ISIL led by the United States continued, targeting mostly ISIL positions in Kobani.

Civilians continued to be displaced as a result of the conflict. During December, at least 40,000 people fled clashes in Sheikh Meskin in western rural Dar’a governorate, seeking refuge in the surrounding villages. Consultations with the Syrian parties and a wide range of interlocutors inside and outside the Syrian Arab Republic addressed the parameters of the proposed “freeze” arrangements to start in Aleppo City. Special Envoy de Mistura visited Istanbul and Gaziantep and met with the Syrian Opposition Coalition and armed opposition groups to explain the difference between the proposed Aleppo freeze and previous local ceasefire initiatives.

**Communications.** On 23 November [S/2014/846], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the ninth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), explaining that the success in delivering assistance from inside Syrian territory would not have had occurred without the full cooperation of the Government with the United Nations and its agencies in Syria.

In communications of 24 November [S/2014/848] and 15 December [S/2014/902] transmitted by Saudi Arabia to the Security Council President, the Syrian Coalition urged the Council to strengthen and renew resolution 2165(2014); insist on coordination between the United Nations and Syrian aid organizations; insist that the United Nations makes full use of the mandate of resolution 2165(2014), particularly for cross-border aid delivery; and increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 17 December [meeting 7344], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2191(2014). The draft [S/2014/897] was submitted by Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,
Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
Expressing outrage at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the killing of more than 191,000 people, including well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict, as reported by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict,
Gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and by the fact that now more than 12.2 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic—of whom 7.6 million are internally displaced, 4.5 million are living in hard-to-reach areas and 212,000 are trapped in besieged areas, including Palestinian refugees—require urgent humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, and noting with concern that approximately one million more people have been displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014),
Gravely concerned at the lack of effective implementation of its resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) by the parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, recalling in this regard their legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as all the relevant decisions of the Security Council, including by ceasing all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including those involving attacks on schools and medical facilities and the deliberate interruptions of water supply, the indiscriminate use of weapons, including artillery, barrel bombs and air strikes, indiscriminate shelling by mortars, car bombs, suicide attacks and tunnel bombs, as well as the use of starvation of civilians as a method of combat, including by the besiegement of populated areas, and the widespread use of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and sexual and gender-based violence as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children,
Expressing its grave concern that areas of the Syrian Arab Republic are under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations which has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and calling for the implementation of Council resolutions 2170(2014) of 15 August 2014 and 2178(2014) of 24 September 2014 and the statement by its President of 28 July 2014,
Strongly condemning the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions, hostage-taking and forced disappearances, and demanding the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons starting with women and children, as well as sick, wounded and elderly people, including United Nations and humanitarian personnel and journalists,
Recalling its strong condemnation in resolution 2175(2014) of all forms of violence and intimidation to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their assets, and its urging of all parties involved in an armed conflict to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and their assets, and urging that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict must take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, those of its specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities,
Noting that, despite all the challenges, the United Nations and its implementing partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance to millions of people in need, and taking note that hard-to-reach locations in Aleppo, Idlib, Quamaytirah and Dar’a have been reached since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014) through humanitarian aid delivered across borders, stressing, however, in this regard that most people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas remain difficult for the United Nations and its implementing partners to reach with humanitarian assistance,
Expressing deep concern at the continuing and new impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance across borders and across conflict lines, encouraging the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners to take steps to scale up humanitarian deliveries into hard-to-reach and besieged areas, including by using, as effectively as possible, border crossings under resolution 2165(2014), and noting that the United Nations monitoring mechanism is operational and is continuing its activities, including monitoring shipments and confirming their humanitarian nature, in accordance with resolution 2165(2014),
Reaffirming the need to support the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners in their efforts to expand the delivery of humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic, and further reaffirming its decision in resolution 2165(2014) that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall enable the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance directly to people throughout the Syrian Arab Republic by the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, on the basis of United Nations assessments of need and devoid of any political prejudices and aims, including by immediately removing all impediments to the provision of humanitarian assistance,
Noting the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help to save civilian lives,
Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,
Expressing grave concern at the more than 3.2 million refugees, including more than 2.5 million women and children, who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of ongoing violence and recognizing that the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is further contributing to the movement of refugees and poses risks to regional stability,

Reriterating its deep appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees, including approximately 400,000 refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014), and mindful of the immense costs and social challenges incurred by these countries as a consequence of the crisis,

Noting with concern that the international response to the Syrian and regional crisis continues to fall short of meeting the needs as assessed by host Governments and the United Nations, therefore urging once again all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the United Nations and the countries of the region, including by adopting medium- and long-term responses to alleviate the impact on communities, providing increased, flexible and predictable funding as well as increasing resettlement efforts, and taking note in this regard of the Berlin Communiqué on solidarity with refugees and their hosts of 28 October 2014,

Noting with grave concern that impunity in the Syrian Arab Republic contributes to widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, stressing the need to end impunity for these violations and abuses, and re-emphasizing in this regard the need for those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic to be brought to justice,

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the crisis,

Determining that the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underlining that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council,

1. Demands that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and fully and immediately implement all the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) and the statement by its President of 2 October 2013, and recalls that some of the violations and abuses committed in the Syrian Arab Republic may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

2. Decides to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2165(2014) for a period of 12 months, that is, until 10 January 2016;

3. Also decides to conduct, six months after the renewal of these decisions, a review of the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. Expresses its full support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, looks forward in particular to further advice from the Special Envoy concerning his proposals aimed at reducing violence, including through the implementation of freeze zones, emphasizes that if the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to escalate, the humanitarian situation will continue to worsen, and reiterates that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, with a view to full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 endorsed in its resolution 2118(2013) and contained in annex II thereto;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution and on compliance by all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, within the framework of his reporting on resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014);

6. Reaffirms that it will take further measures under the Charter of the United Nations in the event of non-compliance with the present resolution or resolution 2139(2014) or 2165(2014) by any party to the Syrian domestic conflict;

7. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

Effective 31 May, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi relinquished his duties. On 10 July, the Secretary-General announced the appointments of Staffan de Mistura as his Special Envoy for Syria, and of Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy as Deputy Special Envoy.

