



2 February 2023

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

9 February 2023

## Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

**BRIEFING** Decision Submission

**PURPOSE** This submission provides an overview of key issues that have arisen in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister For information by <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup>  
 Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs For information by

## Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Jonathan Curr	Divisional Manager	Middle East and Africa	<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup>
Meg Williams	Policy Officer	Middle East and Africa	

## Ma te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

**Comments**

Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## Pito matua – Key points

- Following elections in November 2022, a new Israeli government was sworn in on 29 December 2022. Benjamin Netanyahu has returned as prime minister, after his Likud party formed a coalition with ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies. This government is widely described as the most right-wing in Israel's history.
- <sup>s6(a)</sup> a number of <sup>s6(a)</sup> developments have taken place. These include: Israel's announcement of <sup>s6(a)</sup> retaliatory steps against Palestine following an UNGA resolution requesting an International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion; a <sup>s6(a)</sup> visit to the Al Aqsa mosque compound by the new Israeli Minister of National Security; continued <sup>s6(a)</sup> actions affecting the West Bank community of Masafer Yatta; proposed reforms of the judicial system which seek to give parliament the power to overturn Supreme Court decisions; and continued violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- and heightened tensions generally in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. New Zealand has condemned some of these moves and responded via MFAT and Post social media accounts.
- <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- These developments are explained in this submission, <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>
- Officials will continue to monitor developments in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, and will recommend that New Zealand comment on concerning developments when appropriate. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

Rob Taylor  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Note** that, <sup>s6(a)</sup> a number **Yes / No**  
of <sup>s6(a)</sup> developments have taken place in Israel and the occupied  
Palestinian territories.
- 2 **Note** that officials continue to closely monitor events in Israel and the **Yes / No**  
occupied Palestinian territories, and react as/when appropriate.
- 3 <sup>s6(a)</sup> **Yes / No**
- 4 **Yes / No**
- 5 **Refer** a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister and Associate **Yes / No**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Date:        /        /

Released under the Official Information Act



Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## Pūrongo – Report

1. Following elections in November 2022, a new Israeli government was sworn in on 29 December 2022. Benjamin Netanyahu has returned as prime minister, after his Likud party formed a coalition with ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies. This government is the most right-wing in Israel's history.
2. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## Retaliation following request for an International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion (AO)

3. Following the inauguration of the new Israeli government, tensions have increased considerably between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
4. On 6 January Israel's Cabinet approved a series of measures it would take in "response to the Palestinian Authority's decision to wage political and legal war against the State of Israel". This followed a General Assembly resolution that passed on 31 December calling on the ICJ to render an opinion on Israel's occupation of Palestine. This will be the second time the ICJ has been asked to weigh in on the issue of Israel's occupation. In 2004, it responded to a narrower legal question from the General Assembly on the West Bank wall being built by Israel, finding the wall's construction in breach of international law (which Israel rejected).
5. The series of measures includes: withholding Palestinian Authority (PA) funds; a moratorium on Palestinian construction plans in parts of the West Bank; "denying benefits [to identified individuals] who are leading the political and legal war against Israel"; and action against organisations "that promote terrorist activity or any hostile activity, including political and legal action against Israel under the guise of humanitarian work." Riyad al-Maliki, Foreign Minister of the PA had his travel permit to the West Bank revoked on 8 January.
6. Officials have raised concerns about these matters directly with the Israeli Ambassador. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

7. On 17 January, New Zealand joined 38 other countries in a statement at the UN expressing concern at the retaliatory measures taken by the Israeli authorities. Aotearoa New Zealand representatives in Cairo and New York also posted statement on social media along the same lines.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Al Aqsa mosque compound visit by Israeli Minister of National Security

8. On 3 January newly appointed National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Temple Mount/Haram Al Sharif - the most sensitive site in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is Judaism's holiest site and the third holiest in Islam after Mecca and Medina. Under a delicate set of arrangements, Jordan is custodian of the holy site, while Israel controls security and access. Only Muslims are allowed to pray there. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
9. This issue was discussed at an emergency UN Security Council debate called by the UAE and others. The US, EU, Sweden, Norway and many of the Arab States issued statements (the majority of which were on social media) reaffirming their support for the status quo and calling on all parties to avoid actions that cause instability.
10. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)



Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## Masafer Yatta and other proposed evictions and demolitions

