



COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

Written By: Colin Hale, Shyryn Barham, Carolina Contreras, Jane Kim



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

nmun.org



17 - 21 March - Conference A
24 - 28 March - Conference B

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2013

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed here. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_ConfA_MarsCollege).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org or positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org. This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.

Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_Conf A_Mars College).

COMMITTEE

EMAIL - CONFERENCE A

General Assembly First Committee	ga1.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2.nya@nmun.org
General Assembly Fourth Committee	ga4.nya@nmun.org
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations	c34.nya@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.nya@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.nya@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.nya@nmun.org
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United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.nya@nmun.org
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	unpfii.nya@nmun.org
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	ceirpp.nya@nmun.org
Security Council A	sca.nya@nmun.org
Security Council B	scb.nya@nmun.org
Security Council C	scc.nya@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.nya@nmun.org

COMMITTEE

EMAIL - CONFERENCE B

General Assembly First Committee	ga1.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee	ga3.nyb@nmun.org
General Assembly Fourth Committee	ga4.nyb@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.nyb@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.nyb@nmun.org
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Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	ceirpp.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council A	sca.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council B	scb.nyb@nmun.org
Security Council C	scc.nyb@nmun.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	iaea.nyb@nmun.org
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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.nya@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue)	positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org
Secretary-General, Conference A	secgen.nya@nmun.org
Secretary-General, Conference B	secgen.nyb@nmun.org
Director(s)-General	dirgen.ny@nmun.org
NMUN Office	info@nmun.org

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2013 National Model United Nations Conference. As part of the volunteer staff for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), our aim is to facilitate your educational experience at the Conference in New York. This year's Directors are Colin Hale (for Conference A), and Sheryn Barham (Conference B). Colin Hale has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a focus in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. Sheryn Barham has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a minor in Political Science and is currently undertaking her second year on a Master's programme on International Relations with specialization in Security and Human Rights in Ecuador. Carolina Contreras (Conference A) and Jane Kim (Conference B) will serve as your Assistant Directors. Carolina Contreras graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales. Jane Kim graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization with a focus in Arabic and a minor in Comparative Islamic Studies. She is currently studying toward a Master's degree in Economics at the University of Copenhagen.

This year's topics under discussion for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People:

1. Supporting Palestinian Women as Political Leaders;
2. The Reconciliation of Stateless Palestinian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries; and
3. The Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem.

The CEIRPP is the United Nations system's principal agency for addressing international matters related to the Question of Palestine and the analysis of the human rights situation of the Palestinian people. Despite setbacks in negotiations, the United Nations continues to take a principled stance on the Question of Palestine and seeks to resolve this protracted issue through diplomacy. We hope to see this spirit in your position papers and the working papers during the Conference.

This background guide will give you an overview of the topics at hand and the work of the Committee; nevertheless, it should only serve as an introduction to your research and preparation for the Conference. The references listed for each topic are a good starting point for your own research, and we highly encourage you to deepen your knowledge further, especially considering your country's position. Each delegation is requested to submit a position paper that will reflect your research on the topics. Please take note of the NMUN policies on the [website](#) and in the [delegate preparation guide](#) regarding [plagiarism](#), [codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment](#), [awards philosophy/evaluation method](#), etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions regarding your preparation for the committee and the Conference itself, please feel free to contact any of the substantive staff of the CEIRPP or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Roger Tseng (Conference A) and Sasha Sleiman (Conference B). We wish you all the best in your preparation for the Conference and look forward to seeing you in March.

Conference A

Colin Hale
Director

Carolina Contreras
Assistant Director

Conference B

Sheryn Barham
Director

Jane Kim
Assistant Director



Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN Conference

For NMUN-New York 2013, each delegation submits one position paper for each assigned committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, Non-Governmental Organization, etc. should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#).

Position papers should review each delegation's policy regarding the topics of the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in entirely original material. ***The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism.*** In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers may be given an award as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below and be of high substantive standard, using adequate language and showing in-depth research. While we encourage innovative proposals, we would like to remind delegates to stay within the mandate of their respective committee and keep a neutral and respectful tone. Similarly to the minus point-policy implemented at the conference to discourage disruptive behavior, position papers that use offensive language may entail negative grading when being considered for awards. Please refer to the sample paper following this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single-sided pages (one double-sided paper, if printed)
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at one inch for the whole paper
- Country/NGO name, school name and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page,
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf format required) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2012. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue, Conference A: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org or Conference B: positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2013 (GMT-5)**.

Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: GA1st_Cuba_ConfA_Mars College).

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Hannah Birkenkötter, Director-General (Conference A), or Nicholas Warino, Director-General (Conference B), at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and it is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location, your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Conference A
Hannah Birkenkötter
Director-General
hannah@nmun.org

Conference B
Nicholas Warino
Director-General
nick@nmun.org

**Delegation from
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by
(Name of College)**

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent on the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico’s foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially

based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

Committee History

“It is time to realize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Palestine and the people of Israel.”
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon¹

The Palestinian Question

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict predates the founding of the United Nations (UN) and continues to be a challenging issue for the international community.² Once the Palestinian question was placed on the United Nations General Assembly’s (UNGA) agenda by the United Kingdom in 1947, a special committee was appointed to investigate the volatile situation in Palestine, the rise in Jewish immigration, and Palestinian resistance.³ The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), was created as a committee that reported to the UNGA recommending the termination of the British mandate, which began the negotiations regarding the partition of Palestine.⁴ Between 1947 and 1975, various UN organs drafted 188 reports and committee resolutions apropos the Palestinian question.⁵

In 1975, UNGA resolution A/RES/3376 (XXX) established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP).⁶ From 1953 to 1973, the Palestinian question was largely regarded as a refugee problem, until the shift in legal discourse asserted the inalienable right of return as a human right under international law.⁷ The creation of the CEIRPP was thus a significant step aligning Palestinians with repatriation rights as prescribed by Article 13 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR).⁸ In its founding resolution, the GA provided the mandate to the CEIRPP requesting a program of implementation empowering the Palestinian people to “exercise their inalienable right to return to their homes and property.”⁹ The CEIRPP was also authorized to contact and establish relationships with “any State and intergovernmental regional organization” in fulfilling its mandate.¹⁰ In its first year, the CEIRPP recommended to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) “a two-phase plan for the return of Palestinians to their homes and property, a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories by 1 June 1977, with the provision, if necessary, of temporary peacekeeping forces to facilitate the process.”¹¹ Eventually, the projected goal was the self-determination and sovereignty in an independent Arab State of Palestine.¹² When the recommendations provided by the CEIRPP could not be implemented by the target date, the UNGA renewed each year its mandate aiming for the intensification of their efforts in attaining its objectives.”¹³

Today, the CEIRPP maintains the following principles as guidelines of its work: the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) since 1967, including East Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories; respect for the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and international recognized boundaries; and the recognition and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.¹⁴

Authority and Membership

Under its mandate, CEIRPP has the ability to organize international meetings and conferences, coordinate with civil society organizations worldwide, and maintain a publications and information program, using all the information collected in these activities to formulate recommendations to the Secretary-General.¹⁵ The recommendations are

¹ UNISPAL. *Secretary-General tells Palestinian Rights Committee, Urging Parties to end ‘Provocations.’* 2012.

² UNISPAL, *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*. 1978.

³ General Assembly. *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975.

⁴ UNISPAL, *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*. 1978

⁵ UNISPAL, *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*. 1978.

⁶ General Assembly. *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975.

⁷ UNISPAL, *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*. 1978.

⁸ UDHR, *Article 13*: “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”

⁹ General Assembly. *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975.

¹⁰ General Assembly. *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975.

¹¹ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹² Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹³ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹⁴ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹⁵ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

then incorporated in reports to the UNSC.¹⁶ In its resolution 3376 (XXX) establishing the CEIRPP, the GA requested that the CEIRPP make suggestions to the GA and SC on the situation in Palestine, while promoting the greatest possible dissemination of information on its recommendations through conferences and its website.¹⁷ The UNGA renews the mandate of the CEIRPP each year following the annual report.¹⁸ In 2012, UNGA resolution A/RES/66/14 requested the CEIRPP to “mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis,” while emphasizing that the question of Palestine is “the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.”¹⁹

In addition, each year the Committee holds a special meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 29th, in accordance with UNGA resolution 32/40 B.²⁰ This international day commemorates the adoption of GA resolution 181 (II), of 1947, which advocated for the partition of Palestine into two states: one Arab and one Jewish.²¹ It is worth noting that the GA adopted this resolution before the State of Israel declared its independence and statehood on May 14th, 1948.²²

The CEIRPP is the only UN committee dedicated solely to the Palestinian question, yet it coordinates with several other UN bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).²³ The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports periodically to the CEIRPP, and also coordinates with the Division for Palestinian Rights (DPR).²⁴ The Division, according to GA Resolution 46/74B, developed the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL), an online electronic database of all significant texts related to the Palestinian question.²⁵ The DPR also collects and disseminates information on behalf of the CEIRPP and annually trains the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on UN organs, trade facilitation, and foreign direct investment.²⁶

As a report-writing committee, the CEIRPP’s documents generally begin with a “Letter of transmittal” from the Chairman to the Secretary-General, as well as an introduction summarizing the history of the CEIRPP’s actions and observations.²⁷ Then the report is divided into chapters that detail the mandate of the committee, organization of work, review of the situation relating to the question of Palestine, action taken by the committee, and most importantly, conclusions and recommendations.²⁸ Recent actions taken by the CEIRPP include a programme of international meetings and conferences, cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and civil society, research, monitoring, and publications.²⁹

Conclusion

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, briefed the UNSC on the situation in the Middle East on the one-year anniversary of the Palestinian application for Member State status in the UN.³⁰ The briefing emphasized important steps toward the construction of an independent State of Palestine.³¹ Among the achievements mentioned are an agreement signed by Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad, and Israeli Finance Minister, Yuval Steinitz, on July 31st, 2012 on institution-building led by the PNA, and economic growth in the private sector that eased the Palestinian dependence on foreign aid.³² Meanwhile, the CEIRPP continues to focus on the cumulative costs on the Palestinian economy and international donors due to the prolonged and illegal Israeli

¹⁶ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹⁷ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹⁸ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

¹⁹ General Assembly, *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. 2012.

²⁰ General Assembly, *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975.

²¹ General Assembly, *Question of Palestine*. (A/RES/3376). 1975

²² Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

²³ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

²⁴ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

²⁵ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

²⁶ Division for Palestine Rights (DPR), *Information Note*. 2012.

²⁷ General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. 2011.

²⁸ General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. 2011.

²⁹ General Assembly, *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. 2011.

³⁰ Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question* (S/PV.6824), 2012.

³¹ Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question* (S/PV.6824), 2012.

³² Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question* (S/PV.6824), 2012.

occupation, specifically exploring “ways in which Israel, the occupying Power, can be held liable under international law for the losses and damages... and be compelled to pay restitution.”³³ The CEIRPP has evolved throughout the years to also call attention to the status of political prisoners held by Israel and the importance of women’s rights in Palestine.³⁴

On September 27th, 2012, PNA President Mahmoud Abbas announced to the GA General Debate that Palestine will now seek non-Member status at the UN this year, and called on the UNSC to urgently adopt a binding reference for achieving a two-state solution.³⁵ As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon suggested, “all leaders in the region should use their voices at this time to lower, rather than escalate, tensions.”³⁶

³³ CEIRPP, *Draft Programme of Work for 2012*, 2012.

³⁴ CEIRPP, *Draft Programme of Work for 2012*, 2012.

³⁵ United Nations, *Palestine to seek UN non-Member State status, Abbas tells General Assembly debate*, 2012.

³⁶ Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question (S/PV.6824)*, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. (2012). *Palestinian Rights Committee Will Continue Calls on Security Council, Others to Hold Israel Account for Its Actions, Chair Pledges*. Retrieved September 1, 2012, from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/gapal1245.doc.htm>.

