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Provisional

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New York

<i>President:</i>	Ms. Evstigneeva.	(Russian Federation)
<i>Members:</i>	Algeria.	Ms. Gasmi
	China.	Mr. Zheng Minghao
	Denmark	Ms. Thyssen
	France	Mrs. Prigent
	Greece	Mrs. Marinou
	Guyana	Mrs. Edwards
	Pakistan.	Mr. Faheem
	Panama	Mr. Barrios La Fontaine
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Jaeseob Kim
	Sierra Leone	Ms. Baimarro
	Slovenia.	Ms. Učakar
	Somalia	Mr. Abdullahi Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Ms. Barry
	United States of America.	Ms. Kinsman

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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The meeting resumed at 3 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than three minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to the representative of Qatar.

Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting.

We align ourselves with the statements to be delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We thank Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, for his briefing.

We meet today following the convening of the Sharm el-Sheikh peace summit on 13 October, where His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, participated in the signing ceremony for the agreement to end the war in Gaza, along with His Excellency President Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

With the first phase of the agreement now entering into force, the State of Qatar reaffirms that the success of this phase is a collective responsibility to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, leading to a comprehensive cessation of the war and the achievement of peace and stability in the region, within the framework of full compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Over the past two years, the State of Qatar has continued the mediation efforts that it undertook jointly with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America, which, despite challenges and obstacles, led to an agreement that ends the bloodshed and humanitarian suffering in the Gaza Strip. During the past period, this mediation succeeded in reaching humanitarian truces that helped to alleviate suffering by delivering humanitarian aid to the brotherly Palestinian people and securing the release of prisoners and hostages. The State of Qatar remains committed to its approach as a mediating State and a peace-making leader, whose wise leadership dedicates its efforts to resolving conflicts through diplomatic means. Consistent with this approach, it is undertaking all humanitarian endeavours to alleviate the suffering of the brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip and to create the best conditions for the return of the displaced to their lands. The State of Qatar has begun its reconstruction efforts through the work of the Qatari committee for the reconstruction of Gaza, removing rubble, opening main streets and roads in Gaza and facilitating the movement of citizens in the Strip. The State of Qatar has also launched a land bridge, via Jordanian and Egyptian territory, to bring in humanitarian aid, which included providing shelter tents and food and health supplies for more than 436,000 people from affected families in the Strip.

The State of Qatar welcomes once again the adoption by the General Assembly of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution (decision 80/506). Qatar appreciates the leadership role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic in this regard, and we welcome the positive positions of the countries that have taken the initiative to recognize the State of Palestine, which affirms the right of the State of Palestine to full membership in the United Nations. For the success of

the peaceful settlement and the two-State solution, it is imperative to reject actions that undermine this solution, including the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, settler violence and the seizure of Palestinian lands, while emphasizing that the Gaza Strip is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories and the unified Palestinian State.

The State of Qatar condemns in the strongest terms the Israeli Knesset's approval of two bills aimed at imposing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied West Bank, considering it a challenge to international law and the decisions of international legitimacy, and urges the international community, especially the Security Council, to assume its legal and moral responsibilities and to act urgently to oblige the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their expansionist plans and settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territory. The State of Qatar also condemns plans to build a settlement that would separate East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constituting a flagrant violation of the decisions of international legitimacy, especially resolution 2334 (2016). The State of Qatar also expresses its condemnation of the statements regarding the so-called "Greater Israel" vision, considering them an extension of the approach of fuelling crises and encroaching on the sovereignty of States and international law.

The State of Qatar reaffirms its support for the Syrian Arab Republic, its sovereignty, its national and territorial unity and the realization of its people's aspirations for stability and development. It condemns the Israeli attacks on Syria, which constitute a serious violation of international law. The State of Qatar reiterates its firm position in support of the Lebanese Republic and the efforts exerted by the Lebanese Government, stresses the necessity of the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from all Lebanese territories and calls on all parties to strictly adhere to the ceasefire agreement.

In conclusion, the State of Qatar adheres to the approach it has consistently followed with all sincerity and credibility towards the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and mediation, and supports all initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security in the region and the world.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Schwalger (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes the announcement of the first phase of a peace deal between Israel and Hamas. We commend the leadership of all those who contributed to making this possible, including the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye.

There cannot be a return to fighting. We urge the parties to abide by the ceasefire and fully implement what has been agreed. This includes the return to Israel of all remaining deceased hostages and full, unhindered humanitarian access into Gaza.

While the fighting has stopped, the humanitarian catastrophe has not. Malnutrition levels remain alarmingly high, particularly among children. People continue to face acute shortages of clean water and basic healthcare. Humanitarian organizations must be allowed access throughout Gaza to reach those most in need. We urge Israel to amend the recent registration systems to ensure that non-governmental organizations can continue their essential work.

While we welcome this critical first step, we recognize that there is much work ahead. We call on the parties to continue to negotiate in good faith and demonstrate the courage and leadership that led to agreement on phase one. Hamas must demilitarize and accept that it cannot have a role in the future governance of Gaza. Israel must continue its phased withdrawal. The international community must stand ready to

support the realization of peace. New Zealand welcomes the emerging discussions on international support for stability and reconstruction.

As the world's attention turns to post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction in Gaza, we remain deeply concerned, however, that developments in the West Bank take us further from a two-State solution. Violence in the West Bank threatens to drag Israel and Palestine into another cycle of violence. Any such acts must be condemned. We call on Israel to halt the settlements and to allow the unimpeded flow of tax revenue to the Palestinian Authority. New Zealand respects the recent findings of the International Court of Justice and expects Israel to comply fully with those findings and with international law.

As we look to the future, we recognize the commitments made by President Abbas to strengthen governance, transparency and the rule of law, including the commitment to hold elections within 12 months of a ceasefire in Gaza and to continue to undertake comprehensive governance reforms. We urge everyone to assist the Palestinian Authority in turning these commitments into a practical reality. New Zealand will continue to support the Palestinian Authority in these efforts.

It is our hope that these commitments and recent achievements can lay the foundation for a return to political negotiations towards a two-State solution. We urge all parties to show leadership and seize this opportunity so that all Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace, security and dignity.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. França Danese (Brazil): Brazil welcomes the announcement of an agreement between Israel and Hamas for a new ceasefire in Gaza, with the implementation of the first phase of a plan to end the conflict in the Strip after two long years. We recognize the key role played by the United States and value the mediation efforts by Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye.

We strongly hope that this ceasefire will bring tangible relief to the civilian population. The agreement must halt the Israeli attacks that have caused more than 68,000 deaths, many of them women and children, and the forced displacement of nearly 2 million Palestinians. They have also caused the unprecedented destruction of Gaza's civilian infrastructure and the highest ever recorded number of deaths of humanitarian personnel.

Brazil underscores the irreplaceable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of guaranteeing full, immediate, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance at scale, including for United Nations personnel. As an occupying Power, Israel must fulfil its obligations under international humanitarian law, as stated in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 22 October.

We urge the parties to fully comply with the agreement and to engage in good-faith negotiations towards the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territory and the restoration of Palestinian governance over its territory. The inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination must be realized. These measures are essential to enable the urgent recovery and reconstruction of Gaza. The international community must step in to support this effort under Palestinian coordination and supervision. This process must be Palestinian-owned and Palestinian-led.

We remain gravely concerned about the continuous expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, in violation of international law and in defiance of the 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see A/78/968), which

found Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory to be unlawful and concluded that the country must immediately cease any new settlement activities.

A just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the two-State solution, with an independent and viable State of Palestine living side by side with Israel, in peace and security, within the 1967 borders, which include the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital. All violations of international and humanitarian law committed in Gaza cannot go unaccounted for. Ensuring justice is imperative to prevent such crimes from happening again in Gaza and elsewhere. Any international stabilization force eventually deployed in Palestine must have a carefully crafted mandate and be duly authorized by the Security Council. Such a mission should sustain the ceasefire, facilitate reconstruction and help to create the conditions for a lasting political settlement. Any such force should act in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the parties concerned, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Brazil acknowledges the participation of Syria in the general debate this year. We recognize the efforts of the Syrian Government to ensure an inclusive and peaceful political transition, which must count on full respect for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country, in accordance with resolution 2254 (2015). Brazil condemns the Israeli occupation of the demilitarized zone in Syria, in violation of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, and deplores the continued Israeli attacks against Syria as it prepares for reconstruction and reconciliation. We welcome the lifting of unilateral sanctions against Syria, which should have a positive impact on the country's economy and enable its urgent reconstruction efforts.

Brazil welcomes the Security Council's renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and reiterates its support for the mission's essential role in preserving stability in southern Lebanon. With strong human ties to Lebanon and having led the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force from 2011 to 2021, Brazil remains committed to the mission's objectives. The full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) continues to be hindered by the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and repeated violations of the ceasefire agreed in November 2024 and of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Finally, Brazil expresses grave concern about reports of the detention of additional United Nations staff in Yemen. We call for their immediate release and reiterate that protecting United Nations personnel is a fundamental obligation under international law.

Peace, stability and respect for human dignity must prevail across the entire region. In a world marked by conflict and tension, we hope the Middle East can finally find a political path to peace in the long-standing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Let the people of Palestine finally know peace, and let this peace extend throughout the region.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Oman.

Mr. Al Rubkhi (Oman) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Group of Arab States at this important meeting, which comes at a critical and defining moment in the history of our region.

Today, the world faces a new reality emerging after the launch of the peace plan and the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, followed by political and humanitarian developments that have revived the hope of closing a long chapter of

pain and suffering endured by the Palestinian people over decades of occupation, violence and denial of their most basic legitimate rights.