Financing

In September [A/69/363/Add.1], the Secretary-General proposed resource requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of Secretary-General for Syria for 2015 in the amount of $11,871,100 (net of staff assessment).

In December [A/69/628], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) took note of the relocation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria from Geneva to Brussels; and of the request for redeployment and reclassification of five positions from Geneva to Damascus. ACABQ recommended that, while it had no objection to the position of the Special Envoy for Syria to be based in Brussels for 2015, the Secretary-General should keep the arrangement for the location of the Special Envoy for Syria under review. Furthermore, considering that the functions of the five security-related positions were no longer required in Geneva and considering the need for additional security capacity in Damascus, ACABQ recommended that the five positions at the General Service (Other level) be abolished in Geneva and five new positions at the local level be established in Damascus. ACABQ also recommended the abolition of the position for the Special Assistant at the P-4 level, which had been vacant since
1 November 2012; and further recommended the application of a 50 per cent vacancy factor to the estimates for international staff for 2015 (compared to the 30 per cent proposed by the Secretary-General) taking into account the actual average vacancy rate of 54 per cent for the period from January to August 2014, the actual vacancy rate of 53.6 per cent as at 30 September 2014, and the number of vacant posts of two years and longer in the Office.

The General Assembly, in section IV of resolution 69/262 of 29 December (see p. 000), decided on a vacancy rate of 40 per cent for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria.

**Children and armed conflict**


Access and security issues in Syria posed serious limitations to reporting; as a consequence, the United Nations country task force was able to independently monitor and report only on a limited number of cases inside Syria, and the information was based to a large extent on interviews conducted by the United Nations, including numerous accounts from Syrian refugees.

As at December 2013, the United Nations estimated that more than 100,000 individuals had been killed, including more than 10,000 children, and many more injured since March 2011. During the first two years of the conflict, most incidents of killing and maiming of children were attributed to government forces. Armed opposition groups increasingly engaged in such acts during 2013. The report also stressed the disappearance of many children, and highlighted that children in Syria had experienced an elevated level of distress because of witnessing the killing and injuring of members of their families and peers, or of being separated from their family and/or displaced.

In its initial stages, violations were committed largely by the Government of Syria, which led to the listing of Government forces in the annexes to the 2012 annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict [YUN 2012, p. 724] for patterns of killing and maiming of children and for recurrent attacks against schools and hospitals and protected personnel. As the conflict intensified and the opposition became more organized, an increasing number of violations committed by the Free Syrian Army (fsa)-affiliated groups was documented, leading to the listing of fsa in the annexes to the 2013 annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict [YUN 2013, p. 168] for the recruitment and use of children. In the same report, the Government forces were also listed for grave sexual violence against children. Known perpetrators of grave violations against children included also the Syrian armed and intelligence forces; Government-associated militias such as the Shabiha; the popular committees (later formalized under the National Defence Forces); Syrian Kurdish armed groups; fsa-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahhr al-Sham; isl; and other independent or unidentified armed groups.

Of concern were cases of recruitment or attempted recruitment of children mostly from lack of education or job opportunities and peer pressure within refugee populations in neighbouring countries. Most incidents were related to recruitment by fsa-affiliated groups or Syrian Kurdish armed groups. While the United Nations did not receive reports of children formally recruited by Government forces, they reportedly intimidated and seized young males, including those under the age of 18, to join their ranks. The United Nations also gathered reports of the use of children as human shields during Syrian Government forces ground operations, particularly in 2011 and 2012.

Children were arrested, detained, ill-treated and tortured in detention facilities by Government forces in large-scale arrest campaigns, particularly in 2011 and 2012. Children were arrested for their or their relatives’ actual or perceived participation in demonstrations or support to armed opposition groups. Multiple accounts of witnesses indicated that many children were held in the same cells as adults, and that children as young as 11 years old suffered ill treatment and acts tantamount to torture to extract confessions or humiliate them or to pressure a relative to surrender or confess. Access to children detained was largely denied to the United Nations and humanitarian actors. In addition, family members of children detained often did not receive any information on their whereabouts. Children were also caught in cross-fire between Government forces and armed groups, or between armed groups themselves.

Sexual violence was believed to be largely underreported owing to fears of reprisals and social stigma, combined with the lack of safe and confidential response services. Sexual violence against girls and women, or the fear of sexual violence, was reported as one of the reasons for which families were internally displaced or fled Syria. The United Nations also received reports of allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, including in the presence of relatives, by Government forces at checkpoints or during incursions and house searches of families perceived to be pro-opposition.

Schools and hospitals had been seriously affected by the conflict in Syria and disproportionately targeted by all parties. In addition, indiscriminate Syrian Government air strikes and shelling by armed op-
position groups on populated areas damaged or destroyed education and health facilities. Moreover, the United Nations received several reports of abduction of children by pro-Government militias or armed opposition groups in exchange for ransom or the release of prisoners, or as pressure on relatives perceived as supporting the opposing party.

The Secretary-General urged all parties to stop all grave violations committed against children and take all appropriate steps to protect children; immediately release abducted women and children; cease the military use of schools and hospitals; and take all measures to prevent and halt all forms of sexual violence and abuse against boys and girls. The Secretary-General also called upon the Government of Syria to put an end to the killing and maiming of children; halt the arbitrary arrest and detention of children; and ensure that all Government-affiliated militias put an end to all violations against children. Further, the Secretary-General urged opposition groups to put an end to the killing and maiming of children and other grave violations against children, and to take all appropriate steps to protect children; and prevent and halt the recruitment of children.