The CEIRPP is a report-writing committee and has no binding power, as its primary authority is to gather and disseminate information. To gauge this process, this news report details the latest meetings of the CEIRPP, where speakers from different branches of the UN (such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Relief and Works Agency) coordinate with representatives of Member and Observer States. The report provides insight into the interactions and conversations in a CEIRPP meeting, as well as important information regarding the regional situation on ground, such as violence in Gaza, budgeting problems with the PNA, and the conversion of Al-Walaja village into a national park.

General Assembly. (2012). *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. (A/RES/66/14). Retrieved August 7, 2012, from: <http://www.undocs.org/a/res/66/14>.

This resolution is the yearly mandate for the CEIRPP. The CEIRPP's mandate is renewed by the GA each year; hence this is an important document that will inform delegates of the CEIRPP's responsibilities. This document also references several other previous resolutions that may be of interest to delegates in finding other useful documents from between the inception of the CEIRPP to now. The focus of the committee in 2012 was shaped by this mandate and its call for international dissemination of information on the rights of the Palestinian people.

UNISPAL. (2012). *Calendar of Events*. Retrieved August 5, 2012, from: http://unispal.un.org/databases/dprtest/ngoweb.nsf/ViewTemplate%20for%20v_Cal.

This calendar of events of the CEIRPP will be an important tool for delegates wishing to understand the recent timeline of events, as well as the wide range of CEIRPP's awareness-raising activities. The calendar also includes links to various relevant facets of events such as photos, articles in the UN News Centre, UN Radio, speeches, and documents. Please note that although the calendar timeline appears as if it is from 2008-2012, clicking on the January 2008 link actually gives access to all the final reports of the CEIRPP's meetings and conferences from 1980 to the present.

UNISPAL. (1978). *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*. Retrieved August 7, 2012, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/90634f6f0dc8cd1b85256d0a00549202/805c731452035912852569d1005c1201>.

Although the CEIRPP was established in 1975, the Palestinian Question has been an important agenda item since 1947, and it is challenging to understand the transformation of the situation from a "refugee problem" to a legal right of return. In this study prepared by the Special Unit on Palestinian Rights for the CEIRPP, the right of return under international law is highlighted through a legal paradigm. The document discusses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and also delves into Israeli laws of the time to describe the Palestinian situation thirty years ago. Delegates should approach this study as an in-depth legal discussion that took place shortly after the inception of the CEIRPP and which is of great relevance as it discusses the right of return of Palestinian refugees.

General Assembly. (2011). *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. (A/66/35). Retrieved August 7, 2012, from: <http://www.undocs.org/a/66/35>.

This document is the last report to the GA authored by the CEIRPP. As the CEIRPP is a report-writing committee, this document will be an invaluable asset for delegates prior to the conference in observing the nature of the information presented to the GA and the format and style of the report. The comprehensive nature of this annual report and the nature of the recommendations build upon a long history of documents dating back to 1945.

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I. Supporting Palestinian Women as Political Leaders

*“Women and girls face entrenched institutional, legal, and social discrimination in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) as a result not only of the Israeli occupation, but also because of an outdated, un-harmonised legal system.”*³⁷

Introduction

This background guide analyzes both international documents as well as the narrative of the Palestinian Authority (PA), in order to examine the role of women in Palestinian society. Additionally, this background guide will provide a discussion of the role of Palestinian women in the processes of social change through their impacts on the First Intifada (1987) and the Arab Spring (2011) in order to show how Palestinian women play multidimensional roles, and are able to become political and social leaders within Palestinian society. In this sense, through the discussion of gender issues, including discrimination, it allows the construction of a scenario in which a number of factors that directly affect women’s quality of life emerge. Several of these factors respond to the level of accessibility and exercise of women’s rights, such as the potential to become political leaders within their own communities.

Addressing Gender Discrimination and the Empowerment of Women at the International Level

There are several international legal instruments as well as political statements made at the international level which provide the international framework for the empowerment of women.

Human Rights Conventions

When discussing political participation, it is important to consider the rights grounded in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, especially Articles 19, 20, and 21, which clearly express the rights of free speech, freedom of association, and the right given to every human being to participate in their country’s government without exception.³⁸ Additionally, it is necessary to address the concept of discrimination as discussed in the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) of 1975, which defines discrimination against women as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women.”³⁹ In this regard, the CEDAW clearly demonstrates that the exercise of rights is “irrespective of [...] marital status on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”⁴⁰ Furthermore, Article 7 of the CEDAW addresses the responsibility of every State Party to ensure the participation of women in public and private spheres.⁴¹ The CEDAW thus provides not only principles but also offers lines of action, especially within the spheres of education and employment.⁴² Overall, CEDAW highlights the key role that states have on the respect and efficient exercise of women’s rights, with gender equality as a fundamental principle.⁴³

The United Nations on Women and Political Participation

One of the core United Nations (UN) documents on the empowerment of women is the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of 1995, which was adopted at the “Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,” organized under the auspices of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).⁴⁴ Although there have been several developments regarding the advancement of women, issues such as poverty and a

³⁷ Al-Botmeh. R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

³⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)), 1948.

³⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (A/RES/34/180), 1979, Art. 1.

⁴⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (A/RES/34/180), 1979, Art. 1.

⁴¹ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (A/RES/34/180), 1979, Art. 7.

⁴² United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (A/RES/34/180), 1979.

⁴³ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (A/RES/34/180), 1979.

⁴⁴ Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Fourth World Conference on Women*, 15 September 1995.

poor standard of living continue to affect women around the world.⁴⁵ The *Beijing Platform* notes the importance of cooperation and dialogue between states in order to carry out the implementation of the Platform.⁴⁶ In this vein, the Platform for Action is presented as “an agenda for women's empowerment,” which “aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women [1985], and at removing all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life.”⁴⁷ The *Beijing Platform* further addresses the issue of women as political leaders directly in its section G on “Women in Power and Decision-Making,” which aims at ensuring women’s equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making and increasing women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.⁴⁸

The five-year review of this Conference took place in 2000 as the “23rd Special Session of the General Assembly on Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century.”⁴⁹ Member States convened in order to analyze the advancement of the goals and objectives set in 1995 and adopted the follow-up document, *Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.⁵⁰ During the preparatory process, Member States were asked to submit a report on the progress made towards the advancement of women.⁵¹ These reports demonstrated that Member States have made significant progress on the equality of employment and in the empowerment of women in public decision-making.⁵² Despite these achievements, the UN was able to identify two major obstacles: poverty and violence.⁵³ These social phenomena are associated with the pressing need of eradicating the trafficking of women and girls, as well as achieving the peaceful resolution of conflicts.⁵⁴

Recent resolutions passed by the General Assembly include resolution A/RES/66/130, which addresses women and political participation.⁵⁵ In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirms its commitment to international frameworks such as the *UN Charter*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the CEDAW, and the documents associated with the Fourth World Conference and the 23rd Special Session.⁵⁶ The General Assembly further commits to work towards the advancement of women and the achievement of gender-equality, especially in politics.⁵⁷ Additionally, this resolution recognizes the role of women as key actors for both the prevention and management of conflicts and acknowledges the pressing need to guarantee not only women’s access to education but also access to training in government and public policy in order to ensure empowerment at the different levels of participation.⁵⁸ The resolution thus illustrates a direct approach to the role of women in the political process, including that of states in transition, highlighting the need for women to participate at different levels of the public sphere, particularly in the formulation of public policy that will shape future governmental structures.⁵⁹

⁴⁵ Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Fourth World Conference on Women*, 15 September 1995.

⁴⁶ Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Fourth World Conference on Women*, 15 September 1995.

⁴⁷ Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Fourth World Conference on Women*, 15 September 1995.

⁴⁸ Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Fourth World Conference on Women*, 15 September 1995.

⁴⁹ Commission on the Status of Women, *Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first Century*, 5-9 June 2000.

⁵⁰ Commission on the Status of Women, *Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first Century*, 5-9 June 2000.

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⁵³ Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), *Palestinian Women and Security: Why Palestinian Women and Girls Do Not Feel Secure*, 2009.

⁵⁴ Commission on the Status of Women, *Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first Century*, 5-9 June 2000.

⁵⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2012.

⁵⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2012.

⁵⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2012.

⁵⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2012, Operative Clause 3.

⁵⁹ United Nations General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2012.

The Palestinian Basic Law and its Legal System

The Basic Law was conceived as an interim governing document for the administration of the PA.⁶⁰ Adopted in 1997, the Basic Law contains the basic principles and structures of the PA. It also addresses the issue of women and their political rights as individuals; for example, Article 9 addresses equality between all Palestinians independent of sex, and Article 26 recognizes the right of all Palestinians to participate in politics.⁶¹ Lastly, Article 29 provides a legal basis for the protection of the rights of children and motherhood, although it does not consider women's rights as individuals.⁶²

The PA considers the Basic Law as its transitory constitution, and its legal system incorporates "Jordanian and Egyptian penal codes (pre-1967), Israeli military law, and antiquated Ottoman law, in addition to recent Palestinian Authority legislation."⁶³ Within this context, there is no effective law that protects women's rights or a recognized and established law code that punishes acts of violence and transgression against Palestinian women.⁶⁴ Furthermore, although the Basic Law adheres to international human rights standards, it is incoherently applied as some articles are considered "dead letter," a law that remains in the judicial system but is not actively enforced.⁶⁵ An example of this is the Palestinian family law, under which women and men receive different treatment by requiring females to have the consent of a male guardian to wed; this is inherently incoherent to Article 9 of the Basic Law.⁶⁶ Meanwhile, labor rights and political participation follow international patterns by containing principles of equality and against gender discrimination.⁶⁷ Despite these legislative efforts, on a day-to-day basis, women in the workforce continue to have less access to opportunities and receive less pay compared to men.⁶⁸ Despite these social hurdles, it is necessary to underline that improvements have been made in a piecemeal fashion, including the right of women to have a passport without the agreement of the guardian, the right of a woman to keep her maiden name after marriage, equality in the age for compulsory education, and free education for both male and female children.⁶⁹ The legal reforms to take place need to be applied along with a structural change focused on initiatives oriented to tackle gender inequality.⁷⁰ In this spirit, it is fundamental to acknowledge that the international community has shown progress on the elaboration of legal and political frameworks that promote the advancement of women; however, the laws regulating the PA has been ineffective in guaranteeing the exercise of women's rights.⁷¹

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and its Impact on Women

According to the Report of the Secretary-General to the CSW on the situation of Palestinian women covering the period from September 2010 to September 2011, "little progress was made in the efforts to reach a negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on all core issues which would end the conflict and the occupation that began in 1967."⁷² Throughout the peace process, the Secretary-General of the UN has maintained interest in keeping the involved parties open to new solutions and proposals in order to arrive to a solution, which, in cooperation with the Quartet, will lead to a satisfactory resolution.⁷³ Given this situation, the PA has concentrated its efforts in tending to the unity between Gaza and the West Bank, as the current internal division is reducing the

⁶⁰ The Palestinian Basic Law, *The Palestinian Basic Law*, 2003.

⁶¹ The Palestinian Basic Law, *The Palestinian Basic Law*, 2003.

⁶² The Palestinian Basic Law, *The Palestinian Basic Law*, 2003.

⁶³ Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center (PWRD), *Violence against Palestinian Women & Girls Fact Sheet: A summary of findings*, 2010.

⁶⁴ Samuels, N., *Palestinian women call for justice on International Women's Day*, 2011.

⁶⁵ Al-Botmeh. R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women's Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁶⁶ Al-Botmeh. R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women's Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁶⁷ Al-Botmeh. R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women's Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁶⁸ Al-Botmeh. R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women's Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁶⁹ European Commission, *National Situation Analysis Report: Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality, Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2010.

⁷⁰ European Commission, *National Situation Analysis Report: Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality, Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2010.

⁷¹ European Commission, *National Situation Analysis Report: Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality, Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2010.

⁷² United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women (E/CN.6/2012/6)*, 2012.