The Arab Group congratulates the Russian Federation on its wise presidency of the Security Council this month and on its initiative to convene this meeting at a time when the world needs a rational and responsible voice to remind us of the obligations of international law and the collective responsibility of the Security Council to uphold peace and justice and protect humankind from the scourge of war and occupation.

Over the past two years, Gaza has paid an unbearable price. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost, entire cities reduced to rubble and millions forced to live amid destruction, hunger and displacement. What we have witnessed is not merely a military conflict but a horrific humanitarian tragedy and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, under a suffocating blockade and collective punishment that deprived civilians of water, food, medicine, electricity and even human dignity.

The Arab Group welcomes the ceasefire reached on 13 October in Sharm el-Sheikh and stresses that making this agreement comprehensive and permanent is a shared responsibility. Sustaining calm on the ground must translate into concrete steps to prevent a recurrence of this tragedy and ensure the protection of civilians. In this regard, the Group fully supports the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar, alongside international partners, which led to this historic agreement, and underscores the need to activate an effective international monitoring mechanism under United Nations auspices to guarantee full compliance with the ceasefire and the unimpeded flow of humanitarian assistance.

The Arab Group also reiterates its full support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which is a lifeline for millions of Palestinian refugees. We strongly condemn all attempts to undermine its mandate or its noble humanitarian role. UNRWA is not just any agency. It embodies the historic commitment of the international community to a cause that has not yet been settled and knows no statute of limitations.

The Group welcomes the decisions of the International Court of Justice, most recently the advisory opinion of 22 October 2025, on the obligations of Israel with respect to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It reaffirmed that Israel is obligated under international humanitarian law to ensure that the population of the occupied Palestinian territory, including the Gaza Strip, is supplied with the essentials of daily life and to allow all aid plans to be carried out, including through the United Nations and United Nations agencies, especially UNRWA.

The last few weeks have brought real harbingers of hope to the political landscape. The adoption by the General Assembly of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution has been a quantitative leap along the international path towards ending the occupation. It reminded us that there continues to be global consensus that there can be no peace without an independent Palestinian State, within the borders of 4 June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Arab Group welcomes the outcomes of the Sharm el-Sheikh peace summit and the subsequent recognition of the State of Palestine by a number of countries during the New York conference in September. That was a major turning point in putting international legitimacy back on track. It underlined that recognition of Palestine is not a political favour but an inherent right established by international law and affirmed by the consciences of free peoples around the world.

The new peace plan that emerged from the outcomes of Sharm el-Sheikh and the New York Declaration is an historic opportunity that we should not waste. It is

the first plan to enjoy wide Arab, Islamic and international support. It is based on clear principles: ending the occupation and empowering the Palestinian Authority to extend its sovereignty over all its territories in accordance with the principle of one State, one Government, one law, one gun. Comprehensive reconstruction in the Gaza Strip has begun with the Arab-Islamic reconstruction plan, which opens the door to a new phase of recovery, rebuilding and peace. The Arab Group believes that this plan is not a temporary settlement but rather an opportunity to reshape the future of the entire region based on the rule of law, justice and coexistence.

The Security Council, the body established for the maintenance of international peace and security, cannot just sit and watch while a people suffers and is deprived of its right to life and dignity. The time has come for the Council to shoulder its moral and legal responsibilities. It must proactively translate the international consensus into practical steps, starting with granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations and ending with putting an end to the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights. The Arab Group also calls on the Council to ensure scrupulous implementation of its relevant resolutions, above all resolutions 2334 (2016), 2712 (2023), 2720 (2023), 2728 (2024) and 2735 (2024). It calls for ceasing all settlement activities, lifting the siege, protecting Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and prohibiting all illegal unilateral measures, including those aimed at altering the legal and historical status quo of those holy sites and the Arab, Islamic and Christian identity of the city of Jerusalem.

The Arab Group also stresses that achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East requires withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), which reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter and the principles of international law, and decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect. The Group condemns the repeated Israeli attacks on Syrian territory, which are in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter.

The Arab Group condemns the daily violations by Israel of the cessation of hostilities agreement that entered into force on 27 November 2024, which have included thousands of air and ground violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon and air strikes that have left hundreds dead or injured. It also condemns the continued occupation by Israel of five border posts in southern Lebanon and its establishment of so-called buffer zones inside Lebanese territory, which prevents the Lebanese Army from deploying fully south of the Litani River, prevents civilians from returning to their lands and restricts the freedom of movement of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon forces by depriving them of access to their border posts. It is also a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, resolution 1701 (2006) and the cessation of hostilities agreement. The Arab Group calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and compel Israel to withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territories immediately, fully and unconditionally, and to release all its Lebanese prisoners.

The time has come for the Palestinian people to hear the echo of justice in this Chamber. The time has come for the promises of the international community to be translated into tangible actions that would restore that people's right to freedom and sovereignty. Their long suffering must be transformed into the new beginning of a just and lasting peace. A peace not based on justice is a fragile peace. Justice deferred becomes fuel for anger and despair. That is why the Arab Group stresses that the path to regional and international security starts with Palestine. The establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital is not just a political demand. It is a prerequisite for realizing stability in the Middle East and the world.

To conclude, the Arab Group calls on the Council to rise to this historic moment and to display the political courage required to take long-overdue decisions. Today, it is not only the fate of a people under occupation that is being put to the test. It is also the sincerity of our commitment to the principles of the United Nations and values born of human suffering. Let us rise to the responsibility. Let us make this meeting a true turning point towards an end to the occupation and a just and comprehensive peace. The Palestinian people deserve to live free on their land and safe in their independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

Mrs. Kasymalieva (Kyrgyzstan): Let me thank the Russian presidency for convening this crucial open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including Palestine. We also thank Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Ramiz Alakbarov and the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Coly Seck, for their briefings.

We welcome the recent ceasefire. This is an important step towards ending this long-standing conflict. As President Sadyr Zhaparov has stated, the Kyrgyz Republic supports the ongoing process to resolve the situation in Gaza and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international law and its support for peace initiatives in the Middle East. The peace initiative of United States President Donald Trump as well as the diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye deserve the full support of the international community.

Kyrgyzstan supports a two-State solution. This must be based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Palestinians have the right to live in a free and independent State. We call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law. Civilian lives must be protected. Humanitarian aid must reach those who need it without obstacles. Gaza is facing a deep humanitarian crisis. Infrastructure is destroyed. Medical supplies, food and clean water are urgently needed.

Let me propose the following steps. The Council should call for the urgent opening of humanitarian corridors. Aid must be delivered without delay or conditions. The Council should call for the resumption of direct negotiations under the mediation of the United Nations and other partners. Peace talks must be inclusive, credible and time-bound. The Council should consider measures to monitor the ceasefire and help to prevent future escalations. We unequivocally condemn all acts of violence against civilians, regardless of their perpetrator, as such actions are indefensible and undermine prospects for peace. Durable peace cannot be achieved through coercion but must be rooted in justice, dialogue, mutual respect and recognition of legitimate aspirations. Kyrgyzstan stands ready to support confidence-building measures between the parties and commends all those who have contributed to the current ceasefire.

The peoples of the region have endured profound suffering for far too long. In line with our commitment to multilateralism, Kyrgyzstan believes that the Council bears a solemn duty to act decisively, impartially and promptly to advance a just and lasting solution.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yamazaki (Japan): There is a long-awaited window for peace in some parts of the Middle East. In Syria, the first parliamentary election took place since the fall of the Al-Assad regime. In Lebanon, the Government is on the path to regaining sovereignty over its entire territory through the Lebanese Armed Forces. And in

Gaza, finally, a ceasefire is in place, and all living hostages have been reunited with their loved ones.

Japan welcomes the first-phase agreement achieved under the leadership of President Trump. We also appreciate the tireless efforts of the mediators, including Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, whose perseverance made this breakthrough possible. Yet the situation is fragile. The return of the bodies of deceased hostages has been delayed, and parties exchanged fire, causing fatalities, earlier this week. We strongly urge both parties to refrain from further fighting.

Since the brutal acts of terror by Hamas on 7 October two years ago, we have witnessed bottomless suffering and sorrow. Twice before, ceasefire agreements were broken, each time unleashing new waves of death, destruction and despair. We must not allow this nightmare to resume. Japan reiterates its call on all sides to fully implement President Trump's comprehensive plan, sustaining the ceasefire, returning the bodies of all deceased hostages, disarming Hamas and enabling full-scale humanitarian assistance.

In this regard, the role of the United Nations and its agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, is indispensable. Now is the time to restore dignity to the people of Gaza, to rebuild their homes, their schools and their well-being, and to give back to the children of Gaza the safety, the health and the education they deserve. Japan will continue to stand at the forefront of international efforts to improve the humanitarian situation and to advance the early recovery and reconstruction of Gaza. We are ready to actively contribute to the implementation of the 20-point Gaza peace plan.

The ultimate goal remains a two-State solution, whereby Israel and Palestine coexist side by side in peace and stability. We strongly oppose the expansion of settlements and any annexation in the West Bank. Such actions erode the foundation of peace and must cease immediately.

Japan remains steadfast in supporting State-building for Palestine. Without dedicated and ethical public servants, no nation can truly function. This is why, for more than 27 years, Japan has trained more than 7,000 Palestinian officials, nurturing a new generation committed to integrity. Strengthening the financial foundation is equally essential. Together with many partners, Japan has joined the Emergency Coalition for the Financial Sustainability of the Palestinian Authority. We will do our part to preserve the Palestinian Authority's ability to provide essential services.

To conclude, let us ensure the current ceasefire becomes not a pause before another tragedy, but the first chapter of a new future, one built on hope and humanity.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Parvathaneni (India): India thanks Russia for convening the open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. I also thank the briefer for her remarks.