**Working Group conclusions.** The Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the Secretary-General’s first report on children and armed conflict in Syria (see above) and submitted its conclusions [S/AC.51/2014/4] in November. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Government of Syria reiterating the Council’s profound indignation at the death of well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict; and demand that the Government immediately cease all violations against children, and comply fully with resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) and the Council’s presidential statement of 2 October 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 438]. The Working Group also agreed to send letters from its Chair calling upon the World Bank and the donor community to provide the necessary financial resources to ensure that children affected by armed conflict in Syria had access to adequate health care and nutrition, as well as appropriate education.

**Communications.** In a 6 February letter [S/2014/245] to the Security Council President, Syria underscored its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who had visited the country twice. Syria had established a national committee on violations against children and had provided the Special Representative with data concerning human rights violations against children—information that had not been mentioned in the Secretary-General’s report on children and armed conflict in Syria.

In a letter dated 18 September [A/69/394-S/2014/684] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria reported the death, on 16 September, of 15 children in Idlib governorate who had died after being given expired and poisoned measles vaccine that was obtained from unknown sources at fictitious health institutions affiliated with armed terrorist groups and Turkey.

In a 2 October letter [A/69/421-S/2014/715] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria denounced the attack on a school complex by armed terrorist groups in Homs city, which took place on 1 October, killing 33 civilians, including 22 children.

**UNSMIS**

By its resolution 2059(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 449], the Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) for a final period of 30 days and expressed its willingness to renew it again only if the Secretary-General reported, and the Council confirmed, the cessation of the use of heavy weapons and a reduction of violence by all sides sufficient to allow UNSMIS to implement its mandate. As those conditions were not met, UNSMIS mandate came to an end on 19 August 2012.

**Financing**

In April [A/68/782/Add.1], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly approve the action proposed by the Secretary-General in his November 2013 report on UNSMIS [YUN 2013, p. 441], namely, to appropriate and assess the expenditure amount of $6,530,100 for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. In that report, the Secretary-General provided that during the liquidation period, the Mission disposed of approximately 700 non-expendable assets, about 40 per cent of which were transferred to the Office of the Joint Special Representative and the remainder to either neighbouring peacekeeping missions or the United Nations reserve. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect such details clearly in future reports on the budget performance of the peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, according to the supplementary information provided to the ACABQ, UNSMIS borrowed $10 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, which were used to cover the expenditure incurred by the Mission from strategic deployment stocks and other miscellaneous charges that could arise. ACABQ recommended that the Reserve Fund be used in strict compliance with Assembly resolution 47/217 [YUN 1992, p. 1022], by which the Fund was established.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/921], adopted resolution 68/295 without vote [agenda item 162].
Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,
Recalling Security Council resolution 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012, by which the Council established for an initial period of 90 days the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic under the command of a Chief Military Observer, and Council resolution 2059(2012) of 20 July 2012, by which the Council renewed the mandate for a final period of 30 days,
Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,
Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,
1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 0.5 million United States dollars, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 122 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

3. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic the amount of 6,530,100 dollars, previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, under the terms of section VI of its resolution 64/269 of 24 June 2010;

Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

4. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 6,530,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

5. Also decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 4 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 162,400 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

6. Further decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic”.

By decision 69/554 of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNSMIS would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Use of chemical weapons

Communications. In letters on 8 February [S/2014/88] and 14 April [A/68/846-S/2014/271] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria said that since the inception of the crisis, it had been unjustly accused by certain countries, including Member States of the Council, to have used chemical weapons. Those countries not only ignored that Syria complied with its obligation under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), but they were, along with terrorist organizations, responsible for the crimes that were committed in Syria with chemical weapons, including the 2014 attack in Kafr Zayta.

In letters [S/2014/274, S/2014/285, S/2014/370, S/2014/617, S/2014/649, S/2014/824] transmitted by Turkey, United Arab Emirates, France, Norway and Saudi Arabia to the Security Council President between April and November, the Syrian Coalition brought to the Council’s attention that, in the preceding five months, the Syrian regime had engaged in systematic attacks in opposition-held areas using chemical weapons in violation of Council resolution 2118(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 443]. By that resolution, the Council endorsed the OPCW Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013, which contained special procedures both for the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpiles, as well as the stringent verification thereof.

OPCW-UN joint mission for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme in Syria

On 27 September 2013, the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) decided to establish special procedures for the expeditious destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons programme. On the same day, the Security Council, by its resolution 2118(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 443], endorsed the OPCW Executive Council decision, authorized a United Nations advance team to provide early assistance to OPCW activities in Syria, and requested the OPCW Director-General and the Secretary-General to closely cooperate in the implementation of the Executive Council decision. In a letter of 7 October 2013 to the Council, the Secretary-General outlined the proposal for a Joint Mission of OPCW and the
United Nations, which was officially authorized by the Council on 11 October.

On 23 June 2014, the Joint Mission confirmed that all declared chemical weapons materials of Syria had been removed from Syrian territory. In the immediate months following the completion and removal of declared chemical weapons, the Joint Mission reconfigured its capacities, and then was formally closed on 30 September.


In January [S/2014/52], the Secretary-General reminded that, in 2013, the OPCW Executive Council had set the intermediate milestone of 31 December 2013 for the removal of the most critical chemical weapons precursor, binary and end-state materials from Syria for destruction outside the country. However, because of several factors, including logistical and technical issues, as well as the volatile security situation, the milestone was not met. Nevertheless, the removal of chemical weapons material from Syria did start on 7 January 2014, when a first quantity of priority chemical materials was moved from storage sites to Latakia and subsequently loaded onto a cargo vessel.