11. Masafer Yatta is a community of around 1,150 Palestinian residents in the South Hebron Hills region of the West Bank. Following a decades-long legal battle, on 4 May 2022, the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that there were no legal barriers to the planned expulsion of Palestinian residents to make way for a closed military zone. Following the ruling, Israeli authorities have reportedly intensified their planning to evict residents from Masafer Yatta. A submission on New Zealand's response to the situation at Masafer Yatta was provided to you on 22 August 2022.
12. New Zealand's Representative to Palestine (our Ambassador in Cairo) visited Masafer Yatta in August 2022. After his visit, he publically called on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law. Ministry officials have raised concerns regarding the situation at Masafer Yatta directly with the Israeli government on several occasions, in both Wellington and Israel.
13. Recent media reporting and warnings from NGOs have claimed the Israel Defence Force (IDF) has informed Palestinian officials of imminent plans to evict more than 1,000 Palestinian residents, including some 500 children. However, there are no indications that eviction notices have been served. Smaller-scale evictions continue to take place.
14. There have been developments with other proposed evictions and demolitions in the West Bank since the new Israeli Government assumed power, including in the Bedouin settlement of Khan al-Ahmar (Area C) on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem. Demolition of the village would uproot the 180 residents and would practically divide the northern and southern West Bank.
15. Officials will monitor the situation in the wider West Bank, including any further evictions or movement of communities in Masafer Yatta. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

### Judicial reform

16. Since early January, tens of thousands have taken to the streets in Israel to protest against Minister of Justice Yariv Levin's plan to overhaul the judicial system. The proposal would grant politicians greater influence over the appointment of judges, restrict the Supreme Court's ability to strike down laws and review government decisions, and enact an "override clause" enabling the Knesset to rewrite court decisions with a simple majority. Critics accuse the government of undermining its democratic institutions and giving absolute power to the new governing coalition. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

### West Bank violence

19. Tensions in the West Bank remain high. In 2022, 155 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces and settlers, an 81% increase from 2021 and the highest number since records began in 2005. As of 21 January 2023, the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the New Year stood at 18. A senior MFAT official has raised concerns at these high levels of violence with the Israeli Ambassador at a meeting in January 2023.
20. On 26 January, Israeli security forces conducted a raid on a suspected terrorist cell in Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, killing 7 suspected terrorists from Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Hamas, and a Palestinian Authority (PA) police officer who was allegedly a member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB). Both PIJ and AAMB are designated by New Zealand as terrorist entities. Two civilians were also killed in the operation, and approximately 20 other civilians were injured. In response, the PA has announced the temporary cessation of security cooperation with Israel.
21. The raid in Jenin was followed by a shooting attack in a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov settlement in East Jerusalem on 27 January. The lone gunman, who killed seven people, was fatally shot by Israeli security forces responding to the attack. It is the worst shooting in Jerusalem since 2008. The following day, 28 January, a 13 year old Palestinian shot and wounded an Israeli man and his son in Jerusalem. The shooter has been arrested. Prime Minister Netanyahu has responded by announcing a range of new security measures, some of which have been criticised as constituting collective punishment against innocent Palestinians unconnected with attacks against Israelis.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Released under the Official Information Act



Key issues in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories following the  
s6(a)

## Annex I: Draft letter of congratulations to new Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eli Cohen

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HE Eli Cohen  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
STATE OF ISRAEL

E te Minita [*Dear Minister*]

Tēnā koe [*Greetings to you*], please accept my good wishes on your appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

Over our longstanding relationship, New Zealand and Israel have cooperated in many fora. Further areas where our two small, advanced economies can work together include cyber-security, science and innovation. Recent collaboration between Israel and New Zealand in the area of AgriTech shows great potential for deepening our partnership.

I plan to visit the region later in the year, and hope that it might be possible to include a visit to Israel. This would provide an opportunity to discuss these initiatives, alongside the success of the Abraham Accords, and the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Many New Zealanders of diverse backgrounds follow the Israeli-Palestinian conflict closely and look forward to a resumption of the Middle East Peace Process and the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state. On behalf of the Government of New Zealand, allow me to add my voice to those calling on Israel – and the Palestinian leadership – to refrain from unilateral actions that inflame tensions, or undermine prospects for a two-state solution.

The New Zealand Government remains firm in our support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Aotearoa New Zealand stands ready to assist in any constructive way to support steps towards this.

Aotearoa New Zealand has a strong history of protecting and promoting human rights and the rules-based international order. We recognise the complexity of the region in which Israel sits, and the security challenges that Israel faces. These are some of the reasons why we have over many decades provided military personnel to serve with the MFO in Sinai and other UN peacekeeping missions such as UNTSO. Despite the challenges in your region, I urge your Government to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to focus on actions that promote peace and stability.

I wish you well for your term, and hope that we can find an opportunity to meet later in the year.

Nāku noa [*Yours sincerely*]

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
**Minita Take Aorere/ Minister of Foreign Affairs**



16 August 2022

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by

22 August 2022

### Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

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**BRIEFING**      Decision Submission

**PURPOSE**      To seek your agreement on Aotearoa New Zealand's proposed response to actions by the Israeli military and government, s6(a), s9(2)(h) s6(a), s9(2)(h) the Palestinian community of Masafer Yatta, located in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territories.

### Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

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Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

22 August 2022

### Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

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NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Jonathan Curr	Divisional Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	s9(2)(a)
Tara Morton	Unit Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	

### Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

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- |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Referred  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined             | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events | <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes |                                    |

**Comments**



## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

### Pito matua – Key points

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- Following the Six-Day War in 1967, the area of Masafer Yatta in the South Hebron Hills region of the occupied Palestinian territories has been under Israeli occupation. According to information received by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), currently 215 Palestinian households live in the area, numbering about 1,150 people.
- Masafer Yatta was designated by Israeli authorities as a closed military zone in the 1980s. Since then, a legal battle over the rights of residents to remain living in the area has ensued. On 4 May 2022, the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that there were no legal barriers to the planned expulsion of Palestinian residents.
- Following the ruling, Israeli authorities have intensified their activities in Masafer Yatta including the demolition of homes, the commencement of military training in the area, the arbitrary detention of residents and humanitarian staff, and the blocking of humanitarian aid. Israel justifies these actions on the basis that individuals began moving into the closed military zone only after it was designated as such. Residents of Masafer Yatta, human rights organisations, and some experts refute these claims. According to credible reporting, the range of activities being carried out by Israeli military and security forces in the area has created an environment of intimidation and coercion for Masafer Yatta's residents, putting those communities under pressure to move.
- Forcible transfer of protected people within occupied territory without a legitimate basis is a serious breach of international humanitarian law. 'Forcible' is not restricted to physical force but may include the threat of force or coercion. <sup>s9(2)(h)</sup>  
s9(2)(h)
- s6(a), s9(2)(h)
- Aotearoa New Zealand has been monitoring the situation closely and consulting with key partners in the region. During an accreditation visit to Israel in June, an official raised New Zealand's concerns about Israel's forced displacement of Palestinians from Masafer Yatta with the Israeli government. On 2 August 2022, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) issued a press release denouncing Israel's harassment of human rights defenders and humanitarian workers at Masafer Yatta, and noting the risk of forcible transfer of the community's residents.
- Taking into account this public declaration by the UN's human rights agency, and considering the coercive and intimidatory environment at Masafer Yatta, and Aotearoa New Zealand's principles-based approach to foreign policy, officials recommend that Aotearoa New Zealand take further action. <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>



Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Senior officials make representations to the Israeli Ambassador;

s6(a)

s6(a)



Rob Taylor  
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

### Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- |   |   |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | <b>Note</b> that Israel has been undertaking a range of actions including in some instances the demolition of homes and eviction of residents in the area of Masafer Yatta, in the South Hebron Hills region of the occupied Palestinian territories; | <b>Yes / No</b> |
| 2 | s9(2)(h)  | <b>Yes / No</b> |
| 3 | <b>Agree</b> to s6(a) escalate Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns, including s6(a) make formal representations to the Israeli Ambassador to raise Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns, s6(a) s6(a)   | <b>Yes / No</b> |
| 4 | s6(a)   | <b>Yes / No</b> |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