Today's open debate comes against the backdrop of the Gaza peace summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 13 October. India participated in the summit, and we welcome the signing of the landmark peace agreement. It is India's hope that the positive diplomatic momentum that has been generated would lead to lasting peace in the region. At this juncture, India would also like to place on record its appreciation to the United States, and especially President Donald Trump, for playing an instrumental role in forging the agreement. Further, India also commends the role of Egypt and Qatar towards achieving this end.

India remains firm in the view that dialogue, diplomacy and the two-State solution are the means to achieve peace. The landmark initiative of the United States has generated diplomatic momentum towards peace, and all parties must adhere to their obligations in this regard. We also remain firmly opposed to any unilateral moves by parties concerned. Now is the time for all parties to support ongoing peace efforts rather than derail them.

India's position is firmly rooted in its consistent stance on the developments since 7 October 2023, as well as the overall Palestinian question. India has clearly condemned terrorism, stressed that there must be an end to destruction, despair and the suffering of civilians, and sought the immediate release of all hostages. It held that humanitarian assistance, in particular food, fuel and other necessities, must flow into Gaza in an unimpeded manner and emphasized the need for a ceasefire. India envisions a peace agreement as an enabler and a catalyst in this regard.

The short-term gains of the recent diplomatic outcomes must pave the way for medium- to long-term political commitments and practical action on the ground towards a realization of a two-State solution. As India underscores its unwavering support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty, the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the United Nations on 22 September underlined the way forward. The two-State solution is the only pragmatic path. Since India's recognition of the State of Palestine in 1988, India has consistently advocated certain critical parameters: a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with Israel, within secure and recognized borders.

Another central element is the economic prospects and viability of a Palestinian State. Aid is essential in the short term for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Palestinian people cannot rebuild their lives without the support of the international community. India has been active on this front. The total support by India to the Palestinian people is to the tune of more than \$170 million, which includes projects worth \$40 million in various stages of implementation. Our commitment manifests in various forms depending upon the needs and priorities of the Palestinian people. We have implemented human-centric projects bilaterally and partnered with the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority in this regard. Over the past two years alone, India has provided relief assistance of nearly 135 metric tons of medicines and supplies. Looking ahead, these initiatives must be coupled with the creation of economic frameworks and mechanisms that are conducive to social development, investment and employment.

Peace and calm on the Palestinian front have implications for the wider region. India stands for lasting peace in the entire Middle East. Therefore, it is important for the agreement to hold, the ceasefire to be sustained and the parties to honour their respective commitments. Talks must continue, and there must be abiding faith in the efficacy of dialogue and diplomacy.

On ongoing developments in Syria, humanitarian challenges are an important dimension, and it is important to prioritize them. India's commitment in this regard is also manifested in its supply of five metric tons of essential medicines to the friendly people of Syria as recently as July. Politically, India continues to stress a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process. While taking positive note of the progressive normalization of Syria's relations with its Arab neighbours, India also pledges its support to the regional efforts towards finding a long-term solution in Syria. Indian troops in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force remain steadfast in executing their mandate even during the extreme challenges experienced during the recent conflict, including the supreme sacrifice by acting force commander, Brigadier

General Amitabh Jha, in December 2024. India is the third largest contributor to this mission.

As the second largest contributor to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), India reiterates the importance of the safety and security of peacekeepers of this mission. At a broader level, peacekeepers serve a very critical function of the United Nations, and they cannot become casualties of conflicts and escalations. India remains hopeful that the Lebanese Armed Forces will be equipped to discharge the entire spectrum of its responsibilities, once the UNIFIL sunset clause becomes operational towards the end of 2026.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is an area of concern. Humanitarian assistance must be above politics. It must reach all civilians, irrespective of affiliations and power structures. The immediate cessation of hostilities would catalyse these efforts. The safety and security of Indian nationals in Yemen are a priority for us.

It is India's earnest desire to realize the vision of a stable and peaceful Middle East. Our views are guided by certain basic principles. All human beings have the right to lead normal lives; deprivation and indignity cannot be a part of daily life; and civilians must not die owing to conflict. India stands fully ready to contribute to this endeavour.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Türkiye.

Mrs. Güven (Türkiye): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States belonging to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in my capacity as the Chair of the OIC Group.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Russian Federation for convening this quarterly open debate and for the comprehensive briefings provided to the Security Council on the situation in Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

The recently concluded high-level week of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly witnessed a series of promising events and encouraging outcomes in relation to the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian question, including an end to the Israeli military aggression and unprecedented humanitarian disaster and devastation it has caused in Gaza.

First, the successful adoption of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, following its overwhelming endorsement at the General Assembly on 12 September of this year, underscored the well-known global support for the existence and independence of the State of Palestine, along the borders of 1967. In this regard, we congratulate President Emmanuel Macron of France and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the co-Chairs of the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, on the extensive efforts exerted to convene the Conference and advance its urgent and crucial objectives.

Secondly, the official declarations of the recognition of the State of Palestine by the Presidents and Heads of State of 11 United Nations Member States during the resumed High-Level International Conference on Palestine, held on 22 September, undoubtedly set the stage for the formal recognition of the State of Palestine. We reiterate the earlier commendation by several OIC member States of this timely recognition of the State of Palestine and the long-standing call by our Group for the admission of the State of Palestine to full United Nations membership.

Thirdly, we welcome the efforts of United States President Trump and the signing earlier this month of a ceasefire agreement for Gaza, which has brought desperately needed relief to the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza in the face of mass displacement, starvation and famine, and has opened a new vista in global démarches for a durable peace in the Middle East. We welcome the implementation of the ceasefire and the subsequent release of hostages and prisoners. We also commend the convening of the Sharm el-Sheikh Peace Summit, under the co-chairmanship of President Trump of the United States of America and President Abdel Fatah Al Sisi of Egypt, aimed at bringing about an end to the war in Gaza and the promotion of a just peace and lasting stability in Palestine and the Middle East at large, and we welcome the Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity, signed by Egypt, Qatar, my country and the United States of America. In this regard, we express appreciation for the mediation efforts of the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Türkiye and the United States of America, which led to the signing of the Gaza ceasefire agreement during the Summit.

Against this backdrop of the foregoing positive developments, the OIC Group looks forward to a favourable outcome of the Council's debate today. Accordingly, we call on the Council to support and sustain the current momentum towards the restoration of a durable peace in Gaza and the entire occupied Palestinian territory, including concrete efforts to bring an end to Israel's illegal occupation. We call on the Council to take adequate measures towards contributing to the successful implementation of the ceasefire and subsequent phases, with a view to ensuring the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international law and the declared wishes and decades-long consensus of the international community.

In this regard, we call on the Council to consider the extant General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, the International Court of Justice advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 (see A/78/968) and the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, adopted on 30 July 2025, as positive evidence of the universal endorsement of the peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, on the basis of international law, the foundation of any just and peaceful solution. Certainly, these legal texts represent a declaration of support for the Palestinian people's natural, historical and legal right to self-determination and the independence of their State, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

In this regard, we call for the timely action of the Council on the admission of Palestine as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations. We are inspired by the commitments endorsed by the overwhelming majority of members of the United Nations General Assembly in the New York Declaration to hereby call on the Security Council to support collective action to end the war in Gaza and to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This includes the recognition of the grave implications of the high human and material toll of the Middle East conflict for regional and international peace and security. We also echo the provision of the New York Declaration that only a political solution can deliver peace or security, not war, terror or forced displacement.

Furthermore, we endorse the salient commitment in the New York Declaration on the imperative of entrusting the Palestinian Authority solely with all matters relating to governance, law enforcement and security access to all Palestinian territory, along with international support, while we welcome the "One State, One Government, One Law, One Gun" policy of the Palestinian Authority.

To this end, we reaffirm the recent resolution of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at its extraordinary session held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 25 August 2025, which rejected any calls, plans and policies aimed at displacing the Palestinian

people, whether inside or outside Palestine, including in the Gaza Strip, or changing the demographic composition thereof.

We welcome the establishment of the Emergency Coalition for the Financial Sustainability of the Palestinian Authority, which aims to stabilize the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority and assure its ability to govern, provide for essential services and maintain security. Accordingly, we seek the urgent implementation of the Arab-OIC reconstruction plan to allow early recovery and reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, and we encourage all States, regional and international partners to actively participate in the Gaza Recovery and Reconstruction Conference to be held in Cairo.

In expressing our firm support for the unfolding positive and encouraging signals towards alleviation of the unbearable suffering borne by the Palestinian people and a successful implementation of the ceasefire agreement in all its phases, we urge Council members to take cognizance of the enormous cost of the two-year war in Gaza, in human and material terms. This is represented in the colossal loss of more than 68,000 casualties, mostly civilian, and hundreds of thousands more wounded, and the forced displacement of nearly the entire population of more than 2 million people. In addition, the loss of more than 1,700 medical and humanitarian personnel, approximately 370 staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and 270 journalists has demonstrated the nature of the humanitarian tragedy resulting from the war in Gaza and elsewhere in the occupied Palestinian territory. This disastrous and unlawful situation demands our continued urgent attention and all efforts to alleviate it and ensure a just and lasting solution. We thus reaffirm our sincere hope that the recent peace plan will usher in the much-desired peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East region.

The OIC stresses that establishing peace in the Middle East requires Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, most notably Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), which reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and without international legal effect.