Between 21 January and 21 February [S/2014/133], Syria met the early milestones, including the functional destruction of its capacity to produce, mix and fill chemical weapons munitions, and the destruction of all unfilled chemical munitions. It destroyed its mobile production facilities and specialized equipment at many chemical weapons production facilities. Two intermediate milestones for the removal of chemical weapons material from Syria for destruction outside the country however were not met. As a result, the process of eliminating the chemical weapons programme fell behind schedule.

Between 23 February and 22 March [S/2014/220], Syria accelerated the removal of chemical weapons material from its territory and made important progress in reducing its stockpile. As at 22 March, the total figure for removal and destruction had reached 53.6 per cent, including almost 35 per cent of high-priority chemical materials and more than 80 per cent of other chemical materials removed, as well as 93 per cent of declared isopropanol verified as destroyed. As at 24 April, the total figure for removal and in-country destruction of all chemical weapons material had reached 92.5 per cent, including 96.45 per cent of high-priority chemical materials and 81.09 per cent of other chemical materials removed.

Transmitting the OPCW eighth report in May [S/2014/368], the Secretary-General announced that no further removal of chemical weapons material had taken place between 25 April and 22 May, and expressed his concern about the allegations regarding the use of chlorine gas for hostile purposes at various locations. To investigate those allegations, on 29 April, the OPCW Director-General announced the establishment of an OPCW fact-finding mission.

On 23 June [S/2014/444], the OPCW-UN joint mission confirmed that all declared chemical weapons materials of Syria had been removed from Syrian territory or, in the case of isopropanol, destroyed in the country. The achievement of that critical milestone followed the movement of the remaining chemical materials to the port of Latakia, where they were loaded onto a cargo vessel for onward transportation and destruction.

As at late June, the following steps remained to be undertaken for the full elimination of the chemical weapons programme of Syria: the destruction of the chemicals at sea- and at land-based facilities; the destruction of structures at 12 production facilities pending agreement on the modalities of destruction by the OPCW Executive Council; the destruction of one item of loading equipment at one production facility; the destruction of one building located at a production facility under the control of armed opposition groups; and the conclusion of consultations regarding any possible remaining discrepancies in the original declaration submitted by Syria.

Between 24 June and 25 July [S/2014/533], following the completion of the removal of declared chemical weapons materials from the Syria, attention continued to focus on the remaining steps (see above) of the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

In the period between 25 July and 22 August [S/2014/622], the destruction of declared priority chemical weapons materials of Syria on board a United States maritime vessel was completed. Progress was also made in the destruction of the remaining declared chemical weapons materials at designated facilities outside of Syria. Following consultations with the OPCW Director-General, the Secretary-General announced that the OPCW-UN Joint Mission would be officially concluded on 30 September.

In September [S/2014/706], OPCW finalized arrangements with the United Nations Office for Project Services to enable OPCW to continue its remaining inspection and verification activities inside Syria beyond 30 September. To ensure continuity, the Secretary-General asked Special Coordinator for the Joint Mission, Sigrid Kaag, to continue to assist him.

Between 23 September and 22 October [S/2014/767], the OPCW Executive Council discussed the second
The Syrian Golan

The Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic, occupied by Israel since 1967, were effectively annexed when Israel extended its laws, jurisdiction and administration to the territory in 1981 [YUN 1981, p. 309]. In 2014, the General Assembly reiterated its demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and called upon Israel to resume talks with Syria and Lebanon. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) continued to supervise the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights, and to ensure the separation of militaries. The Force’s mandate was extended twice during the year, in June and in December.

Reports of Secretary-General. In his August report [A/69/327] to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stated that no reply had been received from Israel in response to an April note issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on his behalf requesting information on steps taken or envisaged for the implementation of resolution 68/84 [YUN 2013, p. 453]. In addition to the response from Syria, replies had been received from Algeria, Colombia, Cuba and Slovakia.

On 2 September [A/69/341], the Secretary-General reported that, as at 11 August, Cuba, Mexico and Syria had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement Assembly resolution 68/17 [YUN 2013, p. 452] on the Syrian Golan (see p. 000). The resolution demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Special Committee on Israeli Practices. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, in its August report [A/69/355] (see p. 000), stated that the Committee was not able to hold meetings in Syria owing to the prevailing situation in the country, but met with interlocutors who travelled from the occupied Syrian Golan to Amman.

Approximately 20,000 Israeli settlers resided in 33 settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, enjoying disproportionate benefits in terms of water and agricultural resources. In January, the Government of Israel had reportedly approved a project proposal to develop over 7,400 acres (30,000 dunums) of land in the occupied Syrian Golan, which included the establishment of 750 farming estates and $108 million in investment over four years. Further, Israel had sponsored agricultural expansion, which was strategically timed to increase settler presence in the occupied Syrian Golan at a time of protracted internal conflict in Syria.
Testimony also focused on the exploitation of natural and agricultural resources, including prospecting by Israel for oil through a local subsidiary of United States-based Genie Energy, which was granted a licence early in 2013 by Israel to explore for oil and gas in a 153-square-mile radius in the southern part of the occupied Syrian Golan. Further, it was impossible to market apples grown locally, with the Syrian market disrupted and traditional markets in the Occupied Palestinian Territory inaccessible owing to Israeli occupation policies and practices.

The Special Committee called upon Israel to comply with Council resolution 497(1981) [YUN 1981, p. 312], which annulled the decision of Israel on the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan and to immediately take steps to cease the expansion of and reverse settlements in the area.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/25 [draft: A/69/L.26 & Add.1] by recorded vote (99-6-57) [agenda item 35].