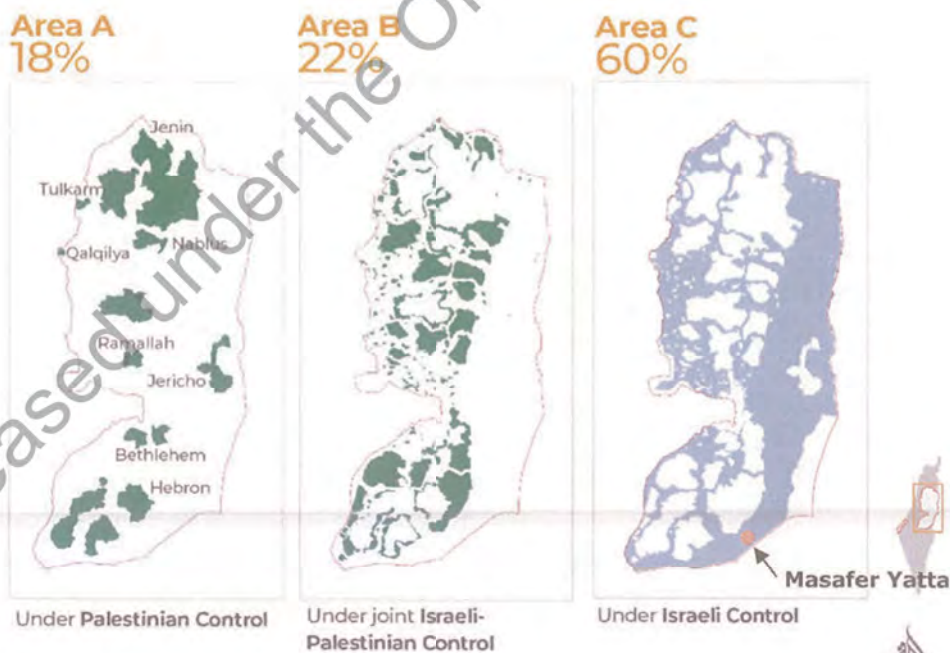
Date:        /        /

## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

## Pūrongo – Report

## Background

1. Masafer Yatta is a collection of 19 Palestinian hamlets in the West Bank, in the Hebron Governorate of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Following the Six-Day War in 1967, the West Bank has been under Israeli occupation. Under international humanitarian law, Israel as the occupying power has a duty to ensure the protection, security, and welfare of the Palestinian people living under occupation.
2. Masafer Yatta is part of 'Area C' of the West Bank, meaning that Israel has full control over its security, planning and construction. The occupied West Bank was divided into three areas – A, B and C – as part of the transition plan outlined in the Oslo Accords, signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel in 1993 and 1995. Today, Area A constitutes 18 percent of the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority (PA) controls most affairs in this area, including internal security. In Area B, which comprises about 21 percent of the West Bank, the PA has full civil control, and there is joint Israeli-Palestinian internal security control. In both areas, Israeli authorities have full external security control. Area C is the largest section of the West Bank, comprising about 60 percent of the territory. Although control of part of this area was meant to be transferred to the PA in 1999 as per the Oslo Accords, the handover did not happen, leaving responsibility for security, planning and construction with Israel. Around 400,000 Israeli settlers and 300,000 Palestinians are resident in Area C, though the international community considers these Israeli settlements to be illegal under international law.



3. Masafer Yatta was originally designated by Israeli authorities as a closed military zone in the 1980s. Since this declaration, residents have been at risk of forced eviction, demolition of their homes, and forcible transfer. Currently 215 Palestinian households live in the area, numbering about 1,150 people.



## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

4. A legal battle over the rights of these individuals to reside in the area has ensued since the 1990s. On 4 May 2022, the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that there were no legal barriers to the planned expulsion of Palestinian residents from Masafer Yatta to make way for military training. On 2 August 2022, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) issued a press release that denounces Israel's harassment of human rights defenders and humanitarian workers at Masafer Yatta, and notes the risk of forcible transfer of the community's residents.
5. Israeli authorities claim that the Palestinian communities moved into the area after it was designated as a closed military zone, and therefore do not have the right to continue living in their homes. Residents of Masafer Yatta, human rights organisations, and some experts refute these claims.
6. Following the ruling, Israeli authorities have intensified their activities in Masafer Yatta, including demolishing a number of homes, commencing military training exercises in the area, arbitrarily detaining residents and humanitarian staff, and blocking humanitarian aid.

### Status under international humanitarian law

7. As the occupying power of the Masafer Yatta area, Israel is bound by international humanitarian law rules comprising the law of occupation. The Palestinian residents, as a population under Israeli occupation, are a protected population under the Fourth Geneva Convention.
8. s9(2)(h)
9. Based on information shared by UN agencies <sup>s6(a)</sup> who have visited Masafer Yatta, <sup>s9(2)(h)</sup> s9(2)(h)
10. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) <sup>s6(a)</sup> advise that IDF actions are causing some members of the local population to leave their homes and to disband their communities. Other residents, however, have adopted a defiant stand and have said they will not leave, noting that the IDF will need to "kill us first". <sup>s6(a), s9(2)(h)</sup>
11. s9(2)(h)

## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

### Aotearoa New Zealand response to date

14. Aotearoa New Zealand's Embassy in Ankara (Second Secretary), which is accredited to Israel, raised Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns about developments at Masafer Yatta directly with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs during a visit to Israel in June this year.
15. Aotearoa New Zealand's Representative to the Palestinian Authority, Greg Lewis, will visit Masafer Yatta in late August. After this visit, the Embassy intends to share Lewis' reflections on the visit on social media which could include Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns about the situation.

### Proposed next steps

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

s6(a)

### 1. Officials representations to Israeli Ambassador

- As a first step, it is recommended that senior officials make formal representations to the Israeli Ambassador noting Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns about Israeli demolitions and evictions at Masafer Yatta. The Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand has recently returned to the country after some weeks away, so officials have not yet had an opportunity to raise this subject with him. This first step ensures that Israel is duly aware of Aotearoa New Zealand's concerns, and ensures that further steps to express such concerns do not come as a surprise.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

18.

19. s6(a)

In 2021, 911 Palestinian-owned structures were demolished and 1,209 people were displaced. s6(a)

20. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)



Aotearoa New Zealand response to the situation at Masafer Yatta

21. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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21 July 2022

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by

22 July 2022

**ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East and colonisation related issues**

**BRIEFING**      Decision Submission

**PURPOSE**      To seek your agreement on New Zealand's positions on resolutions on Middle East and colonisation related issues to be considered at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 22 July 2022.

**Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals**

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

22 July 2022

**Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details**

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Kathryn Beckett	Unit Manager	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division	s9(2)(a)
Finnian Cheshire	Unit Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	

**Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete**

- |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Referred  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined             | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events | <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes |                                    |

**Comments**

## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

### Pito matua – Key points

- New Zealand is currently a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We were last on ECOSOC eight years ago, in 2014. On Friday 22 July, three ECOSOC resolutions on Middle East and colonisation related issues will be voted on in New York.
- Officials recommend that we change our position on the resolution ‘Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women’ to a vote in favour, and maintain our votes in favour of the ‘Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation’ and ‘Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories’ resolutions.
- New Zealand’s balanced approach to Middle East issues in the UN, (with the primary objective of supporting a sustainable two-state solution, best achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations), <sup>s6(a)</sup>

#### **‘Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation’ – Annex A**

- Officials recommend that New Zealand votes in favour of the ECOSOC resolution on ‘Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation’ which calls for: i) enhanced access to the occupied Palestinian territories for humanitarian and economic purposes (ii) lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, (iii) compliance with the Paris Protocol and (iv) ending the exploitation of Palestinian natural resources (e.g. water) by Israel.
- During our last vote on this resolution in 2014, New Zealand also voted in favour. In 2021, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

#### **‘Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women’ – Annex B**

- Officials recommend that New Zealand votes **in favour** of the ECOSOC resolution on ‘Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women’.
- During our last vote on this resolution in 2014, New Zealand abstained. <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

<sup>s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

the positions outlined above are



## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

best aligned with New Zealand's endeavours to take a principled approach to Middle East issues in the UN, and our long-standing voting positions in the UN General Assembly.

s6(a)

### **Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories – Annex C**

- Officials recommend that New Zealand votes **in favour** of the ECOSOC resolution on 'Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations'.
- During our last vote on this resolution in 2014, New Zealand also voted in favour. In 2021, <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- A vote in favour of this resolution is consistent with New Zealand's broader position on Non-Self-Governing Territories, <sup>s6(a)</sup>



Deborah Geels  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

## Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:





- |   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | <b>Note</b> New Zealand's balanced approach to Middle East issues in the UN, with the primary objective of supporting a sustainable two-state solution, best achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. | Yes / No |
| 2 | <b>Agree</b> that New Zealand vote in favour of the resolution 'Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation', maintaining our previous position from 2014.   | Yes / No |
| 3 | <b>Agree</b> that New Zealand vote in favour of the resolution 'Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,' a change in position from our previous position in 2014, when we abstained.                         | Yes / No |
| 4 | <b>Agree</b> that New Zealand vote in favour of the resolution 'Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories', maintaining our previous position from 2014.   | Yes / No |
| 5 | <sup>s6(a)</sup>   | Yes / No |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Date:        /        /

## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

## Annex A – “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” (E/2022/L.16)

United Nations	E/2022/L.16
	<b>Economic and Social Council</b>
	Distr.: Limited 7 July 2022
	Original: English
<hr/>	
<b>2022 session</b>	
23 July 2021–22 July 2022	
Agenda item 16	
<b>Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan</b>	
<b>Pakistan:<sup>* **</sup> draft resolution</b>	
<b>Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan</b>	
<i>The Economic and Social Council,</i>	
<i>Recalling General Assembly resolutions 76/82 of 9 December 2021 and 76/225 of 17 December 2021,</i>	
<i>Recalling also its resolution 2021/4 of 14 September 2020,</i>	
<i>Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,</i>	
<i>Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,</i>	
<i>Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General.<sup>1</sup></i>	
<p><sup>*</sup> On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.</p> <p><sup>**</sup> In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> A/77/90-E/2022/66.</p>	
22-10785 (E) 130722 	Please recycle  



## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

E/2022/L.16

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>2</sup> to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Noting with concern* that more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 54 years since the occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

*Taking note*, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

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

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative<sup>6</sup> and the Quartet road map,<sup>7</sup> as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

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

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

*Expressing alarm*, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>3</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

<sup>7</sup> S/2003/529, annex.

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*Commending*, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water.

*Stressing* the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

*Gravely concerned* about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

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

*Taking note* of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>8</sup>

*Expressing deep concern* about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

*Gravely concerned* by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

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

*Deploring* all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

*Expressing grave concern* at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/22/65.

<sup>9</sup> See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.



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institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

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

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

*Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations.*

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

*Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population.*

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

*Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and*

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fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014.

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

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

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

*Expressing deep concern* that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture.

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

*Recognizing* the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022).

*Expressing concern* about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon.

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



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*Affirming* the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

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

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

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

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

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

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;<sup>10</sup>

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

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

<sup>10</sup> See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

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8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and negatively impacts the environment, as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of prisoners and detainees, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and deplores the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calls for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order to ensure dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in



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the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

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

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

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





20. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

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

22. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2023 session.