⁷³ Human Rights Watch, *Israeli-Palestinian Occupied Territories: Country Summary*, 2012.

potential application of institutional-strengthening measures in the territory of Gaza.⁷⁴ Another important point that occurred in 2011 was the petition filed at the 66th session of the General Assembly (GA), whereby the PA expressed its desire to attain full membership at the UN and recognition by other Member States.⁷⁵ Within this theme, it should be noted that “[w]hile women have played important roles in promoting peace in the region; few women have been directly involved in the negotiations since the start of the conflict and have also largely remained absent from official discussions on statehood and related actions in the United Nations.”⁷⁶ In consequence, the developments on topics related to gender equality and the advancement of women have remained as a secondary priority to the current administration.⁷⁷

Political Participation of Palestinian Women

The Palestinian Women’s Movement

Women’s rights organizations in Palestine formed long before the establishment of the PA, with the primary objective of ensuring gender equality.⁷⁸ In this sense, and facing the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state, women have analyzed their role in this process.⁷⁹ One of the first steps was to publish a study entitled *On the Law and the future of Palestinian Women* which was presented before the Model Parliament, exposing some revisions and comments to the regent rules, incorporating values of equity based upon a gender-perspective approach.⁸⁰ Some of the observations have been translated in actual amendments to the current Basic Law, reflecting the needs and demands of the Palestinian woman.⁸¹ Even though reforms in the legal system have been made, the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) “failed to back the call for women’s rights, especially in the areas of criminal law and personal status legislation. Reform was also impeded by, inter alia political disputes between various political and social forces [...],” including Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.⁸²

Later in 2008, another initiative, organized by civil society and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, developed the *Charter of Women’s Rights*, which is based upon the principle that gender is a vital basis of any democratic state.⁸³ The Charter “calls for the establishment of important economic, political, and social rights, and demands, albeit in general terms, that the principle of gender equality is applied in personal status matters.”⁸⁴ As a result, several women organizations have identified the following as their pivotal priorities: “[t]o bring domestic legislation in line with international standards; to advocate for the enforcement of women’s rights; to ensure adequate protection mechanisms are in place; [and] to raise awareness of women’s rights.”⁸⁵ These particular priorities have set the tone for further debates on the advancement of Palestinian women.

Women’s Participation in Civil Movements

According to Zahra Habibi, “[w]omen have an important role in the trend of societies’ rise and fall.”⁸⁶ Therefore, the Al Aqsa Intifada permits us to analyze the role of women in several aspects: educational, social, political, and economical.⁸⁷ In addition, it is vital to understand that “the Al Aqsa Intifada is of great importance to the uprising of Palestinian People.”⁸⁸

⁷⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report to the Secretary-General on the Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women (E/CN.6/2012/6)*, 2012.

⁷⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report to the Secretary-General on the Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women (E/CN.6/2012/6)*, 2012.

⁷⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report to the Secretary-General on the Situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women (E/CN.6/2012/6)*, 2012.

⁷⁷ Moustafa, N., *Palestinian Women Under Occupation: Basic Analysis of their Status*, 2005.

⁷⁸ Azzouni, S., *Women’s Rights in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2010.

⁷⁹ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸⁰ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸¹ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸² Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸³ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸⁴ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸⁵ Al-Botmeh, R., *A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2011.

⁸⁶ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012.

⁸⁷ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012.

⁸⁸ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012.

Palestinian women performed a variety of roles during the First Intifada. First, they played a key role by educating and transferring cultural knowledge to their children, which helps to solidify and preserve Islam as the basis of “patriotic mentality.”⁸⁹ Consequently, the Intifada affected the family structures of the Palestinian community by increasing unity and patriotism as a whole.⁹⁰ Regarding political participation, Palestinian women actively participated in protests against the military occupation, often resulting in detentions.⁹¹ Women also took a leading economic role by providing food and aid to the wounded, ensuring security in terms of food and shelter for victims of violence, and organizing domestic crops, actions that provided resources and reduced the economic burden of the conflict.⁹² In terms of their military role in the Intifada, there is a gap in the literature; experts suggest that even though women were able to have participated in military operations, they would not reveal any specific information for security reasons.⁹³

While Palestinian women’s participation in the First Intifada was rather active, little evidence exists that demonstrates the extent to which Palestinian women participated in the Second Intifada.⁹⁴ Nonetheless, experts suggest that “[s]eventeen years later, a new generation of Palestinian women rose stronger than before.”⁹⁵ The Arab Spring has initiated a wave of change within the PA, along with the increase in the number of villages in the West Bank; the changes within the PA and the increase in communities have led women to organize themselves into groups in order to join the new youth movement.⁹⁶ Within this context, the movement has steered clear from overt politics, which has led to greater acceptance by the female population.⁹⁷ Women got involved by organizing peaceful demonstrations against the military occupation from a socioeconomic point of view.⁹⁸ The vast majority of women who have joined these movements leave their homes in secret, thus risking their lives in order to demonstrate their grievances against the occupation.⁹⁹ Among the women interviewed, most said that their impulse to continue responds to their struggle for dignity, both from the State of Israel as well as from the PA and its social structures.¹⁰⁰

CEIRPP and its Efforts towards Implementing Strategies to Empower Women

The CEIRPP, as established under the GA resolutions A/RES/66/14, A/RES/66/15 and A/RES/66/16, responds to its mandate to be responsible for the advancement and monitoring of Palestinian rights.¹⁰¹ The Committee has been considering topics such as the construction of the wall in the West Bank, Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory, the violation of Palestinian rights by the military occupation in the oPt, and the detention of Palestinians without due cause.¹⁰² Furthermore, the CEIRPP has planned a strategy to increase awareness of the Palestinian civil society on the conflict in order to incorporate new views and maintain dialogue between the Palestinian youth and the agencies involved in the process.¹⁰³

In 2012, the CEIRPP has organized the following meetings and events at an international level:

“(a) United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People in Cairo on 6 and 7 February 2012; (b) United Nations International Meeting on Palestinian Political Prisoners, [...] held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 2 and 3 April 2012. The Meeting will be followed by a civil society event; (c) United Nations International Meeting on the Role of Youth in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 29 and 30 May 2012. The Meeting will

⁸⁹ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012.

⁹⁰ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012.

⁹¹ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012

⁹² Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012

⁹³ Habibi, Z., *The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada*, 2012

⁹⁴ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

⁹⁵ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

⁹⁶ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

⁹⁷ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

⁹⁸ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

⁹⁹ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

¹⁰⁰ Musleh, M., *From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement*, 2012.

¹⁰¹ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), *Draft Programme of Work*, 2012.

¹⁰² Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), *Draft Programme of Work*, 2012.

¹⁰³ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), *Draft Programme of Work*, 2012.

be followed by a civil society event ;(d) United Nations Asian and Pacific Meeting on the Question of Palestine in early July 2012.”¹⁰⁴

All of the mentioned events have the purpose of raising the public attention towards the advancement of women. Although they are not particularly focused in women’s participation, its debate is a transversal matter to all of the topics listed above.

Conclusion

At present, Palestinian women face numerous challenges, including the patriarchal nature of Palestinian society itself and the associated limitations for women. In this regard, efforts need to be made to introduce amendments to the Basic Law and to deepen the impact of the strategies towards an eventual paradigm shift. Additionally, we see a window of opportunity presented by the 2011 Arab Spring, the one that enables and encourages Palestinian women to carry out a series of multidimensional roles, which advocate the empowerment of women in Palestinian society.

The CEIRPP needs to focus on the advancement of women by acknowledging the need to support profound amendments within the legal framework. It is a priority to empower women starting from the family context and towards achieving women’s full participation as active members of civil society by “enhancing the relationship between those young leaders and their communities.”¹⁰⁵ One example is the development of cooperatives for women, conceived as places where women learn, train and work, thus embracing a “dynamic social and economic role” transforming their mindsets and encouraging the Palestinian Legislative Council to take action on their demands.¹⁰⁶ In this vein, it is clear how legislative reforms can be made by recognizing the long-term influence of introducing value chains in conflict affected regions, as a first step towards the full empowerment of women within the public sphere.¹⁰⁷

Within this context, there are several pending questions: What is the strength and social impact of the Palestinian women's movement? What strategies should the CEIRPP implement in order to give greater visibility to the women’s movement? Are there the necessary resources for the economic empowerment of Palestinian women? What is the role of the State of Israel in the advancement of Palestinian women rights? What strategies have been developed within the various villages in both the West Bank and Gaza? What are the future challenges and opportunities that Palestinian women face in the participation on the resistance to occupation? What is the role of women towards the establishment of a Palestinian State?

¹⁰⁴ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), *Draft Programme of Work*, 2012.

¹⁰⁵ The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), *Supporting Young Palestinian Women Political Leaders: UNSCR 1325 in Action – Realizing UNDP’s 8 points Agenda*, 2012.

¹⁰⁶ [United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women \(UN Women\)](#), *Making profits, changing mindsets: Women’s cooperatives bring social change in the occupied Palestinian territories*, 2012.

¹⁰⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *Palestinian Women’s Associations and Agricultural Value Chains*, 2011.

Annotated Bibliography

Al-Botmeh, R. (2011). A Review of Palestinian Legislation from a Women's Rights Perspective. *United Nations Development Programme*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from:

<http://www.undp.ps/en/newsroom/publications/pdf/other/womenreview.pdf>

This research effort undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), addresses existing legislation within the Palestinian Authority (PA). It initially examines a number of international documents as an analytical basis of the normative content of the Basic Law. The author highlights the conditions that exist in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, so that evidence is composed of both the conflict and by the internal regulations of the PA. Throughout the text, valuable legal analysis of the PA's adherence to international legal documents is developed. The study acknowledges a poor standard of practice and a lack of rule of law within the PA administration. One of the important contributions of this research is the study of political practice of women in the PA, where there is a high lack of respect of Article 9, which is contained in the 2005 amendment to the Basic Law. Faced with this situation, the author lists a number of useful recommendations for the construction of comprehensive proposals for the future regarding Palestinian women active participation within the public sphere.

Azzouni, S. (2010). Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa. *Freedom House*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from:

[http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/Palestine%20\(Palestinian%20Authority%20and%20Israeli%20Occupied%20Territories\).pdf](http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/Palestine%20(Palestinian%20Authority%20and%20Israeli%20Occupied%20Territories).pdf)

This publication takes a historical approach on the status of Palestinian women. It reflects the beginning of the feminist struggle within the context of the Israeli occupation, highlighting the formation and establishment of the General Union of Palestinian Women, which was initially founded in Jerusalem in 1921. From that time onwards, Palestinian women's activism has followed a continuous process but has been constantly affected by the conditions of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, with the creation of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in 1994 and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), Palestinian women's groups have intensified their efforts to demand reforms of discriminatory legal regulations. However, given the conditions of conflict, the issue has been placed as a secondary priority. This text addresses a number of topics including: nondiscrimination and access to justice; autonomy, security and freedom of the person; economic rights and equal opportunity; political rights and civic voice; and social and cultural rights.

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP). (2012). *Draft Programme of Work for 2012*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from:

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/9FEBFCD41E528D6A852579A40049F482>

Through this document, delegates can access a summary of the principles, goals, and priorities set by the CEIRPP. The mandate of the Committee is summarized, followed by the resolutions that it has discussed during the 2012 session. The Committee's conferences and initiatives planned for 2012 to entrench its goals are also discussed within this Draft Programme. In addition, you can find information on the joint programs of the CEIRPP and other bodies of the United Nations.

European Commission. (2010). National Situation Analysis Report: Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality, Occupied Palestinian Territory. *EUROMED Gender Equality Programme*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from:

http://www.enpi-info.eu/files/publications/Situation%20Analysis_Report_OPT.pdf

This paper presents a comprehensive review on the legal and political structures within the Palestinian Authority. It addresses issues related to the Basic Law and other instruments of international human rights. Additionally, it provides further guidance on the rights of Palestinian women and the actions taken in this matter by the Ministry of Women Affairs. Throughout this text we find a relationship between the Palestine regulations and the international human rights standards, comparisons that are useful when analyzing the efficiency and responsiveness of the Palestinian laws to the needs of its inhabitants.