The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly, Having considered the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East, Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,


Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. Declares that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497(1981);
2. Also declares that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497(1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;
3. Reaffirms its determination that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;
4. Determines once more that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;
5. Calls upon Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;
6. Demands once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;
7. Calls upon all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973);
8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/25:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Entebbe, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee
[A/69/454] adopted resolution 69/94 by recorded vote (162-1-15) [agenda item 51].

The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 68/84 of 11 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 68/84,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237(1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338(1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497(1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. Also calls upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

4. Calls upon Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. Deplores the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/94:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Honduras, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu.

UNDOF

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established by Security Council resolution 350(1974) [YUN 1974, p. 205] to supervise the observance of the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Syrian Golan and to ensure the separation of their forces, was renewed twice in 2014, in June and in December, each time for a six-month period.

To carry out its mandate, UNDOF maintained an area of separation, which was over 75 kilometres long and varied in width between approximately 10 kilometres in the centre to 200 metres in the extreme south. UNDOF headquarters was located at Camp Yafeur, and an administrative office was maintained...
in Damascus. Logistics support to UNDOF was provided by Camp Ziouani, the alternate headquarters of the Force.

In 2014, the heavy fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed groups close to the UNDOF headquarters in Camp Faour and other positions in the central area of separation had two major consequences for the Force: the abduction by armed groups, on 28 August, of 45 of its peacekeepers, who were released unharmed on 11 September; and the relocation, between 13 and 15 September, of UNDOF personnel and military observers from a several positions in the area of separation from the Syrian to the Israeli side, which significantly reduced the Force’s ability to carry out its mandate, as agreed by the parties to the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement of Forces [YUN 1974, p. 198]. As at 12 November, UNDOF comprised 929 troops, including 30 women, from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 80 military observers, including one woman, from the UNTSO. Philippines withdrew its contingent of 344 peacekeepers in September.

Communications. In a 12 February letter [A/68/763-S/2013/97] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria reported that, on 31 January, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel had called for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Syria emphasized that politically, legally and morally, it was unacceptable that Israel should be allowed to persist in its refusal to implement United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, including Council resolution 497(1981).

In a 5 March letter [A/68/786-S/2014/156], Syria drew the attention of the Security Council to a violation of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces (Agreement) by Israel that had taken place the same day, and called on the Council to condemn unequivocally Israel’s aggressions, which contravened international law and increased tension around the area of disengagement.


The ceasefire between Israel and Syria was generally maintained. The Syrian armed forces continued to deploy personnel and equipment inside the area of separation and carried out military activities and security operations against armed members of the opposition in the UNDOF area of operation, in violation of the Agreement. Seven incidents of firing from the Syrian side into the area of separation and across the ceasefire line took place, while heavy clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition continued. Incidents of note took place on 27 December, 13 and 29 January, and on 6 and 9 February.

On numerous occasions during periods of fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition, United Nations personnel were forced to take shelter in their positions. UNDOF continued to observe and report instances of transborder movements of unidentified individuals between Lebanon and Syria in the northern part of the area of separation. The Force Commander maintained regular contact with the IDF and the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate.

On 2 February, UNDOF vehicles carrying out a night movement that had been coordinated with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate were fired upon by light and heavy machine gun fire, as the vehicles approached a Syrian armed forces checkpoint. There was no injury to United Nations peacekeepers, but some bullets hit the United Nations vehicles. The Force Commander strongly protested the incident to the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate, who stated that an investigation would be carried out, and that armed members of the opposition had been moving in the area at the same time, which may have prompted Syrian armed forces personnel to fire when the UNDOF vehicles approached the checkpoint.

During the reporting period, United Nations personnel encountered increased restrictions of movement and heightened risk, owing also to the placement of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation. Within that challenging environment, UNDOF supervised the area of separation by manning static positions and conducting around-the-clock observation to ensure that the military forces of both parties were excluded from it. UNDOF, through Observer Group Golan, also continued to establish temporary observation posts in several locations along the ceasefire line.

As at 3 March, UNDOF comprised 1,240 troops, including 38 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 86 military observers from UNTSO, including three women, who assisted the Force.

Communications. In letters sent on 19 and on 25 March [A/68/804-S/2014/201, A/68/814-S/2014/219], Syria informed the Secretary-General and the Security Council President of Israel’s violations of the Agreement that occurred on 5, 18 and 19 March; and set out Syria’s position regarding the March report (see above) of the Secretary-General on UNDOF.

On 3 June [S/2014/588], Israel wrote to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, expressing its concern over the Syrian violation on 2 June of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, when a 122-mm rocket was launched into the Israeli side of the Mount Hermon area.
Report of Secretary-General (June). In his June report [S/2014/401], the Secretary-General gave an account of UNDOF activities from 11 March to 28 May. During the reporting period, the most significant violation since the conclusion of the Agreement occurred on 18 and 19 March, when IDF fired into the areas of separation and limitation on the Syrian side, which, according to Syrian authorities, resulted in the death of two Syrian soldiers and wounding 17 others. The IDF fire was in response to what IDF claimed was the placing of an improvised explosive device in the Israeli-occupied Golan that injured four IDF soldiers. Further, on 19 March, IDF conducted air strikes on three Syrian armed forces locations on the Syrian side, and, on 23 and 24 April, a Syrian armed forces aircraft dropped a bomb in the area of separation. The UNDOF investigation into the incidents could not establish whether the explosion that injured the IDF soldiers on 18 March had resulted from a drifted mine or an improvised explosive device, while it found out that the 19 March Israeli air strikes had hit locations where Syrian armed or security forces were based.