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Annex B – “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women”  
(E/2022/L.18 – Resolution B)

United Nations	E/2022/L.18
 <b>Economic and Social Council</b>	Distr.: Limited 13 July 2022  Original: English
<hr/> <b>2022 session</b> 23 July 2021–22 July 2022 Agenda item 16 <b>Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan</b>	
<b>Pakistan:*** draft resolution</b>	
<b>Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women</b>	
<i>The Economic and Social Council</i>	
<i>Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>1</sup></i>	
<i>Recalling its relevant resolutions and all other relevant United Nations resolutions,</i>	
<i>Recalling also Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, including its call upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, and its emphasis on the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity,</i>	
<i>Recalling further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>2</sup></i>	
<i>Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women<sup>3</sup> as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,</i>	
<i>Reaffirming the obligations of States and all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and the need to end all violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights,</i>	
<hr/> <p>* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.</p> <p>** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> See A/77/90-E/2022/66.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> United Nations, <i>Treaty Series</i>, vol. 1249, No. 20378.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/104.</p>	
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*Reaffirming also* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>4</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>5</sup> the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",<sup>6</sup> and the political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session,<sup>7</sup> and reaffirming its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation.

*Reaffirming further* the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and welcoming in this regard the global call by international women leaders made on 1 July 2020.

*Expressing grave concern* about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, and its impact on women and girls.

*Expressing grave concern also* at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women, peaceful demonstrators and journalists, and emphasizing that civilian populations must be protected by all parties in accordance with international humanitarian law.

*Strongly condemning*, in this regard, the killing of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, and stressing the need to promptly ensure accountability.

*Stressing* the need for the protection of civil society actors to allow them to conduct their work freely and without fear of attacks and harassment from any party, and rejecting any attacks against civil society.

*Stressing also* the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace.

*Deeply concerned* about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

*Noting* the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties, and stressing

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>7</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 7 (E/2020/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

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the need to implement fully obligations under those instruments that protect the rights of women and girls, including during and post-conflict.

*Noting also* the importance of giving high priority to the swift adoption of the Family Protection Law to ensure that women and girls are protected from gender-based violence, including domestic violence,

*Underlining* the limitations on Palestinian jurisdiction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which undermine the ability of the Palestinian Government to protect Palestinian women and girls in certain areas,

*Noting* the importance of the agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in facilitating the advancement and empowerment of women in development in line with General Assembly resolution 75/233 of 21 December 2020,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women and girls with regard to the fulfilment of their rights, and their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society;

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all measures contrary to international law, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and stresses that Palestinian civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by the conflict;

3. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994;

4. *Calls upon* the parties to comply fully with their obligations, including as States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking fully into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Acknowledges* the contribution of national coalitions and committees in advancing women's rights, including those pertaining to resolution 1325 (2000), the Convention and combating violence against women;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Palestinian Government of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as well as of initiatives at the legislative, administrative and security levels to advance women's rights, notably in relation to family law and combating violence against women;

7. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families, including those living under Israeli occupation, and recognizes the importance of integrating gender considerations across humanitarian programming by seeking to ensure the provision of access to protection and the full range of medical, legal and livelihood and psychosocial services, including services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, without discrimination, and through ensuring that women and women's groups can participate equally and meaningfully and are supported in being leaders in humanitarian action;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the



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Near East, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>8</sup> and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and deteriorating socioeconomic and psychosocial conditions in the Gaza Strip;

9. *Recalls* the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, and stresses that the situation of the Palestine refugees, including women and girls, continues to be a matter of grave concern and that they continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs, pending a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

10. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and urges in this regard the intensification and acceleration of renewed international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative,<sup>9</sup> the Quartet road map<sup>10</sup> and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

11. *Stresses* the importance of efforts to increase the role of Palestinian women in decision-making and of their full, equal and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and encourages Member States and observer States as well as the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of Palestinian women at all levels by, inter alia, promoting women's capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political, economic and humanitarian decision-making and by improving the gender balance in senior civilian government positions and in security functions, while recognizing the need to protect women participating in public spaces from threats and reprisals;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to include information on the gender-specific impact of the occupation and the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan to the Economic and Social Council at its 2023 session.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.




<sup>9</sup> A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

<sup>10</sup> S/2003/529, annex.



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## Annex C – “Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations” (E/2022/L.22 – Resolution C)

United Nations	E/2022/L.xx
	<b>Economic and Social Council</b>
	Distr.: General XX July 2022 Original: English
<hr/> <b>2022 session</b> <b>23 July 2021–22 July 2022</b> Agenda item 14 <b>Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations</b>	
<p><b>Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations</b></p>	
<p><i>The Economic and Social Council.</i></p> <p><i>Having examined</i> the report of the Secretary-General<sup>2</sup> and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>3</sup></p> <p><i>Having heard</i> the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>4</sup></p> <p><i>Recalling</i> General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2021/2 B of 21 July 2021.</p> <p><i>Bearing in mind</i> the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,</p>	
<p><sup>2</sup> A/77/66.  <sup>3</sup> E/2022/51.  <sup>4</sup> See E/2022/SR. [to be inserted].</p>	
21-10300 (E) 300721 <b>*2110300*</b>	Please recycle  

## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

E/RES/2021/2 B

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies  
and international institutions associated with the United Nations

*Conscious* of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

*Welcoming* the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories.

*Noting* that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

*Welcoming* the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

*Stressing* that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

*Stressing also* the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard.