Habibi, Z. (2012). The Young Palestinian Women and the Role of them in Al Aqsa Intifada. *International Proceeding of Economics Development and Research(IPEDR)*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: <http://www.ipedr.com/vol31/034-ICSSH%202012-S10049.pdf>

This study allows us to address the role of women within the Palestinian Intifada of 1987, giving us a concise look at the importance of this social movement and its impact on the social structures of the PA. In this framework, the Palestinian woman plays a multidimensional role in this process of social protest. The role of women is portrayed through various areas such as education, economics, and politics. However, as no data exist to prove the participation of women in military actions, the author suggests that this is due that women tend not to speak because of the constraints of the Palestinian society.

Human Rights Watch (HRW). (2012). *Israeli-Palestinian Occupied Territories: Country Summary*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/israel_opt_2012.pdf

This report prepared by Human Rights Watch (HRW) provides a concise and accurate summary of the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including issues of violence between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) and between Hamas and the PA. In addition to this analysis of the conflict, this article provides a focused summary of the status of: Gaza, the West Bank, the Blockade, Hamas, Israel and its settlements, freedom of movement, and international actors of relevance. This source is of fundamental importance to frame the situation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its influences on the living conditions of Palestinian women.

Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC). (2010). *Violence against Palestinian Women & Girls Fact Sheet: A summary of findings*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: http://www.pwrdc.ps/site_files/Fact%20Sheet%20E%20-%20Womens.pdf

The Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC) has published a study on the human rights situation of Palestinian women and girls, For this purpose, this document analyzes a number of factors such as: the Palestinian legal framework, domestic violence and the practice of "honor raping," and economic violence. Based on these areas of analysis, the PWRDC elaborates a series of recommendations for a possible paradigm shift within Palestinian society, aiming at placing gender equality as one of its top priorities.

Moustafa. N. (2005). Palestinian Women Under Occupation: Basic Analysis of their Status. *The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: <http://www.miftah.org/Doc/Reports/2005/PalWomenInTheOccuTer.pdf>

This publication was produced by MIFTAH and discusses important issues within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It addresses the issue of priorities, and states that gender equality, and therefore, the inclusion of Palestinian women in the political sphere, are set as a secondary priority by the current administration. The author recognizes the situation of Palestinian women as a triple challenge: first, as women living under the conditions of conflict; second, as individuals within a highly patriarchal society; and third, as people governed by discriminatory laws. Despite these obstacles and the poor political representation in the Palestinian Authority, women have continued their efforts through NGOs and organized groups of civil society. The publication gives credit to the collective efforts made by Palestinian women to address their immediate needs, such as, but not limited to, job creation and access to micro-credit loans.

Musleh, M. (2012). From the Disappointment of the First Intifada to the Hope of a New Movement. *deLiberation Journal*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: <http://www.deliberation.info/women-activism-in-palestine/>

The author provides a rather short but fundamental analysis of the development cycle of social movements and their impact on the restructure of the Palestinian society. In this vein, the document addresses a brief chronological study of the First and Second Intifadas, explaining the substantial differences between these two social protest movements. Additionally, it talks about the impact of the Arab Spring (2011) on youth movements in Palestine, which show a predominant female presence in ascension. The author subsequently discusses interviews with women, who explained that their drive to join organizations and social movements is to recover their dignity.

The Palestinian Basic Law. (2003, March 8). *The Palestinian Basic Law*. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: <http://www.palestinianbasiclaw.org/basic-law/2003-amended-basic-law>

The Basic Law was passed in 1997 by the Palestinian Legislative Council and approved by President Yasser Arafat in 2002. Until a State of Palestine is formally recognized, the Basic Law serves as an interim governing document for the West Bank and Gaza. In addition to specifying the structure of the Palestinian Authority and its basic principles, it provides for public rights and liberties in several articles, in particular Article 9 which recognizes the equality among Palestinians regardless of sex, race, color, religion, political views or disability, and Article 26 which recognizes the right of all Palestinians to participate in politics in any of its expressions. Despite establishing Article 29, aiming at providing guarantees for childhood and motherhood, there is no section that addresses gender related articles within the Basic Law. It should be noted that this document does not include the amendments made in 2005.

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II. The Reconciliation of Stateless Palestinian Refugees in Neighboring Countries

The single largest group of stateless refugees in the world are Palestinian refugees. [...] The majority of these people are stateless [...] Accordingly, statelessness has 'dominated and shaped the lives of four generations of Palestinian refugees since their exodus in 1948'.¹⁰⁸

Introduction

The Arab-Israeli conflict finds its beginnings upon the creation of the State of Israel on May 15, 1948, following the approval of the United Nations General Assembly (GA) resolution A/RES/181 (II) known as the “UN Partition Plan”.¹⁰⁹ Such Plan decided to divide the historical land of Palestine in two territories: one to become a Jewish homeland, and another for those Palestinian-Arabs living in the area.¹¹⁰ With the wake of the first Arab-Israeli war that immediately followed the proclamation of the State of Israel, Israeli occupation of Palestinian land led to the Palestinian *Nakba*, the great “catastrophe” that gave rise to the transformation of Palestinian people into “[the] single largest group of stateless refugees in the world.”¹¹¹¹¹² Sixty-four years have passed and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not eased, and it remains one of the longest and most complex conflicts of modern times.¹¹³ Although many peace processes and negotiations have taken place in order to find a long-lasting peace solution for the conflict, one of the greatest issues revolving the conflict remains unattended: resolving the final status of more than 4 million registered Palestinian refugees (as of January 1, 2012) and a vast majority of the 7 million displaced Palestinians (as of 2008).¹¹⁴¹¹⁵ Hence, reaching a resolution on the final status of stateless refugees and internally displaced Palestinians is at the core of reaching a comprehensive and stable Israeli-Palestinian peace process while directing the entire region towards peace.¹¹⁶ Peace, security, and stability in the Middle East are directly interlinked with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As stipulated by Gwyn Rowley, professor at the University of Sheffield, “[o]ne of the lingering and most intractable problems preventing a lasting settlement of the current disturbed position [...] is that relating to Palestinian refugees.”¹¹⁷ What Rowley claims must be understood within two frameworks: that of the corroded relations between Israel and the neighboring Arab states, and that related to the persistent and unsolved problematic surrounding the inclusion of Palestinian stateless refugees into their host countries, and the return of others to Palestinian soil.¹¹⁸

On Refugees and Statelessness

According to Article 15 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of December 1948, “[e]veryone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality”.¹¹⁹ Furthermore, Article 13 of the Declaration proclaims that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”.¹²⁰ The right to a nationality and freedom of movement constitutes one of the 30 basic rights under which individuals are protected. In this regard, the issues revolving around refugee status and statelessness are considered to be human rights violations as both situations deprive individuals from their inherent rights regarding nationality and having a national home to call their own.

Overview of the refugee issue and statelessness under International Law

Refugees and stateless persons are those haphazardly deprived from their sense of belonging to a certain nation or state, and being in this position further denies them the exercise of their human rights. Under international law,

¹⁰⁸BADIL Resource Center, 2011.

¹⁰⁹BBC News, *UN Partition Plan*, 2001.

¹¹⁰BBC News, *UN Partition Plan*, 2001.

¹¹¹ *Nakba*: meaning “day of the catastrophe” in Arabic, commemorates what the Arabs see as the disastrous results of Israel's War of Independence in 1948 and the first outflux of Palestinian refugees to neighboring Arab countries.

¹¹² BADIL Resource Center, 2011.

¹¹³ BBC News, *A History of Conflict*.

¹¹⁴ UNRWA, *UNRWA in Figures*, 2012.

¹¹⁵ BADIL Resource Center, 2011.

¹¹⁶ Rowley, *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees: Background and Present Realities*, 1977, p. 81.

¹¹⁷ Rowley, *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees: Background and Present Realities*, 1977, p. 81.

¹¹⁸ Rowley, *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees: Background and Present Realities*, 1977, p. 85-86.

¹¹⁹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

¹²⁰ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

nationality remains as the main source of protection and observance of those principles proclaimed under the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* since it is the state, as main subject of public international law, the responsible entity for the protection of the rights of its nationals.¹²¹ In this regard, the failure in guarantying a person's right to a nationality and a homeland can embrace both a violation of human rights as well as a safe haven for violations of human rights as that individual or group of individuals have been rejected both their rights of belonging, nationality, and citizenship, as well as their right to have an internationally-recognized agency (the state) to secure the observance of the entire scope of human rights.¹²²

To further understand the topic at hand, three keywords must be understood: *nationality*, *refugee*, and *statelessness*. First, *nationality*, defined as “the linkage of the individual to the territorial value process. It is his nationality that gives the individual the ‘right to have rights’ as they are defined by his state [...] As a national of no state capable of arranging such an agreement, the stateless individual is without protection.”¹²³ Second, the *Refugee Convention* defines a *refugee* as a person who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, it outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself protection of that country.”¹²⁴ Finally, under the 1954 Convention on Statelessness, *stateless* people are those who are not considered a national of a state under the application of its national law.¹²⁵ It has to be taken into consideration that internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees may be also considered stateless.¹²⁶ Those who are considered stateless are prone to become more vulnerable to human rights violations since they might be subject to discrimination in fields related to job opportunities, access to education, housing, health services, property rights, as well as other basic needs protected under the UDHR.¹²⁷ As states remain the main subjects bound by international law and are entitled to offer protection to their nationals, stateless appear as legally “abandoned” because of their situation.^{128 129}

Main treaties regulating the situation of refugees and stateless persons

One of the most important sources of public international law are international conventions, and related documents that set out a number of norms and principles that regulate actions of states on particular matters.¹³⁰ Within the practice of and the law of nationality and the rights of refugees and stateless peoples, there are five main treaties that, together, form the body of norms that states are expected to comply within order to guarantee refugee and stateless rights in an effort to secure human rights for all, no matter of their legal status within a country.

The 1930 *Hague Convention* is a multilateral treaty dedicated to establishing causes and patterns that lead to designate a person's nationality based on sovereignty and those national laws of states.¹³¹ It discusses the principles of *jus sanguinis* (right of blood) and *jus soli* (right of soil) under which several states determine whether a person is national of a certain state and it also addresses cases in which a person might become a stateless individual.¹³² The 1951 *Convention on the Status of Refugees* is the basic legal document that internationally defines and recognizes under which situations should a person be considered a refugee and what rights and obligations his or her host country owe that person as well as obligations of states towards refugees.¹³³ The 1954 *Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons* and the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* “are key legal instruments in the protection of stateless people around the world and in prevention and reduction of [cases of] statelessness [...] the two statelessness conventions are the only global conventions of their kind.”¹³⁴ Finally, resolution 1998/26 of the

¹²¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *The corporate responsibility to protect Human Rights*, 2012, p.1.

¹²² Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 108.

¹²³ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 108.

¹²⁴ UNHCR, *Refugees, 2011-2012*.

¹²⁵ UNHCR, *Stateless Peoples, 2011-2012*.

¹²⁶ UNHCR, *Stateless Peoples, 2011-2012*.

¹²⁷ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 108.

¹²⁸ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *The corporate responsibility to protect Human Rights*, 2012, p.1.

¹²⁹ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 109.

¹³⁰ Pritzker Legal Research Center, *Sources of international law*, nd.

¹³¹ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 106.

¹³² League of Nations, The convention on certain questions relating to the conflict of nationality laws, 1930.

¹³³ UNHCR, *The 1951 Refugee Convention*, 2011-2012.

¹³⁴ UNHCR, *UN Conventions on Statelessness*, 2011-2012.

UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion of Human Rights on Housing and Property Restitution in the Context of the Return of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, based on Article 13 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, is the source of international law that recognizes “the right of all refugees ... and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and places of habitual residence in their country and/or place of origin, should they so wish.”¹³⁵

Historical Background

1947 remains the most decisive year in the history of the Palestinian people as the partition of historic Palestine into two states, one Jewish and an Arab one, took place in that year.¹³⁶ Events that led to the first Arab-Israeli war of 1951 included the adoption of GA Resolution 181 (II), the withdrawal of British forces from the Mandate of Palestine, and the proclamation of the State of Israel on May 1948; thus began the Palestinian refugee problem.¹³⁷ According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), “[t]he 1948 registered refugees and their descendants now number five million, and mainly reside in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon or Syria”.¹³⁸ At the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lays the resolution and determination of the final status of Palestinian stateless refugees and IDPs located in the oPt, comprised of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.¹³⁹ After the Six Days War of 1967, the second major outflow of 250,000 Palestinian refugees gave precedent to the estimated 7.2 million Palestinian refugees globally.¹⁴⁰

The Nakba: six decades of lost identity and sense of belonging

The vast majority of Palestinian stateless refugees live in the neighboring Arab countries; another 1.4 million live in the 58 UNRWA-recognized refugee camps in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and the oPt.¹⁴¹

Palestinian refugees face two main challenges surrounding the process towards achieving, within a peace-process framework, a final status on their situation. The first one being the inclusion or relocation and assimilation of stateless persons from Palestine into the society and citizenry of the host State, mainly Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and Egypt.¹⁴²

The restrictions faced by Palestine and Israel in reaching a solution for the right of return of more than 4 million Palestinian plus the reposition of those relocated in random countries but unable to legalize their situation as nationals of such States comprises a critical challenge.¹⁴³ Henceforth, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) ought to emphasize its efforts in encouraging host states to regulate the situation of Palestinian stateless refugees, aiming to replicate Jordan’s efforts in the matter by granting them citizenship.¹⁴⁴ Currently, “[all] Palestinian refugees and their residents who were ‘habitually residents in 1954’ were granted Jordanian citizenship.”¹⁴⁵ Still, displaced Palestinians from the Gaza Strip of 1967 are not granted such rights and are required to hold an officially issued permit to work in Jordan’s private sector.¹⁴⁶

Hence, the CEIRPP’s work regarding the implementation of the 1951 and 1954 Conventions, which call on host states to legalize and provide naturalization to refugees in order to grant the observance of their rights as nationals and achieve their sense of belonging to certain territory is of great relevance in advancing Palestinian human rights.¹⁴⁷ Being able to accomplish Palestinian sense of belonging will further the enjoyment of their human rights as it constitutes “[...] a precondition for the enjoyment of rights generally, since the exiled national or the national

¹³⁵*The right of IDPs to return home and property restitution.*

¹³⁶Council on Foreign Relations, *Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.*

¹³⁷UNRWA, *Frequently asked questions.*

¹³⁸UNRWA, *Frequently asked questions.*

¹³⁹Rowley, *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees: Background and Present Realities*, 1977, p. 81.

¹⁴⁰Al Awda, *FAQs on Refugees.*

¹⁴¹UNRWA, *Palestine refugees.*

¹⁴²Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 48-49.

¹⁴³UNRWA, *UNRWA in Figures*, 2012.

¹⁴⁴Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 48.

¹⁴⁵Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 48-49.

¹⁴⁶Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 48-49.

¹⁴⁷UNISPAL, *Commissioner-General’s Statement*, 2008.

deprived of all national protection normally enjoys in a foreign country only the modicum of rights granted to refugees or aliens.”¹⁴⁸

The second challenge is that whether or not refugees are recognized as nationals and integrated into a state’s society; their residency rights must be recognized as a way of guaranteeing the exercise of their political and civil rights.¹⁴⁹ In this regard, to “[...] protect [their] civil and political rights including the prohibition of certain ill-treatment, [...] and to] protect social and economic rights and claims [...]” certainly constitutes a way forward in the whole exercise of Palestinian human rights that will lead stateless Palestinians to a state of social and human development.¹⁵⁰

Tackling the issue of Palestinian refugees within the UN System

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was created following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict under the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/302 (IV) on December 8, 1949.¹⁵¹ The mandate of UNRWA is to provide relief to Palestinian refugees.¹⁵² Furthermore, as the conflict and flux of Palestinian refugees has not eased since 1948, UNRWA has adapted itself in order to deliver humanitarian assistance, welfare, and human development by means of delivering refugees medical assistance, education, and means to achieve decent standards of living.¹⁵³ It is important to mention that although the 1951 *Convention on Refugees* defines refugee as a person who on a basis of well-founded fear has escaped his motherland in search for security, UNRWA defines “a Palestinian refugee for relief purposes, as a person whose normal residence was Palestine for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the outbreak of the conflict in 1948 and who [...] lost both home and means of livelihood.”¹⁵⁴

Currently, UNRWA runs programs for Palestinian refugees in six areas: education, health, relief and social services, micro-financing of small businesses, infrastructure and camp improvement through the improvement of infrastructure of Refugee Camps, and emergency programs directed at alleviating refugees’ emergencies and mitigate the effects of exile on their lives.¹⁵⁵

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

In 1950 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR), was created by the GA in order to provide security and basic human rights for refugees.¹⁵⁶ Furthermore, the 1951 *Convention on the Status of Refugees* and the 1954 *Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons* gave rise to a body of international law aimed at protecting and assisting refugees and stateless worldwide and to guarantee the observance of, at least, the most basic rights owed to their nature of human beings.¹⁵⁷ Substantive protections are, under the mandate of the UNHCR, similar and call for host states to provide protection to refugees and stateless persons and to afford them “either general protection or treatment at least as favorable as that affordable to their nationals, as favorable as possible but not less favorable than that accorded to aliens generally.”¹⁵⁸ Still, there are two major problems faced in accomplishing what was previously called upon: the necessity of stateless refugees to acquire nationality and citizenship rights in order to attain political participation; and the willingness and capacity of host States to grant them protection of their human rights.¹⁵⁹

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)

¹⁴⁸Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 45.

¹⁴⁹Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 45.

¹⁵⁰Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 45.

¹⁵¹ UNRWA, *Overview*.

¹⁵² UNRWA, *Overview*.

¹⁵³ UNRWA, *Overview*.

¹⁵⁴ Rowley, *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees: Background and Present Realities*, 1977, p. 87.

¹⁵⁵ UNRWA, *Programmes*.

¹⁵⁶ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 120.

¹⁵⁷ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 120-121.

¹⁵⁸ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 120.

¹⁵⁹ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 120-121.

The CEIRPP is a forum for its Member States and the international community to address the situation regarding the observance of human rights of Palestinian people.¹⁶⁰ With particular focus on the Question of Palestine, the Committee furthers its mandate by promoting public awareness and mobilization aimed at strengthening efforts directed at ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.¹⁶¹ Under its framework and “[t]hrough its international meetings programme, the Committee intends to further generate wide support for a peaceful solution of the conflict.”¹⁶² In 2012, the CEIRPP has undertaken several international meetings. Between the February 6 and 7, Cairo was the setting of the “United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People: The economic cost of continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory; local, regional and international efforts towards mitigating it.”¹⁶³ The United Nations Meeting of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace, “Civil society action towards ending the occupation: Harnessing the power of youth and women” took place in Paris, on June 2012.¹⁶⁴ Directly linked to the issue at hand, on February 2010, the “International Meeting in Support of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace: The urgency of addressing the permanent status of issues – Borders, Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, water” was held in Malta.¹⁶⁵

The General Assembly and the Question of Palestinian Refugees

As the principal body of the United Nations due to representation by Member States, the General Assembly (GA) has been of great importance in addressing the matter related to Palestinian stateless refugees not only by creating the UNRWA and the CEIRPP, but also by attending the Question of Palestine since 1947.¹⁶⁶ During its 66th session, the GA adopted 14 resolutions related to the Question of Palestine.¹⁶⁷ Resolutions A/RES/66/72, A/RES/66/74, and A/RES/66/75 touch specifically the matter surrounding Palestinian refugees and the efforts being undertaken by UNRWA as well as by the entire UN System in order to assist the Palestinian peoples.¹⁶⁸ Resolution A/RES/66/72 on “Assistance to Palestinian People” emphasizes the lack of the implementation of paragraph 11th of the General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) on the irregular situation of Palestinian refugees and calls upon the Commission for Palestine and UN Member States to enhance efforts towards the bettering of assistance to Palestinian refugees to meet their basic needs.¹⁶⁹ Resolution A/RES/66/74 is directly related to the efforts undertaken by UNRWA.¹⁷⁰ In this resolution, the General Assembly recognizes the vital role undertaken by UNRWA in improving Palestinian stateless refugees’ lives by supplying assistance for their basic needs while undertaking a process to increase budgetary efficiency.¹⁷¹ Furthermore, it urges Israel to cooperate with UNRWA in providing assistance to Palestinian refugees, and appeals the Commissioner-General to “... proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the [oPt]”.¹⁷² Resolution A/RES/66/75 on “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” deals with the Palestinian refugees’ property rights and the protection of their belongings, while acknowledging that such issues must be settled in a future peace process.¹⁷³

Case Study: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Lebanon is one of the neighboring Arab countries that host great numbers of Palestinian stateless refugees.¹⁷⁴ Together with Jordan, which holds a total of 1’979,580, and Syria, with 486,946 registered refugees (RR) as of

¹⁶⁰ UNISPAL, *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*, 2012.

¹⁶¹ CEIRPP, *International meetings and conferences*, 2012.

¹⁶² CEIRPP, *International meetings and conferences*, 2012.

¹⁶³ CEIRPP, *International meetings and conferences*, 2012.

¹⁶⁴ CEIRPP, *International meetings and conferences*, 2012.

¹⁶⁵ UNISPAL, *International Meeting in Support of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace: The urgency of addressing the permanent status of issues – Borders, Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, water*, 2010.

¹⁶⁶ UN News Centre, *New Focus: Middle East*.

¹⁶⁷ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions*.

¹⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions*.

¹⁶⁹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 66/72 Assistance to Palestine Refugees*, 2012, p.2.

¹⁷⁰ UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 66/74 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*, 2012.

¹⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 66/74 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*, 2012, p.4.

¹⁷² UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 66/74 Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*, 2012, p.5.

¹⁷³ UN General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 66/75 Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues*, 2012, p.2.

¹⁷⁴ UNRWA, *UNRWA in Figures*, 2012.

January 2012, Lebanon is the third country with the largest presence of Palestinian stateless refugees.¹⁷⁵ Nonetheless, the situation for Palestinians in Lebanon is far from that targeted under the 1951 and 1954 Conventions which emphasizes the need for “Contracting States [...] facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of stateless persons.”¹⁷⁶ Kibreab argues that, “[o]f the [...] registered Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, the majority (about 60%) live below the UN-defined poverty line and constitute the most deprived ‘communities in the UNRWA orbit’.”¹⁷⁷ In fact, Lebanon officially declared in 1964 all Palestinians as “Third Category Foreigners” which resulted not only in designating Palestinians with a status below Lebanese citizens and foreigners living in Lebanon, but also formalized, the denial of Palestinians of most basic human rights, particularly those related to labor, education and access to medical treatment.¹⁷⁸ As a result, the vast majority of Palestinian refugees work illegally and are hired in job openings particularly related to black market or where wages are below the minimum wage as a result of their irregular situation in Lebanon.¹⁷⁹

Relations between Lebanon and Palestinian refugees have been chaotic, from the incidence of “discord” that between 1982 and 1989 saw the irruption of armed conflict between Lebanese forces against Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representatives who were deployed in refugee camps.¹⁸⁰

The lack of access and equality of social opportunities are among the main challenges that Palestinian stateless refugees face in host countries. In Lebanon’s case, as acknowledged by UNRWA, Palestinian refugees’ access to their most basic human rights is hindered by the absence of access to public social services, and the highly restricted access to education, health, and relief facilities.¹⁸¹

Current Challenges and the Way Forward

The issue surrounding Palestinian refugees and their status in neighboring countries as well as within Israel and the oPt is considered to be one of the major roots of conflict surrounding both the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as regarding the settlement of all sorts of disputes in the Middle East as it constitutes the greatest impact of occupation.¹⁸² However, there are two main challenges to be considered regarding achieving a final status for Palestinian stateless refugees, challenges that linger as a responsibility of Palestine’s neighboring countries, as well as of Israel.