The heavy fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition that had started in the UNDOF area of operation at the end of January, immediately adjacent to the area of separation, continued throughout the reporting period, interrupted only by short phases when fighting decreased. On numerous occasions, rounds landed inside or near United Nations positions, at times forcing United Nations personnel to take shelter.

During the reporting period, United Nations personnel encountered increased restrictions of movement and risk, owing also to the placement by armed members of the opposition of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation. On 20 March, an UNDOF convoy was stopped twice by Syrian forces at a checkpoint claiming that armed opposition groups were active in area. The second time, a Syrian soldier pointed a rifle at the lead vehicle for the convoy to stop and turn back. On 22 April, three unidentified armed persons attempted to stop an UNDOF convoy, and when it did not stop, some stones were thrown towards one of the United Nations vehicles. UNDOF continued to adapt its operational posture to the military activities of the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition in its area of operation.

As at 23 May, UNDOF comprised 1,251 troops, including 47 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 77 UNTSO military observers, including four women.

The Secretary-General underscored that a mix of factors was contributing to a volatile security situation, which further undermined the Agreement. It remained critical that both sides worked through UNDOF in case of incidents along or across the ceasefire line.

He observed that the presence of Syrian armed forces and unauthorized military equipment in the area of separation were grave violations of the Agreement.

Communications. On 17 June [S/2014/415], in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Israel expressed its concern about a statement included in the June report of the Secretary-General, namely that Israel had committed the most significant violation of the Disengagement Agreement since 1974. Stressing that it had acted in self-defence, Israel noted that, in the previous five months, it had incurred more intentional attacks than in the previous 40 years.

On 23 June [S/2014/434], Israel informed the Secretary-General and the Council President that an attack of the previous day from Syria into Israel had killed a 13-year-old boy and injured four others. Israel had shown restraint until that moment, but it could not be expected that it stood by as its soldiers and citizens were targeted.

Also in a 23 June letter [A/68/913–S/2014/435], Syria informed the Security Council President of violations of the Disengagement Agreement by Israel that took place on 22 and 23 June, when tank and mortar shells and two rockets were fired, and five Israeli aircraft attacked Syrian law enforcement forces positions, killing four persons and wounding nine.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION


The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 10 June 2014 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000,

Stressing that both parties must abide by the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire,

Concurring with the findings of the Secretary-General that the ongoing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground,

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the disengagement of forces agreement,

Stressing that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force,
StrONGLY CONDEMNING the recent intense fighting in the area of separation, and calling upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions in the area of operation of the Force, and further condemning the increased use by elements of the Syrian opposition and other groups of improvised explosive devices in the area of operation of the Force,

Condemning the use of heavy weapons by both the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition in the ongoing Syrian conflict in the area of separation, including the use of tanks by the Syrian armed forces and opposition during clashes,

Condemning also the horrific crimes committed by some armed members of the opposition, and calling upon all parties to the ongoing conflict to respect international humanitarian law,

Echoing the Secretary-General’s call upon all parties to the Syrian conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the area of operation of the Force,

Strongly condemning the incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel in recent months,

Underscoring the need for the Force to have at its disposal all means and resources necessary to carry out its mandate safely and securely, and recalling that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets, and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities, are unacceptable,

Expressing its profound appreciation to the military and civilian personnel of the Force, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service and continued contribution, in an increasingly challenging operating environment, underscoring the important contribution that the continued presence of the Force makes to peace and security in the Middle East, welcoming steps taken to enhance the safety and security of the personnel of the Force, including Observer Group Golan personnel, and stressing the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of Force and Observer Group Golan personnel,

1. Calls upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. Stresses the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, and underscores that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;

3. Underlines that there should be no military activity of the armed opposition groups in the area of separation, and urges Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the need to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely;

4. Calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the Force, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of Force equipment and the temporary use of an alternative port of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and urges prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede the ability of the Force to fulfil its mandate;

5. Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

6. Decides to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Force has the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973).

Communication. In identical letters [S/2014/625] of 25 August, Israel informed the Secretary-General and the Council President about attacks launched at Israel from Syria on 24 and 25 August.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In September [S/2014/665], the Secretary-General reported on UNDOF activities between 29 May and 3 September. During the reporting period, the situation in the UNDOF area of operation was very volatile and was evolving rapidly, with heavy fighting continuing between the Syrian armed forces and the armed members of the opposition and other armed groups in the area of separation. Several UNDOF peacekeepers of the Fijian battalion were detained by armed elements. The ceasefire between Israel and Syria generally was maintained, but several incidents of firing across the ceasefire line occurred, resulting in casualties.

Syrian armed forces maintained a larger number of soldiers, and increased their heavy equipment inside the area of separation. In the morning of 27 August, approximately 100 members of several armed groups, including the Nusra Front, launched an attack on Syrian armed forces positions in the area of separation. UNDOF evacuated its personnel from the Charlie gate to Camp Ziouani—the alternate headquarters of the Force. Armed groups also engaged the Syrian armed forces in other positions, and, following several hours of heavy fighting, the armed elements gained control of the Bravo gate and other positions.

In the afternoon of the same day, eight armed fighters forcibly entered one of UNDOF positions while UNDOF personnel were in the shelter, and demanded that the United Nations personnel vacate the position.
to avoid injury in the ongoing fighting. The UNDOF personnel refused and remain in the shelter while the fighting continued. The Force Commander spoke to the leader of the armed fighters and requested that the armed elements vacate the position and not harm the United Nations peacekeepers. The armed fighters, however, remained inside the United Nations premises and continued their attack on the Syrian armed forces through the night. Some armed elements ransacked the position and took United Nations and personal items from it. The following day, the armed fighters who had remained at the position overnight demanded that the UNDOF personnel leave the position, leaving behind their vehicles. After the Force Commander gave orders for the United Nations personnel to vacate the position, the armed fighters took the weapons of the UNDOF personnel and then transported 45 UNDOF peacekeepers of the Fijian contingent to the Bravo gate with the understanding that they would be allowed to cross to the Israeli-occupied side. The detained peacekeepers, however, were sent elsewhere and no additional information on their status or location was established.