*Reaffirming* the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions.

*Expressing its appreciation* to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard.

*Expressing its conviction* that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned.

*Mindful* of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization.

*Bearing in mind* the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 76/105 of 9 December 2021, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council, and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;
2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;
5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;
6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;
7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;
8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;
9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;
10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:
  - (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
  - (b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
  - (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;



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(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

14. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

16. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to continue their cooperation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the framework of the responsibilities established in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular subparagraph *d*, and to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

17. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council;

19. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),<sup>5</sup> in which the

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 2J (E/1998/41)*.

## ECOSOC: Voting Intentions on Middle East related issues

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Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies:

20. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2023 session;

22. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

chap. III, sect. G.





26 October 2022

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

2 November 2022

## UNGA 77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

**BRIEFING** Decision Submission

**PURPOSE** To seek your agreement on Aotearoa New Zealand's positions on the Middle East resolutions to be considered in the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly from early November 2022.

## Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister

For information by

9 November 2022

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

9 November 2022

## Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Angela Hassan-Sharp	Divisional Manager	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division	s9(2)(a)
Finnian Cheshire	Unit Manager	Middle East and Africa Division	

## Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

- |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved            | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined             | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events | <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes |                                    |

**Comments**



## UNGA77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

### Pito matua – Key points

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- Each year at the UN General Assembly, the European Union and the Palestinian delegation negotiate a set of Middle East-related resolutions. These cover issues such as Palestinian refugees, the Golan Heights in Syria, and the status of the occupied Palestinian territories. The resolutions are usually carefully negotiated and worded to receive the broadest possible support from the UN membership. The resolutions are non-binding and pass with a majority of UN member states voting in support.

• s6(a)

- Aotearoa New Zealand has endeavoured to take a constructive approach to Middle East issues in the UN, with the primary objective of supporting a sustainable two-state solution, best achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.
- Maintaining New Zealand's position for a two-state solution and dialogue is more important than ever, at a time where tensions are mounting and paths forward are becoming more unclear.
- The content of the resolutions is essentially the same each year with minor updates to reflect new resolutions passed by the UN or related developments. Aotearoa New Zealand has maintained a consistent position on the suite of resolutions for over 10 years, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

In recent years the number of resolutions have been streamlined so that some resolutions in the suite are put forward every two years.

- New Zealand has consistently voted in favour of the majority of resolutions, abstaining on only four which we consider to be unbalanced - failing to take account of the need to engage with Israel in a constructive way as a partner in the peace process. Two out of the four resolutions on which New Zealand traditionally abstains will be put forward this year. In addition New Zealand traditionally co-sponsors the resolution "Right of Palestinian people to self-determination".
- Specific elements we look for and encourage in multilateral resolutions on the Middle East are:
  - support for a comprehensive and sustainable two-state solution, with secure and recognised borders for Israel and Palestine (based on 1967 lines with mutually agreed land swaps);
  - support for Israel's right to exist in peace and security;

## UNGA77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

- support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; and
  - recognition that direct negotiations between the parties will eventually be the only way to achieve a sustainable agreement, and calling for a return to such negotiations.
- Officials consider that continuing with New Zealand's long-standing approach to the Middle East resolutions is the appropriate approach to pursue our objective of a sustainable two-state solution, achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.
  - Voting on these resolutions will commence on or around 11 November 2022 in New York. We seek your approval of the recommendations as set out in this submission. A table of New Zealand's proposed voting positions is attached.
  - Because of the way in which this set of resolutions are negotiated between the Palestinian delegation and EU, the final texts only tend to emerge immediately prior to the vote, requiring quick decision making. If amendments are proposed to any of the resolutions <sup>s6(a)</sup>

New Zealand will follow the principles that sit behind its existing voting record, i.e. consistency with our general position on Middle East issues (as above) <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a)

- Middle East issues (particularly those relating to Israel and Palestine) are sensitive. While New Zealand's policy positions on these issues are carefully balanced and long-standing, relevant decisions are referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs or to Cabinet where appropriate. Officials will continue to provide briefing and seek guidance on relevant issues as they arise.



Rosemary Paterson  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



## UNGA77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

### Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 1 | <b>Note</b> Aotearoa New Zealand's constructive approach to Middle East issues in the UN, with the primary objective of supporting a sustainable two-state solution, best achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.   | Yes / No |
| 2 | <b>Agree</b> that New Zealand maintain its previous voting positions (which have remained consistent for over 10 years) on Middle East resolutions to be considered in the UN General Assembly and vote in accordance with the positions set out in the table annexed to this submission. | Yes / No |
| 3 | <b>Agree</b> that New Zealand vote on amendments to resolutions in line with our constructive approach to Middle East issues, taking into account whether amendments improve the resolution <sup>s6(a)</sup>  | Yes / No |
| 4 | <sup>s6(a)</sup>  | Yes / No |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /



## UNGA77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

### Pūrongo – Report

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#### Update on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