The OIC Group condemns the Israeli incursions into Syrian territory, which have been taking place since 8 December 2024 in flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces and calls on the Security Council to exert pressure on Israel to fully withdraw from all Syrian territories. The OIC Group also condemns the repeated Israeli attacks against the Syrian Arab Republic, as they constitute a clear aggression against a sovereign State and a flagrant violation of the provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The OIC Group condemns Israel's daily violations of the cessation of hostilities announcement since its entry into force on 27 November 2024 by committing thousands of aerial and territorial violations against Lebanon and launching raids, claiming the lives of, and wounding, hundreds of victims. We also condemn Israel's continued occupation of five border positions in southern Lebanon and the establishment of so-called "buffer zones" within Lebanese territory, which is preventing the full deployment of the Lebanese Army south of the Litani River and the return of civilians to their land and restricting the freedom of movement of peacekeepers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, while denying them access to some of their border positions in flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and resolution 1701 (2006) and in blatant breach of the cessation of hostilities announcement. We call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and enjoin Israel to withdraw from all

occupied Lebanese territories immediately, fully and unconditionally and to release all Lebanese nationals whom it is holding captive.

I would now like to make the following statement in my national capacity, if I may.

Türkiye welcomes the establishment of a ceasefire in Gaza and calls for the full and immediate implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Our foremost priority as the international community must be to preserve this long-overdue and hard-won ceasefire at all costs. It is imperative to prevent ceasefire violations and settler violence in the West Bank. Attacks against, and destabilizing policies vis-à-vis, Lebanon, Syria and the broader region must stop. As underscored in the Trump declaration for enduring peace and prosperity, the Middle East cannot endure a persistent cycle of prolonged warfare. Disputes must be solved through diplomatic engagement and negotiation, not through force.

Our second priority must be to ensure the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza and to initiate reconstruction efforts without further delay, in close coordination with the United Nations and its relevant agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. In this regard, Türkiye dispatched its humanitarian aid ship carrying food to Arish on 14 October. We will continue to provide substantial humanitarian assistance to Gaza in the period ahead and stand ready to contribute to reconstruction efforts in close cooperation with the international community. We welcome the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion, announced yesterday, on Israel's obligations regarding the occupied Palestinian territory, which reaffirms Israel's non-compliance with international law. Türkiye contributed to the proceedings through written and oral submissions and will continue to support efforts towards the effective implementation of international law and the restoration of justice.

Thirdly, it is essential to define and operationalize the arrangements for the day after, as underlined in the ceasefire agreement, including an international stabilization force and the creation of a credible political horizon in coordination with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people.

Lasting peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through a political solution based on the two-State vision and the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous State of Palestine. We welcome the recent recognitions of the State of Palestine announced during the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held on 22 September. We hope that this development, together with the momentum generated by the ceasefire negotiations, will contribute to the realization of the two-State solution in the period ahead.

Türkiye reaffirms its commitment to contributing actively and extending its support throughout the implementation phases of the ceasefire agreement. We will continue to support and mobilize all efforts towards the attainment of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting, and I thank the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process for his valuable briefing.

Since its formation, the Lebanese Government has been working to expand State authority, deploying the Lebanese Army nationwide and in the area of operations

of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the south. Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to cooperating closely with the Force, to ensuring the security and safety of its personnel and to facilitating the Force's orderly and secure withdrawal. At the same time, Lebanon underscores the importance of having a new international mechanism in the south to replace UNIFIL.

It is widely known that the Lebanese Army has deployed to more than 85 per cent of the south. Its full deployment is being prevented by Israel's occupation of certain areas under pretexts that we all know to be tenuous. The sole purpose of this occupation is to undermine the Lebanese Government's authority over its people and its ongoing efforts to return stability to Lebanon in every respect. In this regard, I must strongly condemn the repeated Israeli attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Lebanon and on UNIFIL, attacks which have continued unabated since 27 November 2024 and have even increased in frequency and intensity recently. Nonetheless, Lebanon remains fully committed to the declaration of a cessation of hostilities and accordingly reiterates its call to the Council and to the United States and France — the two guarantor States of the declaration of cessation of hostilities — to fulfil their relevant commitments and responsibilities.

Despite the intensity of the Israeli attacks, Lebanon has begun to respond to American mediation efforts aimed at achieving sustainable stability and a comprehensive political solution on the basis of dialogue and negotiation, rather than through military and bloody messages intended to exert pressure on Lebanon. The form and the scope of this dialogue will be determined by the Lebanese Government in due course and will be conditional on the cessation of attacks, a withdrawal from occupied areas and the release of detainees.

It must be recalled that this Government has decided that the State will have a monopoly over weapons — a decision that it has started implementing in accordance with the Taif Accords and the relevant international resolutions and one that is irreversible. The army has begun striving to that end. Of paramount importance is the need to provide the armed forces with the necessary support in carrying out these tasks nationwide and in Palestinian camps and in monitoring and controlling the border with Syria, which is engaging positively with Lebanon. That engagement will strengthen the two countries' relationship, grounded in mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs, and will foster bilateral cooperation, thereby contributing to stability in both countries.

Social stability is an integral part of security, and the two are mutually reinforcing. Accordingly, we hope that friendly countries will support the Lebanese Government's efforts, including those aimed at reconstruction and laying the foundations for stability. We wish to thank all those countries that are standing with Lebanon and to pay particular tribute to the French President for his tireless efforts towards holding two conferences supporting security institutions and reconstruction efforts before the end of the year. We also look forward to the visit of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to Lebanon at the end of next month in his first international trip since his inauguration as a message of peace and hope.

Lebanon welcomes the recognition of the State of Palestine by many countries. This is undoubtedly a courageous step that deserves praise, and it will push towards the realization of the long-awaited two-State solution. We hope that it will serve as a platform for reviewing positions and moving towards a just and comprehensive peace. We also value the mediation efforts aimed at guaranteeing a first-phase agreement between Hamas and Israel. We hope that this agreement will be a step forward towards ending the humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, the international community should continue to pressure Israel to respond to all calls to end its aggressive policies in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria and

to provide a positive environment for action towards a just and comprehensive peace that achieves stability in the Middle East.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Zahneisen (Germany): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this timely open debate.

After the heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent war, the peace plan put forward by President Trump finally represents a beacon of hope. Germany welcomes the ceasefire and the release of the hostages, and we call for the return to Israel of the remaining deceased hostages still in Gaza. We also express our gratitude to the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for their important roles in reaching this agreement. Now, it has to be implemented in full and without delay. The work on phase two of the plan has only just begun, and Germany stands ready to actively contribute to this endeavour.

In this regard, I would like to make three points.

First, the suffering of the people in Gaza must end. There must be an immediate and substantial increase in humanitarian assistance. Since 7 October 2023, we have provided \$436 million in humanitarian aid, making Germany one of the largest bilateral donors, and this includes \$34 million recently dedicated to supporting the implementation of the agreement. To do so, there must be unhindered humanitarian access into Gaza, with the United Nations and its agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, playing a central role, as do international humanitarian non-governmental organizations, which need to be able to continue their vital work. In this regard, we have taken note of the advisory opinion rendered yesterday by the International Court of Justice, stating Israel's obligations in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations and others in the occupied Palestinian territory. At the same time, we are working with our partners to give the people of Gaza the opportunity to build a better future. The stabilization and reconstruction of Gaza will be critical, and we believe that there is no time to lose. Therefore, Germany, Egypt and other partners aim to convene in the coming weeks a reconstruction conference for Gaza.

Secondly, we believe that Hamas can have no role in Gaza's future and must never again be a threat to Israel. Germany will actively support and participate in building a stable governance and security environment for the transition process, including through a role in the Board of Peace. We have already deployed personnel to the United States-led Civil-Military Coordination Centre to support the establishment of an international stabilization force. To give this mission broad legitimacy, a Security Council resolution and the close involvement of regional States will be crucial. Germany is also ready to contribute to the training of Palestinian security forces bilaterally and through European Union missions.

Thirdly and finally, sustainable peace can only be achieved within the framework of a two-State solution that realizes the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. A strong and reformed Palestinian Authority (PA) is essential to making that two-State solution a reality. Germany is the largest bilateral donor to the Palestinian Authority, with an ongoing portfolio exceeding \$1 billion, and we will continue to support the PA, including in its reform process.

The adoption of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution only a few weeks ago (decision 80/506), endorsed by a broad majority of Member States, including Germany, has brought new momentum to the two-State solution. We will

work very closely with our partners to maintain this momentum, so that, finally, Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace, dignity and security.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Szczerski (Poland): Poland aligns itself with the broad statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I would also like to thank Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov for his comprehensive briefing.

Poland welcomes the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas brokered by the United States in coordination with a coalition of Arab nations. We commend Egypt for its pivotal role in securing the truce and express sincere gratitude to all parties for showing their commitment to peace. We also recognize the French Republic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other international partners for convening the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. Poland proudly voted in favour of the decision endorsing the Conference's final declaration (decision 80/506), which reflects a growing international consensus and renewed diplomatic determination to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with urgency.

While the ceasefire brings some relief, we remain deeply concerned about the fragility of the situation. The recent violence reminds us that peace is far from assured. This agreement, though significant, is delicate and demands vigilant implementation. Since the escalation began, Poland has actively engaged within the United Nations framework to advocate for the protection of civilians in Gaza. Today we again call on all parties to exercise utmost restraint. No further loss of innocent lives can be tolerated. The future of the Palestinian people must rest on international law. We reaffirm our strong support for the two-State solution — the only viable path toward lasting peace and normalization. This requires addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns and ensuring full Palestinian statehood. In this regard, Poland believes that Hamas must have no role — political, economic or security-related — in Gaza's future.