Since the fierce fighting that started on 27 August, and the siege of two UNDOF positions, the UNDOF Force Commander had been in close contact with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate and IDF. Both parties provided full support to UNDOF in ensuring the safe evacuation of its peacekeepers from positions that had to be vacated as a result of the ongoing fighting. The UNDOF Force Commander and Secretariat staff were also in ongoing contact with Member States that might have influence over the armed groups in order to bring about the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the members of the Fijian contingent.

There were also incidents involving UNDOF patrols and considerable restrictions of movement and risk for United Nations personnel, owing to the placement of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation by armed members of the opposition.

As at 2 September, UNDOF comprised 1,271 troops, including 48 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 81 UNTSO military observers, including one woman.

The Secretary-General strongly condemned the forced removal of the Fijian peacekeepers from their position and their detention by armed elements, and called for their immediate, unconditional and safe release. Further, he noted that armed opposition groups and other armed groups had gained control of a large part of the area of separation, including a section of the main road connecting the two UNDOF camps—Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani—and the crossing between the Israeli and the Syrian sides. The Secretary-General also expressed his concern about the firing of a cluster ammunition round, which was contrary to the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 623].

**Communications.** In identical letters [S/2014/667] to the Secretary-General and the Council President, dated 15 September, Syria set out its position regarding the September report (see above) of the Secretary-General, reiterating its commitment to the Disengagement Agreement; denouncing Israel’s violations of the Agreement; and condemning the abduction of United Nations peacekeepers by armed terrorist groups. The United Nations had ignored the intelligence provided by Syria and had failed to react, thus encouraging the groups to persist in their acts.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 19 September [meeting 7270], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2014/19 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms the importance of maintaining the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council stresses that, despite the latest security challenges and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force’s temporary relocation of the majority of its personnel across the Alpha line, both parties must remain committed to the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement and scrupulously observe the ceasefire and the separation of forces. The Council also urges both parties to continue to offer support to the Force during this period of heightened security threats, and to offer the Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization-Observer Group Golan safe passage and resupply when requested.

The Council also reaffirms its unconditional support for the Force and the importance of maintaining the Force as a vital contributor to peace and security in the Middle East. The Council notes with concern the deteriorating security situation in the area of operation of the Force due to the ongoing Syrian conflict and the activities of several non-State armed actors, including Al-Nusrah Front, and the risk it poses to the disengagement of forces agreement and to United Nations peacekeepers serving there. In this connection, the Council recognizes the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust the posture of the Force to minimize risk to United Nations personnel as the Force continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to their positions in the area of operation of the Force as soon as practicable.

The Council condemns recent hostile acts against United Nations peacekeepers in the area of operation of the Force by terrorist groups and non-State armed actors designated by the Council and stresses that there can never be any justification for these attacks on and detention of United Nations peacekeepers. The Council is deeply concerned that firing in close proximity to United Nations positions and camps also significantly increases risk to United Nations personnel. To this end, the Council demands that all groups other than the Force must abandon all Force positions and the
Quaytirah crossing point and return the peacekeepers’ vehicles, weapons and other equipment. The Council reiterates that the mandate, impartiality, operations, safety and security of the Force must be respected. The Council calls upon all parties to allow the Force to operate freely and to ensure full security of its personnel and full implementation of the 1974 agreement.

The Council commends peacekeepers of the Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Operation-Observer Group Golan for their bravery in facing the threats and challenges in their area of operation, and extends its appreciation to the troop-contributing countries. The Council notes the importance of maintaining the force strength and self-defence resources of the Force at the level necessary to carry out its important mandate and to retain its quick reaction and counter-improvised explosive device capabilities, which have proved indispensable in the face of a changing security environment.

The Council urges Member States with influence to convey strongly to non-State armed actors in the area the need to halt immediately all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and impede them in the implementation of their duties as mandated by the Council. The Council recalls the obligation of all Member States to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and notes the importance of this obligation with respect to terrorist acts directed against United Nations peacekeepers.

The Council requests that the Secretary-General provide an update within 30 days on steps necessary to maintain the ability of the Force to carry out its mandate, including options for monitoring the ceasefire and the separation of forces even under circumstances when security conditions constrain the Force from fully operating in the area of separation and the area of limitation on the Bravo side, and to keep the Council updated on ways it can support the continuation of this vital mission.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In November [S/2014/859], the Secretary-General reported on UNDOF activities between 4 September and 19 November. During the reporting period, the heavy fighting between Syrian armed forces and various armed groups, including the Nusra Front, in the areas of limitation and separation, which had started in late August, intensified. Between 13 and 15 September, the significant deterioration of the security situation necessitated the temporary relocation of UNDOF personnel and military observers from a few remaining positions in the area of separation to the Israeli-occupied side. The Syrian armed forces carried out more than 40 air strikes in the days immediately following the UNDOF relocation, targeting several locations in the areas of separation and limitation.

On 11 September, the 45 UNDOF peacekeepers, who had been detained since 28 August, were released unharmed to UNDOF.

During the reporting period, the Syrian armed forces withdrew from additional positions and check-points in the areas of separation and limitation, leaving armed groups in control of more territory in the UNDOF area of operations. Further to the presidential statement of 19 September (see above), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in coordination with UNDOF, held consultations with the parties to the Disengagement Agreement on the necessary steps to maintain the ability of UNDOF to carry out its mandate.