The first challenge is the lack of coverage offered by the UNHCR’s mandate regarding the protection of Palestinians. “When the UN [...] established the [UNHCR], it excluded those falling within the UNRWA mandate from coverage under [its] mandate. In effect, [...] Palestinian refugees have enjoyed fewer protections than other refugees because UNRWA only has a mandate to provide Palestinian refugees with humanitarian assistance, and [...] does not have a specific protection mandate.”¹⁸³

A second challenge, interlinked with the previously identified, rests over the fact that only Israel, Yemen, and Egypt are signatories of the 1951 Convention in the Middle East.¹⁸⁴ Consequently, while Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon host the greatest amount of Palestinian stateless refugees, they are not subjects of the *Convention on the Status of Refugees*; this situation sidelines Palestinian rights discourse and deny Palestinians of their basic human rights as safeguarded in international law.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁵ UNRWA, *UNRWA in Figures*, 2012.

¹⁷⁶ Walker, *Statelessness: Violation or conduit for Violation of Human Rights?*, 1986, p. 120.

¹⁷⁷ Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 49.

¹⁷⁸ Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 49.

¹⁷⁹ Kibreab, *Citizenship Rights and Repatriation*, p. 49

¹⁸⁰ Suleiman, *The Current Political, Organizational, and Security Situation in the Palestinian Refugee Camps of Lebanon*, 1999, p. 67-68.

¹⁸¹ UNRWA, *Lebanon*,.

¹⁸² Roy, *The Palestinian-Israeli conflict and Palestinian Socioeconomic Decline: A Place Denied*, 2004, p.396.

¹⁸³ Al Awda, *FAQs on Refugees*.

¹⁸⁴ UNHCR, *Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2012.

¹⁸⁵ UNHCR, *Occupied Palestinian Territory*, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography

Akram, S.M. (2002). Palestinian Refugees and Their Legal Status: Rights, Politics and Implications for a Just Solution. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 31, (3): 36-51.

Susan Akram's document on the right and current status of Palestinian stateless refugees, specially focusing on their legal status as the "longest-lasting refugee crises in the world", emphasizing that aside from it being a political-territorial matter, it falls into a legal matter as well as the condition of refugees rest under international public law. Akram's document is essential in order to understand the minimal aspects that a solution on the status of Palestinian stateless refugees should have in order to apply what undertaken under international law. Finally Akram goes further by proposing mechanisms of action that will lead to a better observance of Palestinian human rights.

BADIL Resource Center. (2011). *On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Statelessness Convention BADIL Reiterates the Palestinian People's Right to a Nationality.*

With occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the 1961 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, BADIL, the Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refuge issued a brief inform on the current status of statelessness Palestinians as well as refugees. This document will be of great relevance for delegates to draft their reports during the Conference as it is a source of great quantitative facts and also presented by a legitimate source of information, giving delegates the right tool to analyze the evolution of the matter in the past years. It also provides further sources for broader information.

Khalidi, R. (1998). Attainable Justice: Elements of a Solution to the Palestinian Refugee Issue. *International Journal*, Vol. 53, (2): 233-252.

In his paper on Palestinian Refugees, Rashid Khalidi's main focus is the analysis of possible and attainable solutions for the Palestinian refugee problem. After an overall look into the background of the Palestinian refugee matter, Khalidi continues to study the causes and consequences of the issue at hand, making it easy for the reader to understand the many edges that the Palestinian problem represents, from its cultural to its demographic effects. A very interesting point that Khalidi touches upon is the many causes that will lead existing "solutions" to the problem to fail, hence this paper is a guide to understand the problem, the limits that proposed solutions have, and possible new resolutions to the matter.

Kibreab, G. (2003). Citizenship Rights and Repatriation of Refugees. *International Migration Review*, Vol. 37 (1): 24-73.

The basic elements underlying the matter of repatriation and the recovery or entitlement of civil rights under those rights and responsibilities held by citizens of a nation are addressed in Kibreab's paper. This article analyzes what could be taken by delegates as possible solutions or scenarios in the resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem and a final status for Palestinian stateless. In this sense it examines the different elements that would entail the solution of the status for both stateless and refugees by addressing not only the possible solutions but, of high importance, the possible outcomes once such solutions are taken as the path to be followed.

Shiblak, A. (n/d). Stateless Palestinians. *Palestinian Displacement*, FMR 26: 8-9.

Rather than being an all-encompassing document as other reviewed for the present document, the rather brief document presented by Shiblak gives a concise and specific description of the statelessness of Palestinian peoples, as the largest stateless community worldwide, what is their general status. Prior to giving a brief determination of the documents to which Palestinians are entitled, the author gives a brief historic background on the beginning of the evolution of the Palestinian people as a stateless community. It is a good introductory reading to comprehend, on a general basis, de issue of Palestinian statelessness and principal facts about it.

Stolcke, V. & L. Wolfson. (2000). La "naturaleza" de la Nacionalidad. *DesarrolloEconómico*, Vol. 40, (157): 23-43.

This article provides an insight on the meanings, the responsibilities and rights attached to the definition of "citizenship". Different from previously described sources, this document provides a

broad discussion and analysis on everything related with acquiring the nationality of certain State and being a citizen. In this regard, this source has been accounted as one pertinent basis for delegates and readers to familiarize themselves with the notion of “nationality” and what would entail for a Palestinian stateless, as well as for the State willing to recognize such Palestinian as a national, all the requirements as well as the significance it will have for each party to settle the a statelessness situation by acquiring citizenship.

Suleiman, J. (1999). The Current Political, Organizational, and Security Situation in the Palestinian Refugee Camps of Lebanon. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 29, (1): 66-80.

Suleiman’s article on the situation of Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon is one of the best resources that describe the day-to-day of both Lebanese civilians and their Government, and Palestinian refugees on the other. To better understand the matter at hand it is imperative for delegates to acknowledge what the situation on the ground is and the problems, challenges and possible threats it entails in order to better understand the necessity of achieving a final status for Palestinian stateless and refugees as well as to better understand how can such solution be achieved.

The question of Palestine. (2012). *Palestinian Rights Committees’ Meetings*, Retrieved September 2, 2012, from: <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/mtg.htm?OpenForm>.

The link of the Question on Palestine related to the meetings the CEIRPP has had recently will give delegates an idea of the Committee’s work. Not all the meetings to be found will deal with the Palestinian refugees’ problem but there will certainly be a few on the matter, specially those brought up in the background guide. What is truly interesting about the link above cited is that readers will be able to look further into certain delegations’ position in the Committee as well as press releases on the matter. It also gives delegates an idea of possible limitations and problems to be encountered by recommending certain specific action of compensation.

The right of IDPs to return home and property restitution. (nd). Retrieved September 1, 2012 from:

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/3DE5F4845EC54477C125711500483080/\\$file/Solutions%20module%20handout%20right%20to%20return.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/3DE5F4845EC54477C125711500483080/$file/Solutions%20module%20handout%20right%20to%20return.pdf).

This document discusses the long-debated topic of the right of return and property restitution of Palestinian refugees and Palestinian Internally Displaced (IDPs) based on the practiced recognized under International Law. As per the work of the Committee, this document is of great relevance as it provides delegates with good practices recognized under international public law, giving delegates ideas on possible solutions.

Walker, D.J. (1981). Statelessness: Violation or Conduit for Violation of Human Rights? *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 3, (1): 106-123.

In her paper “Statelessness: Violation or Conduit for Violation of Human Rights?” Dorothy J. Walker gives a rather extensive and comprehensive explanation of the main issues surrounding statelessness. For readers getting involved in the field of statelessness phenomenon and why is this related to human rights violations, Walker provides a genuine analysis on how human rights are vulnerable under a statelessness-situation. Furthermore, Walker emphasizes the role of States and he International Community in dealing with the issues to be reviewed during the Conference.

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III. The Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem

“The Palestinian people have the right to an independent and viable State of Palestine, living side by side with the State of Israel in peace and security.”¹⁸⁶

Introduction

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) approaches the 65th anniversary of United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution A/RES/181(II) of 1947, which sought to establish a future government of Palestine. The warning noted in the preamble that “the present situation in Palestine is one which is likely to impair the general welfare and friendly relations among nations” rings true to this day as much as it did over six decades ago.¹⁸⁷ This section of the background guide for the CEIRPP will briefly discuss the history behind the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), focusing on the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and current issues facing them, including the effects of military raids, demolition of homes, the West Bank barrier wall, and others.

The CEIRPP has made several items a priority in 2012, including the raising of awareness of the achievement of the two-state solution through the “Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State” initiative, founded and operated by the Palestinian Authority (PA).¹⁸⁸ This initiative has “laid down the foundations of a functional State, and will mobilize further international support to buttress and build upon its accomplishments.”¹⁸⁹ The CEIRPP will also support efforts by the Palestinian leadership to “achieve wide international recognition of the Palestinian State within the 1967 borders,” and will continue to “mobilize international aid towards alleviating the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip” as well as stimulating Palestinian economies and pushing for expanded international assistance to Palestine.¹⁹⁰ Other priorities for the Committee include raising awareness of the cumulative costs of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian economy and international donors, as well as the exploration of ways “in which Israel, the occupying Power, can be held liable under international law for those losses and damages.”¹⁹¹ Finally, the Committee will “highlight the responsibility of the occupying Power for ending its policies and practices,” especially in regards to settlement activity, the construction of the West Bank barrier wall, and various measures of collective punishment, and will maintain support for more international involvement through the Quartet, regional partners, and various UN organs.¹⁹²

The current situation in the oPt continues to seriously threaten the opportunity to establish a two-state solution and a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The CEIRPP has repeatedly called for permanent status negotiations to continue between Israeli and Palestinian authorities on the “relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map.”¹⁹³ The Committee also urges Israel to genuinely commit to the two-state solution, 1967 borders, its obligations from the Quartet road map, and to stop all settlement activity and put an end to crimes “perpetrated by its settlers against Palestinians, the violent repression of peaceful Palestinian protestors, the military raids into areas under Palestinian control and the arrest and imprisonment of Palestinian civilians.”¹⁹⁴ The CEIRPP believes that such a two-state solution should be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1297 (2000), 1515 (2003), and 1850 (2008), and that only “serious and sustained international engagement will bring about a peaceful and negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues.”¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁶ United Nations, *Remarks at opening of the 2011 Session of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*, 2011.

¹⁸⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 181*, 1947.

¹⁸⁸ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁸⁹ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁹⁰ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁹¹ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁹² Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁹³ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 5.

¹⁹⁴ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 5.

¹⁹⁵ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 5.