We are also deeply concerned about the developments in the West Bank. The rapid expansion of illegal settlements and ongoing violence against Palestinians are unacceptable and must end. We trust that renewed international engagement will reinvigorate the broader political process. Implementing the second phase of the ceasefire will be complex but remains our only path to sustainable and just peace. Poland is committed to supporting these efforts fully.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains catastrophic. There is an urgent need to resume the unimpeded delivery of life-saving aid and ensure the swift and safe return of United Nations agencies. Multilateral cooperation and coordination with the United Nations remain central to the humanitarian response. Poland stands ready to increase its national contribution. We have recently allocated an additional \$2.7 million in humanitarian assistance across Lebanon, Palestine and Syria to address the needs of refugee populations. However, our ability to help depends on one critical condition: safety. Humanitarian workers must be allowed to operate under secure conditions. We therefore stress the urgent need to uphold international humanitarian law and protect civilians and aid personnel at all times.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Ammar (Tunisia): Let me express our appreciation to the Russian Federation for convening this quarterly open debate.

Actually, everything has already been said and repeated before the Security Council regarding the situation in Palestine. For more than 75 years now, the Council has been paralysed and unable to restore the outrageously stolen rights of an entire people. All the international propaganda that has been organized and disseminated by all means possible for decades around the world has fallen apart since the genocide in Gaza. The latest wave of recognitions of a Palestinian State is welcome. It aligns with the course of history, but it does not absolve the countries involved of their current responsibilities.

Tunisia welcomed the latest ceasefire agreement, reached on 8 October outside the Council, and it expressed thanks for all the efforts made in this regard. However, Tunisia has rightly warned about the fragility of this ceasefire, given that all along, what we have been facing, on one hand, is a classic project of colonization, a project to occupy the land by force and to exploit its natural resources, a project based on extreme violence, hatred, racism, reckless escalation and an endless criminal rush forward in total disregard of international law, relying exclusively on military force. On the other hand, we are faced with an overwhelming majority of civilian victims — women, the elderly, children and infants — killed by the world's most sophisticated weapons, supplied continuously.

Having suffered and fought against colonization like so many countries around the world, in Tunisia we know that the colonizer will always be defeated in the end. And modern history has shown us that the fate of those who commit genocides is to face international justice.

In conclusion, Tunisia reiterates its unconditional support for the legitimate struggles of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable and imprescriptible rights and to establish their independent and fully sovereign State over the entire Palestinian territory, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mrs. Maillé (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada remains firmly committed to the goal of enduring peace in the Middle East through a two-State solution. Advancing this goal with concrete and immediate measures is essential, not only for Israelis and Palestinians, but for the broader region.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada welcomes and fully endorses the recently established ceasefire between Israel and Hamas as the first phase of a comprehensive peace plan. We express deep appreciation to the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye. Their tireless diplomatic effort has been instrumental in securing the release of all surviving hostages, who have been reunited with their families after more than two years of captivity, and in facilitating the increase of humanitarian aid into Gaza, where it will respond to the urgent needs of civilians. The parties must fully uphold their commitments under the agreement, including by increasing the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, while continuing all efforts to secure the release of the remains of hostages.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada continues to firmly condemn the horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023, which took the lives of nearly 1,200 people, including Canadian citizens.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada remains deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, in which most of the population has been internally displaced multiple times and famine is occurring. We continue to advocate for the unimpeded and large-scale

delivery of humanitarian assistance into and throughout the Gaza Strip. Since October 2023, Canada has pledged more than \$400 million in humanitarian and development assistance to address the ongoing crisis in Gaza, and we are committed to supporting the scaling up of humanitarian assistance, stabilization efforts and recovery after two years of devastating conflict. We look forward to engaging with international partners on these issues at the proposed international conference on early recovery and reconstruction in Egypt.

Amid the crisis in Gaza, we must not lose sight of alarming developments in the West Bank, in which settlement expansion and extremist settler violence persist. Canada firmly opposes the expansion of settlements, including the E1 settlement project. Settlements not only undermine prospects for a two-State solution, but they are illegal under international law. Canada also condemns extremist settler violence and all acts of terrorism perpetrated against all civilians.

(spoke in French)

As part of a global initiative aimed at preserving the two-State solution and empowering those who seek peaceful coexistence and the disarmament of Hamas, Canada formally recognized the State of Palestine on 21 September. While we acknowledge that recognition alone cannot resolve all challenges and that it does not obviate the need for negotiations on final status issues, it reflects Canada's long-standing support for the right to self-determination and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

(spoke in English)

The Palestinian Authority has committed to significant reforms, including to holding general elections, to ensuring that Hamas has no future role in governance and to demilitarizing the future Palestinian State. Canada remains closely engaged with the Palestinian Authority as it implements these reforms, each of which is critical to advancing the goals of peace, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

(spoke in French)

The achievement of a lasting peace in the Middle East requires sustained engagement from the international community. We stand ready to do our part.

The President *(spoke in Russian)*: I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mrs. Baeriswyl (Switzerland) *(spoke in French)*: I thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting.

Switzerland applauds the progress made towards implementing phase one of the 20-point plan of the United States. We welcome the important work done by mediating countries. The release of the hostages and the entry into force of the ceasefire are significant steps forward. However, I want to take this opportunity to spare a thought for all those on both sides who are no longer here to witness this ceasefire. They will remain in our memory.

Switzerland calls upon all parties to fully respect the commitments undertaken and international law, especially international humanitarian and human rights law. That includes the lasting cessation of hostilities, prompt and unhindered humanitarian access and the release of the remains of hostages not yet returned. Respect for international humanitarian law, including the obligation to authorize and facilitate access to humanitarian aid, is an obligation and must never be made conditional on the conduct of any of the parties.

While an increase in humanitarian aid was agreed upon, restrictions persist. Crossing points must be opened urgently so that a sufficient level of assistance can reach and be distributed in the Gaza Strip immediately, in accordance with humanitarian principles. We also underscore that, as resolution 2730 (2024) recalls, international law requires that the safety and security of humanitarian and United Nations personnel be guaranteed, including local personnel. As the International Court of Justice recalled in its advisory opinion, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law and as a State Member of the United Nations, Israel has an obligation to cooperate with United Nations organizations, and in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to facilitate their humanitarian operations in the occupied territory. The immediate and lasting lifting of all restrictions must include restrictions on civil society, including non-governmental organizations and media outlets.

The progress made, including the ceasefire, is vital, but it is only the first step. Switzerland encourages all parties to leverage the current momentum and join the international community's efforts in order to put an end to the cycle of violence in the region in a lasting manner.

Progress must be made towards a lasting peace, based on a two-State solution that guarantees both the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the security of Israel. This must be done in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions, and the United Nations must play a key role in this.

Switzerland is ready to contribute to the implementation of the 20-point plan and the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, for example in the humanitarian field or by facilitating dialogue. In this respect, we also support the strengthening of Palestinian institutions. In this context, we particularly welcome efforts to stabilize the Palestinian Authority and to support its return to Gaza, including through the Emergency Coalition for the Financial Sustainability of the Palestinian Authority and the Authority's reform programme.

Let us seize this opportunity and work together constructively for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Moncada (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

We meet today in the aftermath of two years of tragedy in Gaza; two years of relentless devastation and unimaginable human suffering and massive violations of international law. The number of victims of this conflict is shocking. More than 68,000 innocent Palestinians, most of them women and children, have been killed as a result of this latest stage of an Israeli military operation that has gone on for decades now. Entire families have been exterminated, and what once were neighbourhoods, hospitals, schools or shelters are now ruins. This is not merely a humanitarian crisis, it is a moral catastrophe; a deep stain on the conscience of all humankind.

While we welcome the ceasefire and the humanitarian relief it is bringing to the traumatized, starved and besieged Palestinian population in Gaza, we urgently call for all efforts to be made to sustain the ceasefire, to extend it beyond Gaza to the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and to bring an end, once and for all, to these crimes against the Palestinian people and the illegal occupation.

What is occurring in Palestine today is, without a doubt, the oldest struggle for a people's dignity, a struggle for justice, freedom and self-determination. In this regard, the United Nations owes a historic debt. It was this very Organization that eight decades ago pledged in its founding Charter to uphold the principles of equality, justice, peace and self-determination for all peoples. Nevertheless, through its inaction and forced paralysis, owing to the continued veto of the United States of America, the Council, unable to uphold its Charter mandate, now risks eroding the credibility and very purpose of the United Nations itself.

Our Group of Friends condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the continued violations by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and the entire region. The deliberate targeting of civilians, hospitals, schools, humanitarian workers and United Nations premises constitute grave violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the perpetrators must be held responsible.

We reiterate our call for this ceasefire to be respected and to become permanent, and for the full withdrawal of all Israeli occupying forces from the Gaza Strip and from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. This illegal occupation must be brought to an end. Humanitarian access must be unimpeded. The United Nations must continue to play its leading role in this regard, particularly through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, whose mandate must be protected and strengthened. We welcome the release of hostages and detainees, including the thousands of Palestinians, among them children, arbitrarily detained in Israeli prisons.

We also condemn the actions committed on 1 October of this year by Israel against the Global Sumud Flotilla, which sought only to deliver life-saving aid to the besieged population of Gaza. This atrocious act is yet another manifestation of Israel's impunity; an impunity perpetuated by the recurrent use of the veto, which continues to shield the occupying Power from its responsibility.

Equally alarming are Israel's recent pronouncements regarding the entrenchment of its military control over Gaza and its continued illegal expansion of settlements and annexation measures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These actions flagrantly violate Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) and the Fourth Geneva Convention and threaten to extinguish the remaining prospects for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects.

Our Group welcomes the historic momentum generated during the recent high-level week of the General Assembly, held in September, when several countries announced their decision to recognize the State of Palestine. This wave of recognition embodies the moral and political will of the international community to rectify a long-standing injustice and affirm the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a State. We further call on all States that have not yet done so to recognize the State of Palestine and to support its admission as a full Member of the United Nations, as an indispensable step towards justice and peace.

In the same context, we condemn the refusal of the United States Government to issue visas for the high-level Palestinian delegation to participate in the General Assembly, in a clear and unacceptable violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Headquarters Agreement, and in direct contradiction of multilateralism and the principle of sovereign equality of States. The United States, as the host country, must comply with its obligations.

