

316 (XXVIII). Support for the Palestinian people

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012 concerning the status of Palestine in the United Nations, in which it accorded to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 68/12 of 26 November 2013, in which it proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People,

Referring further to General Assembly resolutions 68/14 concerning the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, 68/13 concerning the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat and 68/12 concerning the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, all of which adopted on 26 November 2013,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/26 of 11 July 2014 concerning 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,

Recalling its resolutions 307 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 and 292 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, supported the efforts of the Palestinian people and Palestinian Authority towards the establishment of a Palestinian State that extends its authority over all its territory on the basis of United Nations resolutions, and called for intensifying efforts to raise awareness on the rights of the Palestinian people and on the violations of those rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations prepared by the ESCWA secretariat in 2014 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,¹ which highlights the continuing deterioration of the economic and social conditions as a result of persistent Israeli practices and policies that violate international law, especially collective punishments against the Palestinian people, the Gaza blockade, the illegal expansionary settlements on Palestinian territory in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the construction of the separation wall, denying Palestinians and their institutions the right to access and use their natural resources, including agricultural land and water resources, in addition to the excessive use of force by the Israeli army and security forces, the continuous destruction of Palestinian houses and institutions with impunity, and violence committed by Israeli settlers against the Palestinians and their properties and religious sites,

Also taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, published on 13 January 2014,² and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,³ which was “particularly

¹ A/69/81-E/2014/13.

² United Nations, Human Rights Council, twenty-fifth session, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk, 13 January 2014, A/HRC/25/67.

³ United Nations, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, eightieth session, 13 February – 9 March 2012, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16.

appalled at the hermetic character of the separation of two groups, who live on the same territory but do not enjoy either equal use of roads and infrastructure or equal access to basic services and water resources,” and considered that this constitutes a breach of article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and a violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to economic and social development,

Referring to decisions 594 and 595 adopted by the League of Arab States at its twenty-fifth summit on 26 March 2014, which reiterate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, and the categorical refusal of the recognition of Israel as a Jewish State,

Noting with appreciation that, despite all difficulties, the Palestinians are persistently exerting all efforts to build their institutions, realize development and achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of their legitimate rights under international law in the occupied territory,

Also noting with appreciation the efforts of the ESCWA secretariat to support the Palestinian people, build its institutions and raise the awareness of the international community of Palestinian rights as guaranteed by numerous international resolutions, charters and conventions,

Taking into consideration the increasing needs of Palestinian institutions and bodies in the process of building a state and achieving development despite occupation, as indicated by the number of requests for technical cooperation received by the secretariat from the Palestinian Government,

1. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 67/19 in which it accorded to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations;

2. *Also welcomes* General Assembly resolution 68/12 in which it proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

3. *Calls on* the international community to support the Government of National Conciliation which was formed according to the Palestinian National Reconciliation achieved in May 2014, asserting the unity of the Palestinian people;

4. *Condemns with the strongest terms* the Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip, being another Israeli attempt at breaking the will of the Palestinian people; and stresses that targeting civilians and their houses and infrastructure, as seen in Gaza, constitutes further violations of the International Humanitarian Law, which emphasizes the need to hold Israel accountable for those crimes;

5. *Condemns* the practices and policies of the Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which amount to apartheid, cause a continuous deterioration of their economic and social conditions and violate the collective and individual rights of the Palestinian people;

6. *Calls upon* member States:

(a) To raise the level of their support for the Palestinian people in their efforts to obtain their full rights, to put an end to Israeli violations of their rights and of the international law, to end the Israeli occupation and to establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) To support Palestine’s efforts to obtain full membership in all specialized international agencies and to join international charters and protocols as an inherent right of the State of Palestine;

(c) To enhance efforts to support and reinforce the resilience of the Palestinian people, so as to ensure their continued existence on their land and mitigate the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and related policies;

(d) To observe the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People through new or scheduled activities, in particular cultural ones;

(e) To observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November through special activities and/or ensure the highest possible level of representation in the activity organized by the ESCWA secretariat in that regard;

(f) To encourage Arab and foreign civil society organizations to launch initiatives to enhance the capacities of the Palestinian people and support their effort to obtain their full rights and provide moral and material support for those initiatives where possible;

(g) To support the efforts of the Arab humanitarian and charitable associations to help the Palestinian people;

(h) To contribute to the mobilization of international support for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and effectively participate in the international donors conference to be held in Egypt in October 2014;

(i) To encourage the subsidiary bodies of ESCWA to give special attention to the conditions of the Palestinian people;

7. *Requests* the ESCWA secretariat to raise the level of its support for the Palestinian people and their institutions at all levels, including the enhancement of human resources for subprogramme 7 to support the implementation of the following:

(a) Providing normative and technical assistance to the Palestinian institutions according to the Palestinian needs;

(b) Developing more activities on Palestine and organize special events in observance of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, with the aim of raising awareness and mobilizing support for the Palestinian people in Palestine and abroad, and securing the widest media coverage for those events;

(c) Submitting periodic reports to the ministerial sessions of the Commission on the practices of the Israeli occupation that violate the economic and social rights of the Palestinian people and other rights guaranteed by international law, charters and conventions;

(d) Monitoring the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation, mobilizing regional partners to support the Palestinian people and their institutions in Palestine and abroad, assisting them in achieving development and exerting pressure and advocacy to help them obtain their full rights as guaranteed by United Nations resolutions and international conventions and charters;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and report on progress made in that regard to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

8th plenary meeting
18 September 2014