Funding continues to be of crucial importance in the state-building efforts of the Palestinian Authority and international organizations like the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).¹⁹⁶ OCHA has reported that as of mid-year 2012, only 63% of the Consolidated Appeal (CAP) has been funded, resulting in the cancellation, postponement, or drawing down of numerous projects and programs.¹⁹⁷ The World Bank has noted that the PA “has become increasingly dependent upon this donor assistance to fund its basic operations” and that this “not only leaves it vulnerable to reductions in aid, but also means that the PA has few resources to devote to long-term development issues.”¹⁹⁸

Settlements and Humanitarian Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The oPt is comprised of two territories: the Gaza Strip, a high-density strip of land bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Israel, and Egypt; and the West Bank, which is situated between Jordan, Israel, and the Dead Sea.¹⁹⁹ Gaza is significantly smaller than the West Bank, consisting of only 360 square kilometers, or about one-sixteenth the size of the West Bank.²⁰⁰ Despite Gaza having 40 kilometers of coastline, access to the Mediterranean sea is currently restricted due to the Israeli operation known as Operation Cast Lead, which originated from the Gaza War in 2008.²⁰¹ Israeli blockades in Gaza also continue to severely prohibit the ability of Palestinians to engage in commerce and to acquire food, water, medical supplies, fuel, and electricity.²⁰² While violent clashes between Palestinian forces and the IDF were in decline towards the end of 2011, the situation continues to be tense and fragile.²⁰³ Recent violence in June 2012 threatens to reverse this trend.²⁰⁴ Israel has limited Mediterranean access for Palestinians through a naval blockade, at times limiting fishing and naval traffic offshore to within three nautical miles.²⁰⁵ Crossing points into Israel are also heavily restricted, and Gaza has been completely sealed off by Israeli military forces on several occasions in the last decade.²⁰⁶ Recently, Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) has called for the full opening of border crossings in Gaza “for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods”, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials.²⁰⁷

The West Bank is divided into various “Areas,” approved in the *Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip* (Oslo 2).²⁰⁸ Oslo 2, signed on September 24, 1995 and developed within the framework of the *Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements* (Oslo 1) in 1993 and the Madrid Conference in 1991, called for many provisions and confidence-building measures, one of which including the eventual three-stage redeployment of Israeli forces from populated areas in the West Bank and for the Palestinian Police (which was also established during Oslo 2) to assume security responsibility in these “Areas,” delineated as Area A, Area B, and Area C.²⁰⁹ Oslo 2 also called for elections and the creation of a self-government authority, the Palestinian Council.²¹⁰

¹⁹⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal Mid-Year 2012*, 2012.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal Mid-Year 2012*, 2012.

¹⁹⁸ World Bank, *Towards Economic Sustainability of a Future Palestinian State: Promoting Private Sector-Led Growth*, 2012.

¹⁹⁹ Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, 2012.

²⁰⁰ Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, 2012.

²⁰¹ United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance*, 2010.

²⁰² Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*, 2011, p. 7.

²⁰³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Consolidated Appeal Mid Year 2012*, 2012.

²⁰⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal Mid-Year 2012*, 2012.

²⁰⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Strip – Areas Restricted for Palestinian Access – as of Oct 2010*, 2010.

²⁰⁶ Aronson, *The Middle East*, 2007, p. 605.

²⁰⁷ United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 1860*, 2009.

²⁰⁸ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Map of West Bank: Access and Closure*, 2009.

²⁰⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip*, 1995.

²¹⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip*, 1995.

Area A is under full Palestinian civil and security control, and contains approximately 18% of total Palestinian territory.²¹¹ Area B is under full Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control, while Area C, which contains over 60% of all Palestinian territory and includes the border with Jordan, is under full Israeli control with respect to security, planning, and construction.²¹²

Area C is critical to the freedom of movement of Palestinian citizens without Israeli intervention and is integral in establishing a Palestinian state.²¹³ While Areas A and B are mostly under Palestinian control, it is impossible to move from area to area without passing through Area C and Israeli security control, making the free and easy movement of Palestinians incredibly difficult.²¹⁴ An estimated 150,000 Palestinians and 300,000 Israeli settlers live in Area C, with settlement areas accounting for 39% of the total land area.²¹⁵ Within Area C, 70% is off-limits to Palestinian construction (29% is heavily limited), and less than 1% of Area C has been planned for Palestinian development.²¹⁶ Going hand-in-hand with construction, in 2011, over 3,000 demolition orders were still outstanding with 18 of those being schools, while Israeli authorities demolished 560 Palestinian-owned structures, 200 of which are residential structures.²¹⁷ The European Parliament has recently stated that “Palestinian presence in Area C has been undermined by Israeli government policies” and that the “contiguity of land is seriously dismantled further by the construction of roads for the exclusive use of the settlers that further divide the Palestinian land and deprive the occupied population access to their land, water and other resources and neighboring communities, seriously affecting their daily life.”²¹⁸

According to OCHA, settlement activity increased at an alarming rate, such as the settlement of Givat Hamatos, with demolitions of Palestinian structures in Area C of the West Bank that lacked “proper” Israeli permits having increased by 34% between 2011 and 2012.²¹⁹ Current expansion plans for the areas around the 135 Israeli settlements in Area C are nine times larger than their current built-up areas, according to OCHA.²²⁰

Beyond settlement activity, approximately 18% of the West Bank has been designated by the Israeli military as a “closed military zone,” amounting to almost the same amount of the West Bank in Area A, which is currently under full Palestinian authority.²²¹ According to OCHA, Israeli authorities “regularly carry out demolitions in these communities, either in the context of demolition orders or when executing eviction orders.”²²² In July 2012, the Israeli government notified their High Court that it would be following through with the demolition of eight Palestinian villages in the South Hebron Hills under the auspices of military training in Firing Zone 918.²²³ Although injunctions have been filed to prevent the demolitions, the IDF has already destroyed many of the buildings in Firing Zone 918 and have interpreted the injunction “as narrowly as possible.”²²⁴

Second Intifada and the Creation of the West Bank Barrier

The impact of the West Bank barrier on the lives of Palestinians is of critical importance, especially as 2012 marks the tenth anniversary of the beginning of barrier construction under the auspices of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2002.²²⁵ The Israeli government ordered the construction in reaction to the Second Intifada, which

²¹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *West Bank: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *West Bank: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹³ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 4.

²¹⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *West Bank: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Restricting Space in the oPt: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Restricting Space in the oPt: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Restricting Space in the oPt: Area C Map*, 2011.

²¹⁸ European Parliament, *European Parliament resolution on the EU policy on the West Bank and East Jerusalem*, 2012.

²¹⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Occupied Palestinian Territory Consolidated Appeal Mid-Year 2012*, 2012.

²²⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Restricting Space in the oPt: Area C Map*, 2011.

²²¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Humanitarian impact of Israeli-declared “firing zones” in the West Bank*, 2012.

²²² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Humanitarian impact of Israeli-declared “firing zones” in the West Bank*, 2012.

²²³ Rudoren, *Israel Seeks Army Use of West Bank Area*, 2012.

²²⁴ Hass, *Israel orders demolition of 8 Palestinian villages, claims need for IDF training land*, 2012.

²²⁵ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 496.

was the uprising of Palestinian citizens in 2000 following the fifth anniversary of the *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip* (Oslo 2), and the subsequent visit to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif by Sharon.²²⁶ The visit by Sharon angered Palestinians, who showed up in force to protest the visit by throwing rocks and bottles on the delegation and visitors. The initial protests and minor skirmishes quickly escalated into direct confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), with both sides suffering casualties, albeit the Palestinians suffering an almost ten-to-one ratio in persons killed in the first year of the conflict.²²⁷ In total, over 2,500 Palestinians were killed and nearly 24,000 wounded, while 900 Israelis were killed and 6,000 wounded between September 2000 and November 2003.²²⁸ Numerous events in the Second Intifada lasted until 2003, including the Israeli Navy capturing an alleged Iranian shipment of weapons and explosives aboard the ship the *Karine A* meant for Palestinian usage.²²⁹ The *Karine A* incident helped to sway United States policy in regards to the Palestinians and eventually resulted in the U.S. calling for the replacement of Yasser Arafat as the leader of the Palestinian Authority.²³⁰

Prior to the Second Intifada, the oPt had “witnessed a period of unprecedented economic growth, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growing at an annual average rate of 8.5% and a substantial increase in public and private investment.”²³¹ Unemployment was reduced between 1994 and 2000 by 5% and GDP per capita was increased by 4.3% annually.²³² These gains became stagnant and reversed as a result of the Second Intifada, and have not recovered to similar levels since.²³³

The situation continued to deteriorate following the Second Intifada. During the escalation and immediately after, the PA came under increasing Israeli pressure to halt all violence, along with severe cuts in funding.²³⁴ Israel was allowed to withhold the tax and customs clearance revenue it collected on behalf of the PA due to stipulations placed in the *Paris Protocol*, signed in 1994; this practice continues to be enforced at the time of writing.²³⁵ This withholding of revenues, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, renders the PA’s fiscal position “inherently dependent on Israeli goodwill,” and also “deprives the Palestinian Authority of the fiscal policy tools it needs to manage and stimulate the economy and makes medium-term planning impossible.”²³⁶

Israel also implemented a tight closure policy that led to geographical fragmentation, began construction of a separation barrier that significantly reduced agricultural land, allowed for instability in public revenue and donor aid, eroded productive capacity, and limited government and institutional capacity.²³⁷ In 2002, Israel began to reoccupy the areas subject to Palestinian administration, besieging Arafat in his Ramallah compound and forbidding his security forces to operate in most of the West Bank and Gaza.²³⁸

Sharon also ordered the construction of barriers and fences in both the West Bank and Gaza.²³⁹ The initial plan to divide the West Bank into sixty-four isolated sectors and Gaza into four began in 2002, with many of the obstacles, checkpoints, and roadblocks in place by 2004.²⁴⁰ This eventually turned into a plan to construct a continuous barrier that would span the entire West Bank border with Israel.²⁴¹ While the barrier is supposed to follow the borders established in 1967 and the Green Line demarcation agreed to in 1949, it often cuts into West Bank territory to allow for Israeli settlements and transportation routes and to “confiscate Palestinian lands for the construction route.”²⁴² While much of the barrier consists of an electrified fence, some parts consist of tall concrete walls that completely

²²⁶ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 492.

²²⁷ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 492.

²²⁸ Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, 2004.

²²⁹ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 494.

²³⁰ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 494.

²³¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³³ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³⁴ Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, 2004.

²³⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people*, 2008.

²³⁸ Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, 2004.

²³⁹ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 494.

²⁴⁰ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 494.

²⁴¹ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 494.

²⁴² Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 496.

separate Israeli and Palestinian communities, often with the conditions of both juxtaposed.²⁴³ The Second Intifada has also resulted in a severe economic contraction in the West Bank and Gaza, according to the World Bank.²⁴⁴ By the end of 2006, real GDP per capita was 23% below its peak set in 1999.²⁴⁵ Recently, the return of growth has meant a decline in poverty in the West Bank, where “poverty headcounts fell from 23% in 2004 to 16% in 2009;” however, the World Bank warns that the “continuing closure of Gaza has meant that the poverty rate has actually increased from 30 to 33% during this same period.”²⁴⁶

Effects of the West Bank Barrier on Palestinians

The CEIRPP formally opposes the “construction of the wall in the West Bank, including in and around East Jerusalem, and finds this activity incompatible with negotiations on the permanent settlement aimed at achieving the two-State solution.”²⁴⁷ Numerous agencies frequently provide information regarding conditions near the barrier wall and its effects on the Palestinians; these agencies include the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and its Barrier Monitoring Unit (BMU), OCHA, and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ).²⁴⁸

According to UNRWA, the barrier construction has led to land degradation, fragmentation of ecosystems, erosion, and compaction of soil, heaping up of earth walls, arbitrary disposal of waste, and accumulation of dust on agricultural lands and trees.²⁴⁹ Barrier restrictions hamper Palestinian agricultural production and they have changed farming practices in affected communities.²⁵⁰ Limited land access across the barrier has negatively affected the annual harvest yield.²⁵¹ Fruit, olive, and almond trees have been uprooted to make room for the construction of the barrier wall.²⁵² Historic and religiously significant villages are also under considerable threat and face possible destruction due to the planned path of the barrier, which is almost entirely in Palestinian territory.²⁵³

The barrier also affects access to water sources and proper waste management.²⁵⁴ OCHA has indicated that despite an above-average rainfall in 2011-12, portions of the West Bank are still experiencing water scarcity.²⁵⁵ Recent water scarcity assessments in South Hebron have indicated that 65% of the un-served communities in that area, amounting to nearly 50,000 Palestinians, required water tankering during summer months in 2012.²⁵⁶ The purchasing of water from private tankers is also incredibly expensive compared to prices if connected to the water network, and although the PA has promised to subsidize the cost, it remains “hampered by massive financial constraints and is dependent on donors and international community for assistance.”²⁵⁷

Effects of Settlement Activity in Palestinian Residential Areas in East Jerusalem

Settlement activity specifically in East Jerusalem has increased significantly in 2012, with Israel’s population registry indicating a 4.5% increase in the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank.²⁵⁸ Following the expiration of

²⁴³ Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2010, p. 496.