The Department also held consultations with Israel and Syria in New York on the reconfiguration and activities of UNDOF. Both parties expressed their commitment to the Disengagement Agreement and the continuation of UNDOF with its established mandate; regarded the relocation of UNDOF from Camp Faouar and other positions as a temporary measure; and expressed the desire to see the full return of UNDOF to the area of separation, when the security conditions allowed.

Following the decision by the Philippines to withdraw its contingent, 344 Philippine peacekeepers left the mission between 18 and 27 September. As at 12 November, UNDOF comprised 929 troops, including 30 women, from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 80 UNTSO military observers, including one woman.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNDOF for further six months, until 30 June 2015, a decision to which both Syria and Israel agreed.

Communication. In identical letters [S/2014/885] to the Secretary-General and the Council President, dated 11 December, Syria set out its position regarding the Secretary-General’s December report (see above). Syria stressed that the occupied Syrian Golan was an integral part of Syria and, therefore, UNDOF was present until Israel’s occupation came to an end in accordance with relevant Council resolutions. Syria welcomed the fact that the report had documented the crimes committed in the area of separation by armed terrorist groups, including the Nusra Front, and that the report had recognized such groups’ responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the area. Syria, however, said that the Council needed to counteract the States that supported the armed terrorist groups, in order to drive such groups out of the area of separation.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION


The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 28 November 2014 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000, 

Stressing that both parties must abide by the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire, 

Concurring with the findings of the Secretary-General that the ongoing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground, 

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the disengagement of forces agreement, 

Stressing that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of the Force, 

Strongly condemning the recent intense fighting in the area of separation, calling upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions in the area of operation of the Force and to respect international humanitarian law, and further condemning the use by armed Syrian extremist groups of improvised explosive devices in the area of operation of the Force, 

Condemning the use of heavy weapons by both the Syrian armed forces and armed groups in the ongoing Syrian conflict in the area of separation, including the use of tanks by the Syrian armed forces and opposition during clashes, 

Echoing the Secretary-General’s call upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the area of operation of the Force, 

Strongly condemning the incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel in recent months, including the detention of 45 Force peacekeepers by Al-Nusrah Front, stressing that there can never be any justification for these attacks on and detention of United Nations peacekeepers, and emphasizing the need to hold those responsible accountable, 

Reaffirming its readiness to consider listing individuals, groups, undertakings and entities providing support to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or to Al-Nusrah Front, including those who are financing, arming, planning or recruiting for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaeda under the Al-Qaeda sanctions regime pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011, including those participating in or otherwise supporting attacks against United Nations peacekeepers, 

Recognizing the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust the posture of the Force on a temporary basis to minimize the security risk to United Nations personnel as the Force continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to their positions in the area of operation of the Force as soon as practicable, 

Underscoring the need for the Force to have at its disposal all means and resources necessary to carry out its mandate safely and securely, and recalling that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities are unacceptable, 

Expressing its profound appreciation to the military and civilian personnel of the Force, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service and continued contribution in an increasingly challenging operating environment, underscoring the important contribution that the continued presence of the Force makes to peace and security in the Middle East, welcoming steps taken to enhance the safety and security of personnel of the Force, including Observer Group Golan personnel, and stressing the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of Force and Observer Group Golan personnel, 

1. Calls upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973; 
2. Stresses the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, and underscores that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces; 
3. Underlines that there should be no military activity of the armed opposition groups in the area of separation, and urges Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the need to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely; 
4. Calls upon all groups other than the Force to abandon all Force positions and the Qunaytrah crossing point and to return the peacekeepers’ vehicles, weapons and other equipment; 
5. Calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the Force, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of Force equipment and the temporary use of alternative ports of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation and resupply activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and urges prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede the ability of the Force to fulfil its mandate; 
6. Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel; 
7. Decides to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Force has
the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973).

Financing

The General Assembly had before it the performance report of UNDOF from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/596], which showed expenditures amounting to $46,238,700 gross ($45,059,900 net) against an appropriation of $45,992,000 gross ($44,929,300 net). The budget provided for the deployment of 1,047 military contingent personnel, 46 international staff and 110 national staff. The Assembly also considered the Secretary-General’s report [A/68/725] containing the budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to $62,417,100 gross ($60,930,600 net) providing for the deployment of 1,284 military contingent personnel, 58 international staff (including 12 temporary positions) and 110 national staff.

In May [A/68/782/Add.6], ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance of $4,500 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of $663,700, for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of $62,394,900 for the maintenance of UNDOF for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNDOF beyond 30 June 2014.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/671/Add.1], adopted resolution 68/260 B without vote [agenda item 159 (a)].

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 350(1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2163(2014) of 25 June 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B(XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/260 A of 27 December 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/270 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 28.5 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 63 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. Expresses concern at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. Emphasizes that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. Also emphasizes that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/270, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

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12. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 69,114,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 64,110,900 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 4,148,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 855,100 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 34,557,200 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. Also decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 913,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

15. Further decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 34,557,200 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 5,759,533 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 913,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

17. Also decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 668,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. Further decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 668,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. Decides that the decrease of 11,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 668,200 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. Emphasizes that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Disengagement Observer Force”.

By decision 69/554 of 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNDOF would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UNTSO

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was the first ever peacekeeping operation established by the United Nations. It was originally set up to monitor the ceasefire called for by Security Council resolution S/801 of 29 May 1948 (YUN 1947–48, p. 427) in the newly partitioned Palestine. In 2014, UNTSO continued its work through its military observers who fulfilled evolving mandates—from supervising the four armistice agreements between Israel and its neighbours (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic) to monitoring other ceasefires, as well as performing other tasks. During the year, UNTSO personnel also worked with the two other peacekeeping forces in the area: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNTSO operated under a UN regular budget appropriation of $74,291,900 million for the 2013–2014 period.