Moreover, we express our serious concern at the continued attempts of Israel, the occupying Power, to blow up the Middle East region, as demonstrated by its repeated

gross violations of international law, coupled with its continued provocations and attacks against countries in the region. We, therefore, reject all threats or uses of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of the region, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, while emphasizing that such actions could further escalate tensions on the ground, thereby endangering regional and international peace, security and stability as a whole.

The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and its firm support for their just struggle for freedom and independence; for a sovereign and viable State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, that guarantees the right of return of the refugees of Palestine, in accordance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and on the basis of the two-State solution.

Humankind cannot allow injustice to become destiny. We must not resign ourselves to perpetual war or colonialism and its modern forms, including occupation and sieges, nor to racism, apartheid or imperial domination. The peoples of the world look to the Council to uphold the promise of peace, not to administer its extinction.

Let us act, decisively and without delay. Let us choose peace through justice, not through force; through the rule of law, not impunity; through dignity, not despair. Only by defending the cause of Palestine can we defend the United Nations itself and preserve the hope of a more just and peaceful world, in line with the promise made 80 years ago when the founding Charter of this Organization was signed.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to Mr. Lambrinidis.

Mr. Lambrinidis: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Liechtenstein, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

A few weeks ago, we witnessed a rare moment of hope in the Middle East: an important step was made on the path to peace. The European Union welcomes the ongoing implementation of the first phase of the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict, put forward by President Trump, and the outcome of the 13 October Sharm el-Sheikh summit for peace. The European Union calls on all parties to engage constructively and fully implement the agreement without delay, allowing for a permanent end to hostilities. The EU welcomes the release of living hostages and calls for the release of the deceased and the return of all the remaining bodies. The EU also calls for unimpeded access and the sustained distribution of humanitarian aid into and throughout Gaza, including through the reopening of all crossing points. We reiterate that Hamas can have no role in Gaza's future and must never again be a threat to Israel. The European Union will continue to contribute to peace efforts and to actively engage with partners on the next steps. It will support the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid through all routes available by land, air and sea, including the additional Cyprus maritime corridor, in coordination with international partners, notably the United Nations and its agencies, and in accordance with international law.

The EU stresses the essential role of the United Nations and its agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which provides crucial support to the civilian population, both in Gaza and the wider region. The EU stands ready to contribute to Gaza's stabilization, recovery and reconstruction, including through the full use of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions, the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) Rafah and the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS). The EU is ready to deploy EUBAM Rafah as soon as the crossing is opened. EUPOL COPPS is already advising and monitoring the

Palestinian civilian security sector, including the Palestinian police, to the maximum of its capacity. This support remains essential for stability in the West Bank and also for the preparation of the Palestinian Authority's plans for its role in Gaza. The European Union will continue to support the Palestinian Authority more broadly, including in its ongoing reform and in view of its return to Gaza, and through the Palestinian donor group. The European Union calls on Israel to release withheld clearance revenues, which are necessary to ensuring the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority and to delivering essential services to the population.

The European Union strongly condemns the further escalation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, following increased settler violence, the expansion of illegal settlements, Israel's military operation and terrorist attacks against Israel. It calls on Israel to reverse the E1 settlement plan, which further undermines the two-State solution. The EU recalls the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, co-led by France and Saudi Arabia. We reiterate, as many others have done in this Chamber today, our commitment to international law and to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-State solution in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions, whereby two democratic States — Israel and Palestine — live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders. The Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, as a political and an implementation platform, is one of the mechanisms for translating into action the broad international consensus enshrined in the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, endorsed by 142 countries (decision 80/506).

Let me briefly turn to Syria. The European Union continues to stand with the Syrian people and is committed to supporting efforts for a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led and Syrian-owned transition. The EU continues to call on the transitional authorities to ensure an inclusive political transition that fulfils the aspirations of all Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds, without discrimination. We remain committed to supporting the socioeconomic recovery of Syria and the reconstruction of the country. We urge all external actors, without exception, to fully respect Syria's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we condemn any unilateral foreign military actions, presence and attempts to undermine Syria's stability and prospects for a peaceful transition. The fight against Da'esh and other terrorist groups, which continue to pose a threat to Syria and the entire international community, also remains a priority.

The EU welcomes the agreement reached by the transitional authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces and calls on the parties to work on a swift, comprehensive and peaceful implementation. The EU welcomes the road map announced by Syria, Jordan and the United States to address the crisis in the Governorate of Suwayda' and encourages the swift implementation of the agreement and continued dialogue among all parties. We call on the transitional authorities to continue and further enhance cooperation and engagement with United Nations bodies and agencies and all humanitarian actors and to grant them access to all areas in Syria.

Finally, in Lebanon, the European Union welcomes the efforts of the Lebanese authorities to stabilize the country, restore the monopoly of the State over the holding of weapons and undertake critical political and financial reforms. We reiterate our call on all parties to fully implement the 26 November 2024 ceasefire agreement and resolution 1701 (2006). We affirm our strong support for Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and highlight the essential stabilizing role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon. We are seriously concerned about the continued violations of the ceasefire agreement by the

Israel Defence Forces, in particular the targeting of UNIFIL personnel, civilians and civilian infrastructure.

In conclusion, the EU stands ready to further step up its support to Lebanon in strengthening national institutions, including the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Lebanese security forces.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Ms. Brattested (Norway): Let me first join others in welcoming the agreement on the first phase of the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. We would like to pay tribute to the United States and President Donald Trump for this breakthrough and to the Qatari, Egyptian and Turkish mediators, who helped to make it happen. The ceasefire agreement brings real hope of an end to the suffering in Gaza. All living Israeli hostages have been reunited with their families and loved ones. Many Palestinian prisoners have been released from Israeli prisons.

It is vital that all parties now respect and honour the agreement and that the humanitarian aid can reach the many who need it. Hamas must be demobilized. Israeli forces must withdraw from Gaza. However, the path to lasting peace is still long. Israel's occupation must end, both in Gaza and in the West Bank. All processes regarding the future of Palestine must be led by Palestinians, and the Palestinian Government must be enabled to govern all of Palestine, including Gaza. Only a two-State solution can provide the foundation for lasting peace, security and dignified lives for people in both Israel and Palestine. We are committed to taking forward the work of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, as a follow-up to the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. As Chair of the international donor group for Palestine, Norway stands ready to contribute.

Norway especially commends the 20-point plan for putting the United Nations and the Red Crescent at the core of the humanitarian response and for stating clearly that the entry of aid will proceed without interference from the two parties. This is in line with the strong message from the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion yesterday: Israel has an obligation to facilitate life-saving humanitarian aid and basic services — delivered by the United Nations, international organizations and States — for Palestinians living under occupation in Palestine. Despite the ceasefire agreement, Israel continues to restrict access for the delivery of goods into Gaza. It is therefore highly valuable that the International Court of Justice has now specified the international legal obligations to which Israel must adhere. The International Court of Justice has further reaffirmed that no State can place itself above its obligations under international law. This is essential both for Palestinians and for all other populations living in situations of war and conflict. Respect for international law is a prerequisite both for a rules-based international order and for a peaceful world, and this is the world for which Norway will continue to fight.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Mrs. Zalabata Torres (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): For the first time in two years, this meeting is taking place in an atmosphere of cautious hope. We recognize the progress fostered by the recent agreements and the implementation of the first phase: a ceasefire, the entry of humanitarian aid and the release of hostages. These developments encourage continued support for the essential rights of the Palestinian people. We welcome the mediation efforts that have made possible this outcome, which must be respected and verified internationally. We are concerned about the incidents of violence in the past few weeks, and we call for the ceasefire to be protected. The truce must be the beginning of a real, credible and lasting political

process led by the Palestinian people. The only just and sustainable way out of the violence in the region is the two-State solution, with a free, sovereign and viable Palestinian State within the pre-1967 borders. Colombia underscores the central role of the United Nations in promoting, facilitating and verifying efforts for a just peace and in implementing the relevant resolutions.

Colombia recognizes that there is reason to believe in progress, but it cannot forget what has happened: a genocide that has struck the foundations of international law. We also warn about the situation in the West Bank, which cannot become a new theatre of war. Settler violence must cease, and the illegal expansion of settlements must be stopped, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the orders of the International Court of Justice. We welcome the International Court of Justice advisory opinion issued this week and underline the essential role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing life-saving assistance, protecting civilians and upholding human dignity.

In this context, Colombia calls for the following. The ceasefire must be maintained with international verification. The unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid and the full resumption of the operations of UNRWA and those humanitarian agencies working under the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality must be ensured. Gaza must be rebuilt under the leadership and autonomy of the Palestinian people, with international solidarity and ensuring the return of all Palestinian refugees. The occupation must end, and progress must be made on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the entire occupied Palestinian territory. The immediate entry of the international press into the Gaza Strip must be ensured. Accountability must be guaranteed. The New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution must be implemented with a credible political process and clear timelines towards a free, sovereign and viable Palestinian State.

Today we are driven by the cautious hope of the first signs of peace. We are also motivated by the conviction that justice and respect for international law are the only guarantees of non-repetition.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Larsen (Australia): This debate comes at an historic time for the Middle East. Australia welcomes the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and the agreement to President Trump's peace plan. For the first time in years of immense suffering, both Israelis and Palestinians can have real hope for an enduring peace. We commend the leadership of President Trump and applaud the United States and the other mediators in Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for their enduring efforts and critical role in bringing about this deal.