²⁴⁴ World Bank, *Towards Economic Sustainability of a Future Palestinian State: Promoting Private Sector-Led Growth*, 2012.

²⁴⁵ World Bank, *Towards Economic Sustainability of a Future Palestinian State: Promoting Private Sector-Led Growth*, 2012.

²⁴⁶ World Bank, *Towards Economic Sustainability of a Future Palestinian State: Promoting Private Sector-Led Growth*, 2012.

²⁴⁷ Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People, *Draft programme of work for 2012*, 2012, p. 5.

²⁴⁸ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, *Barrier Impacts on the Environment and Rural Livelihoods*, 2012.

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²⁵² Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*, 2011, p. 7.

²⁵³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Monthly Humanitarian Monitor: July 2012*, 2012.

²⁵⁴ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, *Barrier Impacts on the Environment and Rural Livelihoods*, 2012.

²⁵⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Monthly Humanitarian Monitor: July 2012*, 2012.

²⁵⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Monthly Humanitarian Monitor: July 2012*, 2012.

²⁵⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *The Monthly Humanitarian Monitor: July 2012*, 2012.

²⁵⁸ Sherwood, *Population of Jewish settlements in West Bank up 15,000 in a year*, 2012.

a ten-month partial freeze on settlement expansion almost two years ago, Israeli settlement in the West Bank grew by more than 15,000 in the past year, with populations now totaling over 300,000 Israelis living “in settlements across the pre-1967 border in East Jerusalem,” a number that has almost doubled in the past twelve years.²⁵⁹ OCHA has indicated that the settlements in East Jerusalem are “illegal under international humanitarian law,” violating Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which “prohibits the transfer of the occupying power’s civilian population into occupied territory” as well as the forced displacement of citizens.²⁶⁰ Not only are these settlements establishing a new civilian population into the area, it is also leading to the forced eviction and displacement of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, which has a direct effect on the livelihoods of those being removed as well as “access to basic services such as education and water/sanitation.”²⁶¹

Israeli military raids have also increased dramatically in East Jerusalem, resulting in more arrests and interrogations of Palestinians, including children, and house demolitions in the West Bank.²⁶² Increased activity in Area C and the E1 settlement corridor threaten the viability of a contiguous Palestinian state.²⁶³ Violence initiated by Israeli settlers and other criminal acts are also on the rise; Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said in July 2012 that “violent attacks by settlers on Palestinians and their property, mosques and farmland had increased by 150% over the past year.”²⁶⁴ OCHA notes that the deployment of private security and police forces to protect the Israeli settlements, particularly in the East Jerusalem settlements of Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah, has led to frequent clashes and increased tensions and restrictions on “public space, residential growth, and freedom of movement.”²⁶⁵ OCHA also notes that international law not only prohibits the confiscation or destruction of private property (except in cases where said destruction is necessary for military activity), but it also prohibits the application of the Israeli legal system to adjudicate claims over property rights in the oPt.²⁶⁶ In both instances, according to OCHA, Israel has not followed through on its obligation as an occupying power to “protect the Palestinian civilian population.”²⁶⁷

Conclusions and Directives

The issue of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in and around East Jerusalem, is not something that will be solved or fixed overnight. While many times there are events that are incredibly fast-paced, almost at the point of chaos, the actual task of peace-building between Israel, Palestine, and various allies and international organizations can be excruciatingly slow. While there have been several peace accords, agreements, and opportunities for dialogue established in the past, the facts on the ground still dictate much of the policy between the two sides.

As Member States, special care should be paid to finding solutions to the immediate problems in the oPt, with an eye towards developing a system of lasting peace. Delegates should pay close attention to the various programs that UN agencies are operating within the region, and efforts that both Israel and Palestine have made towards improving the day-to-day lives of citizens in the oPt. Member States should be able to present prescriptive solutions to numerous problems presented in this background guide, but also others that are of importance to your specific Member State’s leadership. The ability to find pragmatic solutions to current on-the-ground problems, despite continuing issues regarding the final status of the Palestinian question and international law, are encouraged.

Questions to consider as delegates include: What current programs to assist those in the oPt are working, and which need adjustment or overhaul in order to be more effective? Are there any programs sponsored by or used by a

²⁵⁹ Sherwood, *Population of Jewish settlements in West Bank up 15,000 in a year*, 2012.

²⁶⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Settlements in Palestinian Residential Areas in East Jerusalem*, 2012.

²⁶¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Settlements in Palestinian Residential Areas in East Jerusalem*, 2012.

²⁶² Human Rights Council, *Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*, 2012.

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²⁶⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Settlements in Palestinian Residential Areas in East Jerusalem*, 2012.

Member State or international organization that could be proved effective in the oPt? What actions should CEIRPP take in order to help spur lasting peace between Israel and Palestine?

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- Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. (2012). *Draft Programme of Work for 2012*. Retrieved August 2, 2012 from: <http://unispal.un.org/pdfs/AAC1832012CRP1.pdf>
The Draft Programme of Work for 2012 outlines the mandate of the committee for 2012, including its legal standing within the UN. The program also identifies current problems within the oPt, particularly within East Jerusalem but also throughout the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The program outlines priority issues for 2012, including the need for increased funding, cooperation, and coordination between the various stakeholders, as well as what activities CEIRPP will undertake in 2012.
- Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. (2011). *Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/13F28F0963F95EE385257943004FE121>
Report of the work of CEIRPP for 2011 to the UN General Assembly. Provides the mandate of the committee, as well as an overview of current membership and participation in the work of the committee. Outlines actions taken by CEIRPP in 2011, especially in regards to GA resolutions A/RES/65/13, 65/14, and 65/15. Provides detailed conclusions and prescriptions for the committee in regards to Palestinian state-building, human rights in the oPt, and ending the peace process stalemate.
- Organisation of the Islamic Conference. (2005). *Ten-Year Programme of Action*. Retrieved August 7, 2012 from <http://www.oic-oci.org/ex-summit/english/10-years-plan.htm>
The Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPoA) provides a clear outline of the modernization and efficiency efforts that the OIC is undertaking. The TYPoA focuses not only on organizational restructuring and reform, but also the organization's refocusing on the critical issues facing the Muslim Ummah and OIC Member States today, particularly the issue of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and the occupied Palestinian territories.
- Smith, C. (2010). *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. *The author provides a comprehensive, unbiased introduction to the Arab-Israeli conflict starting from the Ottoman Empire in 1516 to the current situation. This book is a strong source for numerous primary sources critical to a well-rounded understanding of the conflict. It discusses the origins of Zionism, Arab nationalism, and the various conflicts and subsequent peace accords. Also heavily discusses the history of former and current regimes in the Levant.*
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The General Assembly resolution that outlined the division of territory of Palestine, as an attempt to solve the problems of the future of Palestine which was under British Mandate. The partition plan laid out in resolution 181 divided Palestine between a Jewish State, excluding Jerusalem, and a Palestinian state, also excluding Jerusalem. The resolution called for an international regime to be in place in the city of Jerusalem. The resolution also called for a five-country commission to administer the areas post-British evacuation in 1948 and to establish provincial governments and elections.
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Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance. Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/15session/A.HRC.15.21_en.pdf

This report by the Human Rights Council, prepared from a fact-finding mission mandated through resolution 14/1, investigated international law violations that occurred during the Israeli interception of the aid flotilla sent to Gaza in 2010. The report cites interviews conducted during the mission with over 100 witnesses in order to accurately reconstruct the events of the interception. The report provides a legal analysis of the events, and identified several violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law by Israel.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2012). *Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.* Retrieved August 8, 2012 from: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/G12/130/06/PDF/G1213006.pdf>

This report by the Human Rights Council further reiterates the legal and humanitarian questions surrounding the oPt situation. Identifies the various international law instruments used in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Geneva Convention, the Agreement on Movement and Access, the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the July 9 2004 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, among others. Establishes several operatives, calling upon Israel to cease settlement activities, comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention, and cease any action that violates the human rights of Palestinians

United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. (2012). *Gaza in 2020: A liveable place?* Retrieved September 1, 2012 from: <http://unispal.un.org/pdfs/GazaIn2020.pdf>

This report identifies a range of important issues that affect the lives of Gaza residents and what the situation could possibly look like in the year 2020. Special attention is paid to the economy, including the illegal "tunnel economy" between Egypt and Gaza, as well as issues of food security. Population growth and urbanization, basic infrastructure, water and sanitation, social services, education, and social protection are also discussed, with forecasts provided for each specific topic.

World Bank. (2012). *Towards Economic Sustainability of a Future Palestinian State: Promoting Private Sector-Led Growth.* Retrieved August 2, 2012 from:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/GrowthStudyEngcorrected.pdf>

This report provides a thorough audit of the Palestinian economy. Introduces a historical context and an overview of fiscal policy and trends. Discusses trade policy within the West Bank and Gaza, as well as an outline of private sector development in 2011 and the labor market in oPt. For each segment of the economy discussed, the World Bank provides prescriptive analysis and "Next Steps."

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Rules of Procedure

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

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules, which apply to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) and shall be considered adopted by the Board prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Director, the Assistant Director, the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “Chair” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Committee.
5. The final report as adopted by the Committee shall be communicated to the General Assembly Plenary Session for review.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment

The Committee shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - Place of sessions

The Committee shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Director-General and communicated to the Members of the Committee at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda

The agenda provided by the Director-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Committee not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night's meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda

During a session, the Committee may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Committee so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Committee decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Director-General, or his or her designate, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Committee to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For

purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Committee.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General, shall provide and direct the staff required by the Committee and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and any other decisions of the Committee, and shall distribute documents of the Committee to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Committee may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Committee concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the Chair

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a Chair who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Committee for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the Chair

If the Chair is unable to perform her/his functions, a new Chair shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Committee.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

The Chair may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Committee are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Committee shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, members of the Committee means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the Chair

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Committee, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chair, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Committee and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Committee the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the Chair's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the Chair is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 – Authority of the Committee

The Chair, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Committee.

Rule 17 – Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a majority of the members present and voting in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). There is no possibility to abstain on procedural votes.

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chair in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chair. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the Chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the Chair, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chair. The Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chair may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the Chair at his/her discretion. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the Chair.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate, the Chair may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the Chair shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Committee.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the Chair and should not be the subject of a

motion by the Committee. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Committee and the Chair should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the Chair may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Committee by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Committee's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the Chair will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Committee.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The Chair may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Committee favors the closure of debate, the Committee shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Committee [sponsors]. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Committee unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The Chair may, however, permit the

discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Committee for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Committee by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft report segment during formal speeches. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft report segment and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Committee. These draft report segments are the collective property of the Committee and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Committee, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft report segments, and portions of draft report segments divided out by motion. As such, all references to member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Committee for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Committee may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft report segment, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft report segment divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the Chair may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain on substantive votes.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Committee shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the Chair. The name of each member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply "yes," "no," "abstention," or "pass."

Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the Chair and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass must, on the second time through, respond with either a yes or no vote. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Committee votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Committee shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the Chair in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the Chair in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the Chair has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication amongst delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Committee room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the Committee has convened voting procedure.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the Chair where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft report segment, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete parts of the part relating to conclusions and recommendations of any draft report segment, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect the introduction.

Rule 38 - Voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft report segment. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Committee decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The Chair shall not vote

The Chair shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42 – Authority of the General Assembly

The Committee shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

The Committee shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Committee and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.

A sub-committee or sessional body of the Committee shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Committee considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation. Delegates invited to the Committee according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Committee is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Committee may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Committee or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Committee on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Committee on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.