1. Progress in the MEPP remains unlikely in the near term. Whilst there has not been an outbreak of violence on the scale of that which occurred in May 2021, nonetheless tensions on the ground remain high. April and May 2022 saw multiple Palestinian attacks in Israel, and Israeli military raids in the West Bank, as well as violence and repeated incursions by Israeli forces at Al-Aqsa Mosque – Islam's third holiest site. On 11 May, veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by gunfire in the West Bank. The Israel Defence Forces have since admitted that there is a "high possibility" that Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli fire.
2. In early August, three days of cross-border fighting between Israel and the militant group Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in the Gaza Strip erupted following Israeli airstrikes. A total of 46 Palestinians, among them 16 children, as well as members of PIJ, were killed and more than 300 Palestinians and 47 Israelis were injured.
3. You have spoken publically on multiple occasions expressing concern at this violence. Officials have also raised concerns on specific incidences directly with the Israeli authorities.
4. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
5. <sup>s6(a)</sup> After having served as Prime Minister of Israel for just over a year, Naftali Bennett's coalition government collapsed in late June 2022. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
Bennett stood down as prime minister, while alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid has acted as caretaker prime minister until the upcoming elections on 1 November.
6. These will be the fifth elections in three years, with centrist Lapid and right-wing <sup>s6(a)</sup> former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu widely seen as the two main contenders for the prime ministership. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
7. <sup>s6(a)</sup> progress has continued to be made under the Abraham Accords, a US-mediated normalisation process between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, signed in 2020. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
the Negev Summit in Israel in March 2022 brought together the foreign ministers of Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, and the United States, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

## UNGA77: Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to votes on Middle East-related issues

- <sup>s6(a)</sup> An Israel-UAE Free Trade Agreement was signed earlier this year, with officials predicting USD \$10 billion in bilateral trade within five years.
8. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- Tensions in the conflict continue to mount, with the Palestinian death toll in the West Bank for 2022 at its highest total in seven years.
9. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 10.
- Aotearoa New Zealand's position is that the question of Jerusalem's status can only be dealt with in the framework of negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians, and not beforehand.
11. New Zealand's long-standing position is that both sides should engage in direct negotiations, with the aim of seeing Israel and a Palestinian state existing side-by-side, in peace and security. Maintaining New Zealand's position for a two-state solution and dialogue is more important than ever, at a time where paths forward are becoming more unclear, <sup>s6(a)</sup>



## Annex: Resolutions to be considered during UNGA77

	Resolution	Last considered	Most recent voting position	Proposed voting position 2022
	<b>Second Committee (Sustainable Development)</b>			
1	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan, over their natural resources	2021	Yes	Yes
2	Oil slick on Lebanese shores	2021	Yes	Yes
	<b>Third Committee (Human Rights)</b>			
3	Right of Palestinian people to self-determination	2021	Yes Co-sponsor	Yes Co-sponsor
	<b>United Nations General Assembly</b>			
4	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine	2021	Yes	Yes
5	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	2020	Abstain	Abstain <sup>1</sup>
6	Division of Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat	2020	Abstain	Abstain <sup>2</sup>
7	Special Information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat	2020	Yes	Yes
	<b>Fourth Committee (Special Political &amp; Decolonisation)</b>			
8	Assistance to Palestine refugees	2021	Yes	Yes
9	Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	2021	Yes	Yes
10	Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues	2021	Yes	Yes
11	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan	2021	Yes	Yes
12	Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem	2020	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Aotearoa New Zealand has previously abstained on this resolution <sup>56(a)</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As with the resolution above, Aotearoa New Zealand has previously abstained on this resolution <sup>56(a)</sup>



## UNGA77: Updates to Resolution on 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem'

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- Each year at the UN General Assembly, the European Union and the Palestinian delegation negotiate a set of Middle East-related resolutions. On 30 October 2022, you signed off a submission outlining that, for the ongoing 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, Aotearoa New Zealand will maintain its long-standing voting positions on the suite of resolutions, which have remained consistent for over ten years.
- Officials consider that continuing with New Zealand's long-standing approach to the Middle East resolutions is the appropriate approach to pursue our objective of a sustainable two-state solution, achieved through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.
- Because of the way in which this set of resolutions are negotiated between the Palestinian delegation and EU, the final texts only tend to emerge immediately prior to the vote.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, officials received the final text of the resolution 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem', which will be voted on in the General Assembly's Fourth Committee on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November (NYK time). New Zealand has a long-standing position of voting in favour of this resolution, an approach you reaffirmed for UNGA77 in the recent submission.
- The final text of the 'Israeli Practices' resolution includes an unexpected recommendation for an International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion (AO) on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, proposed at the last minute by Palestine.

s6(a)

s9(2)(h), s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s9(2)(h), s6(a)

s6(a)

• s6(a)

•

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s6(a), s6(b)(i)

• s6(a)

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s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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s6(a)

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Released under the Official Information Act