Australia has been steadfast in calling for the release of the hostages so cruelly taken by Hamas on 7 October 2023, and we join so many others in this Chamber and around the world in feeling relief at the release of the living hostages. We continue to call for the dignified return of hostage remains, in line with the agreement. This historic agreement has given us a strong starting point, but there remain challenges ahead. Australia urges all parties to uphold the terms of the ceasefire and to work towards implementing the plan in full. Regional and international support will be essential to safeguarding this fragile peace. Every effort must now be made to end the suffering and starvation in Gaza. Innocent civilians have suffered for too long. We urge Israel to comply with its obligations under international law and the binding orders of the International Court of Justice. This includes ensuring the unimpeded flow of aid at scale in full cooperation with the United Nations and the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel.

Australia recognized the State of Palestine in September as part of a coordinated international effort to inject new momentum for a two-State solution. A two-State solution has always been the only path to enduring peace and security for both the Israeli and Palestinian people. We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas and our belief that it can have no role in Palestine's future. Together with our partners, Australia will continue to do what we can to contribute to a just and enduring peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. El Mezouaghi (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to express to you, Madam President, and the Russian Federation my warmest congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and to pay tribute to your wise leadership of the Council's work. I would also like to take this opportunity to renew the Kingdom of Morocco's support for the Russian presidency. I thank Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, for his valuable briefing.

In line with the frank and unwavering commitment of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chair of the Al-Quds Committee, and his constant concern about the situation in the Palestinian territories, we call for further mobilization by the international community to get the region out of this crisis and achieve durable and lasting peace.

In this context, the Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the declaration by the President of the United States, His Excellency President Trump, stating that a ceasefire agreement had been reached in Gaza. The Kingdom of Morocco expresses its deep appreciation for the tireless efforts and personal engagement of President Trump, which led to this hopeful outcome. We value the tireless efforts of all the mediators. The Kingdom calls on all parties to fully implement this agreement, which would allow for the release of the hostages and prisoners, the entry of humanitarian aid promptly and at scale and the beginning of the reconstruction process in order to find a lasting, durable and just solution to the Palestinian question.

The Kingdom of Morocco, whose King Mohammed VI chairs the Al-Quds Committee, underscores its firm adherence to the two-State solution as an indispensable basis for achieving a just and lasting peace in the region through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital and Gaza as an integral part of it, living side by side with the State of Israel in peace and security. The Kingdom of Morocco affirms its full readiness to contribute effectively to all agreed-upon stages and tracks to guarantee the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people and support stability in the Middle East.

These developments, which we welcome, require active involvement to open up prospects for negotiations leading to a political solution, according to a precise time frame in order to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. At the same time, it is also important to integrate the economic dimension in the peace process. This is a vital factor in achieving stability and development.

It is also necessary to strengthen support for the Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, in order to strengthen its institutions and fulfil the Palestinian people's aspirations to security and dignity. Moreover, the next phase requires political and financial support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in order to enable the Agency to carry out its vital tasks in providing humanitarian support to the Palestinians.

In conclusion, Morocco reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the holy sites, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, which holds a special place in the heart of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in his capacity as President of the Al-Quds Committee. This commitment is reflected in the initiatives, programmes and projects carried out by the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, the executive arm of the Al-Quds Committee, which is working to preserve the legal and historical status of Jerusalem, protect its identity and support the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people and their right to establish their independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the 4 June 1967 borders.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Vegas Torres (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Russia for convening this important debate, which allows us to broaden the exchange of views on the delicate situation of the Palestinian population and to discuss the importance of implementing a two-State solution based on security guarantees that enable the parties to adopt more flexible positions.

The ongoing tensions, the systematic violence and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank remain a major source of concern for the international community. Peru therefore welcomed the ceasefire reached on 13 October, thanks to the valuable mediation efforts of the United States with the support of the United Nations, Qatar, Egypt, Türkiye and other international actors, in an auspicious step forward in the process of achieving lasting peace in the Gaza Strip. Against that backdrop, we call on the parties involved to respect the ceasefire as a guarantee that will allow them to continue taking steps towards implementing the first phase of the commitments undertaken, in order to move towards a broader phase of negotiations that encompasses the reconstruction of Gaza and the return of its population to their homes.

As part of the agreement reached, we value the initial measures taken to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the commitment expressed by the Secretary-General to increase food, water, medical, housing and infrastructure assistance by United Nations agencies, given the dire situation that the population of the Strip has faced in the two years since the conflict began. We firmly believe that that goal must be supported by opening border crossings to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid. It is essential that United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East be able to continue to provide aid, particularly under the current circumstances. We also underscore that it is vital to establish international monitoring mechanisms to maintain the ceasefire. This should be based on an ongoing, joint coordination effort with the parties involved in order to prevent future violations of the agreement.

Committed to the quest for peace and consistent with its principled position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Government of Peru reiterates its support for initiatives aimed at achieving a long-term political solution based on the existence of two States, Palestine and Israel, living peacefully within recognized and secure borders, in line with international law and United Nations resolutions. Efforts to persuade the parties to adopt increasingly flexible positions and address their differences in a transparent manner is an ongoing task. We must continue seeking common ground as part of a pacifist approach and with the support of the international community as a whole.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mrs. Bandeira Nabais (Portugal): Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Portugal welcomes the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict endorsed earlier this month at the peace summit in Sharm el-Sheikh and in the outcome thereof. We commend the Arab States and mediators — the United States of America, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye — for their peace endeavours. We call on all parties to proceed with the implementation of the plan. The international community cannot miss this opportunity to uphold a complete and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages' remains and the swift, full and unimpeded resumption of humanitarian aid, consistent with international humanitarian law. The Palestinian Authority must be involved in any peace and administration plans regarding Gaza. Likewise, the United Nations and all its agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, need to maintain their role, as referred to in yesterday's International Court of Justice advisory opinion. Portugal will continue supporting all efforts aimed at relieving suffering in Gaza.

This new chance for peace must create the conditions that will allow the further development and implementation of the two-State solution. To that end, the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution was an important step, creating political conditions and momentum thanks to French and Saudi leadership, as was the work of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

For its part, Portugal formally recognized the State of Palestine on 21 September. This decision reflects our long-standing position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and seeks to promote a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the two-State solution. We remain, however, gravely concerned about the grievous humanitarian situation in Gaza and developments in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and its holy sites. Both realities threaten the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two-State solution and, thereby, peace in the Middle East.

For the sake of peace in the region, the Syrian and Lebanese peoples also deserve respect for their countries' territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty. We call on all parties to work constructively towards the stabilization of Syria, with full respect for the rights of every community, and we reaffirm our support for the full implementation of the terms of the November 2024 ceasefire agreement in Lebanon and resolution 1701 (2006).

Portugal remains committed to the rule of law and an international system with the United Nations at its centre. We will stick to our consistent positions on every front, and we will continue to strive for a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian question, anchored in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Chaivaivid (Thailand): Thailand commends the Russian Federation on convening this important open debate.

While recent developments have renewed hope, the humanitarian situation remains dire and demands greater collective efforts. At this critical moment, we would like to highlight four key points.

First, Thailand reaffirms its unwavering support for a peaceful resolution based on the two-State solution, whereby the States of Israel and Palestine coexist side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition, in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Secondly, we welcome the agreement reached by Israel and Hamas on the first phase of the peace plan proposed by the United States, and we support all ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at rebuilding Gaza. All parties must build on this positive momentum and turn commitments into concrete actions to end the suffering of innocent civilians and return peace and stability to the Middle East.

Thirdly, we underscore the urgent need to protect civilians and to guarantee the immediate, safe and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need. The prolonged humanitarian crisis in Gaza must end. The vital role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in delivering life-saving assistance and essential services remains irreplaceable. The international community must maintain its support to ensure the Agency's work continues without interruption.

Fourthly, Thailand calls on all concerned parties to fully implement and adhere to the agreed terms. Although not a party to the conflict, Thailand has been affected by the ongoing situation. We hope that the remains of the last Thai hostage can be returned to their family as soon as possible.

Thailand will continue to follow developments in Gaza closely and support all efforts that transform our collective resolve into progress towards a future of lasting peace, stability and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): We thank the Russian Federation's presidency for convening this quarterly open debate.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Bangladesh welcomes the ceasefire agreement signed earlier this month and the subsequent Sharm el-Sheikh Peace Summit which we hope will pave the way for overdue relief for the oppressed Palestinian people. We urge all parties to uphold their commitments under the agreement, safeguard civilians, facilitate unhindered humanitarian access and begin the reconstruction works immediately for the people of Gaza.

We commend the recent recognitions of Palestine, including by some permanent members of the Council, during the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. As a proponent of the culture of peace, we envision a Middle East in which peace and stability prevail for the people of the region. In alignment with the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, Bangladesh calls for the establishment of clear benchmarks and timelines across political, financial, security, humanitarian and economic dimensions to support the Palestinian people.

We highlight the following key priorities to fully leverage the ceasefire and ensure lasting peace.

First, full, immediate and sustained humanitarian access must be ensured through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Basic services, including fuel, food, medical supplies and commercial flows, must be restored.

Secondly, new resources must be mobilized through an effective and sustainable reconstruction plan for Gaza, such as the Arab-Islamic reconstruction plan.

Thirdly, there must be a cessation of all Israeli military operations, settlement expansion and resource appropriation and exploitation in Gaza and the West Bank, and also in the occupied Syrian Golan and Lebanon, in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Finally, the international commitment to achieving an independent and sovereign State of Palestine must be renewed. We urge the Council to take immediate action to recommend the admission of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations.

We once again, in the Council, urge all parties to cease all forms of armed hostilities and violent repression against the Palestinian people and the other nations in the Middle East and bring the perpetrators to justice. Bangladesh reaffirms that the only viable solution to the crisis is the establishment of an independent, sovereign and economically viable State of Palestine, with the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Muhamad (Malaysia): Malaysia thanks the Russian Federation for convening this meeting.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Malaysia welcomes the ceasefire agreement reached on 8 October 2025 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. We acknowledge the key roles of the United States, Egypt, Türkiye, Qatar and other partners in facilitating the negotiation. We urge all parties to fully adhere to the terms of the ceasefire. Now, efforts must be intensified towards ending the hostilities permanently.

We also welcome the unambiguous advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, delivered yesterday, 22 October. It is clear that Israel is obligated to agree to and facilitate relief programmes provided by the United Nations and its entities, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Israel must allow, facilitate and protect humanitarian access into and throughout Gaza. The supply of essential and life-saving items, such as food, medicines, shelter, water and fuel, among others, must be unimpeded and at scale.

We reiterate our steadfast support for all United Nations agencies, particularly UNRWA. UNRWA plays an indispensable and irreplaceable role in providing essential services to the Palestinian people. The blockade against UNRWA must be immediately and fully lifted.

Malaysia congratulates the 11 Member States that announced their recognition of the State of Palestine during the recent high-level week of the eightieth session of the General Assembly. The overwhelming support for the State of Palestine sends a clear message that it is also time for its full membership in the United Nations.

Malaysia also welcomes the adoption of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution at the General Assembly on 12 September 2025. We look forward to its implementation, as a pathway towards realizing a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We maintain that the right to self-determination is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The right of Palestinians to statehood is non-negotiable and must not be treated as a concession or attached to preconditions.

The grave violations committed by Israel must not be forgotten. Israel must be held accountable for the war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide it has committed. Israel must not be above the law. The impunity it has long enjoyed must stop.

Peace and justice can only be achieved through upholding the rule of law. The Security Council must fulfil its Charter-mandated responsibility to uphold international peace and security. It is up to the Council to find the courage to do so.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

Mr. Hoang Nguyen Nguyen (Viet Nam): Viet Nam thanks Russia for convening this open debate and the briefer for his valued insights.

We welcome the announcement and implementation of phase one of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and commend the diplomatic and mediation efforts of the United States, Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye, which helped to make this arrangement possible.

We call on all parties concerned to strictly abide by the ceasefire, exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any provocations or actions that may jeopardize this long-awaited and hard-won achievement.

As continued negotiations are under way to secure a permanent ceasefire, the United Nations, including the Security Council, must maintain an active and leading role in fostering compliance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as the provisional measures and advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

Equally important is guaranteeing the safe, sustained and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Gaza. As the displaced Gazans are returning to their homes, their access to life-saving aid must not be obstructed. In this regard, Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the vital role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in coordinating and delivering humanitarian assistance in Gaza and beyond and calls on all parties to facilitate its life-saving work.

Viet Nam remains steadfast in advocating for the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and full United Nations membership. We reiterate our unwavering support for the two-State solution, based on the pre-1967 borders and international law, ensuring a sovereign State of Palestine coexisting in peace and security with Israel.

In this connection, we welcome the successful conclusion of the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, and the adoption of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. We also welcome all constructive initiatives aimed at consolidating the ceasefire, addressing the root causes of the conflict and creating conditions conducive to a just and lasting peace in Gaza and the wider Middle East.

Finally, Viet Nam supports and stands ready to make active contributions to international efforts to rebuild Gaza on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, international law and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Babo Soares (Timor-Leste): The current ceasefire between Israel and Hamas offers a fragile but indispensable opening — an opportunity to transform a

temporary truce into a verifiable and durable pathway towards peace. It is, however, a narrow window that demands unity, discipline and tangible action from the international community.

First, the immediate priority must be to stabilize the ceasefire, protect civilians and scale up humanitarian relief across Gaza. Timor-Leste welcomes the ceasefire facilitated by the United States and supported by Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye — a testament to the value of sustained multilateral diplomacy. However, without a robust implementation mechanism, calm will remain elusive. We therefore recommend the establishment of an independent multinational monitoring mechanism, operating under United Nations oversight, with real-time reporting and rapid de-confliction channels to prevent reprisals and miscommunication. Such a mechanism would enhance transparency and confidence between parties, reducing the fog of accusation that too often reignites violence. Parallel to monitoring, humanitarian operations must be dramatically scaled up. United Nations agencies and partners must be guaranteed safe, sustained access to all affected areas. We support the call by Under-Secretary-General Tom Fletcher for the establishment of unrestricted humanitarian corridors and the provision of renewed, predictable funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which remains a vital lifeline for millions. The International Court of Justice's recent guidance on humanitarian access underscores the legal duty of the Security Council to ensure unimpeded assistance to civilians in need.

Secondly, humanitarian relief must be coupled with a sequenced political and security transition that respects Palestinian legitimacy and addresses Israel's security concerns. Drawing from Timor-Leste's own post-conflict reconstruction, we know that sustainable peace depends on credible institutions, accountable security forces and inclusive governance. A phased transition plan could combine a temporary technocratic administration in Gaza for municipal and service functions with an internationally supervised disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process tailored to local realities. We propose the consideration of an international stabilization force with a narrowly defined mandate, clear rules of engagement and an agreed exit strategy. Such a force, composed of willing and regionally acceptable contributors, could focus on maintaining civil order, explosive ordnance disposal and the training of vetted Palestinian police and security units. Disarmament must be verifiable and incentivized, offering alternative livelihoods, reconstruction contracts and pathways for ex-combatants to integrate into lawful community roles. Security sector reform and the creation of a professional, representative Palestinian police service will be critical to replacing armed groups' control with legitimate civilian authority.

Thirdly, reconstruction financing and institutional support must be linked to transparent, measurable benchmarks. Large-scale disbursements should flow through independent oversight structures to prevent corruption and ensure that aid restores essential infrastructure, including water, power, hospitals and schools, and supports small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those providing employment for youth and former combatants. We call on regional partners, including Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and Jordan and global actors such as the United States and the European Union, to coordinate mediation and reconstruction efforts under a single, accountable framework led by the United Nations. Broadening the guarantor base beyond any single mediator will enhance legitimacy, burden-sharing and long-term confidence.

Timor-Leste reiterates its steadfast support for a two-State solution, which it considers the only viable foundation for lasting peace and mutual security. We reaffirm our endorsement of the Arab Peace Initiative and the General Assembly's recognition of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations. International law remains non-negotiable. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the acquisition of

territory by force, and all violations, wherever they occur, must be subject to impartial investigation and accountability. Ultimately, peace must be founded on justice and dignity. Reconstruction without rights will not bring reconciliation. Timor-Leste, as a nation that emerged from conflict through international solidarity and the rule of law, stands ready to contribute its experience in dialogue, reconciliation and institution-building to support a credible peace process. Suppose the international community sustains unity, resources and principled diplomacy — in that case, the present ceasefire can mark not merely a pause in violence but the fragile beginning of a just and enduring peace where the children of Gaza and Jerusalem can inherit stability, not despair.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Abushahab (United Arab Emirates): I thank the Russian Federation for presiding over today's meeting, and I am grateful to Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov for his sobering briefing.

For the past two years, we have witnessed untold suffering and destruction in the Gaza Strip. But now diplomacy has finally opened the door for the prospect of peace. The United Arab Emirates strongly welcomes the outcomes of the Sharm el-Sheikh peace summit, the implementation of the ceasefire and the release and return of hostages and detainees, both living and deceased, to their loved ones. We applaud President Trump's leadership and commend the steadfast efforts of the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye in facilitating the arrangements that led to this historic agreement. It is a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when the international community comes together to break the cycle of violence and chart a path towards peace in the region. The international community must now sustain pressure on Israel and Hamas to fulfil their obligations under the agreement. The Security Council's endorsement of this peace plan is critical. We have a collective responsibility to help end this war and to facilitate the achievement of a just and lasting settlement.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza has been absolutely catastrophic, but with a ceasefire now in place, we are finally seeing a surge of aid going into the Strip. A rapid scale-up of humanitarian aid is now needed to reach all those in need. The United Arab Emirates will continue to mobilize its resources and expertise to deliver aid to the Palestinian people, especially women and children, while supporting our international partners in their vital work. As part of the United Arab Emirates efforts to scale up our humanitarian response in Gaza, two Emirati ships carrying urgently needed supplies are scheduled to arrive next week. This includes a ship sent in partnership with World Central Kitchen — one of the key organizations providing a vital lifeline for Gazans. The entry and distribution of humanitarian aid must not be obstructed, as affirmed by yesterday's International Court of Justice advisory opinion. We call upon Israel and Hamas to abide by their obligations under international law.

The situation in the West Bank is rapidly deteriorating in the shadow of Gaza. Israeli extremist settlers continue to terrorize Palestinian communities at unprecedented levels, as the expansion of illegal settlements runs rampant in blatant violation of international law. Meanwhile, some Israeli ministers continue to call for the annexation of Palestinian land. The United Arab Emirates strongly condemns the Israeli Knesset's approval, in a preliminary reading, of two bills intended to impose Israeli sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and to legalize control over a settlement. This step constitutes a dangerous escalation and undermines efforts to achieve the two-State solution.

With a ceasefire in place, we now have an opportunity to move beyond decades of just managing this conflict to finally resolve it. It is incumbent upon us all to translate the momentum generated by the peace plan into a political settlement that delivers the peace, stability and security that both Palestinians and Israelis so desperately need.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Ms. Ni Mhuircheartaigh (Ireland): Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and we thank the Russian Federation for convening today's meeting and Deputy Special Coordinator Alakbarov for his briefing.

We stand at a historic crossroads. After more than two years of war with an unconscionable human cost, the first phase of peace efforts to end the suffering of Israelis and Palestinians has been secured. With collective relief, we welcome the release of all living hostages held by Hamas for more than two years in captivity. They and their families can now begin the long process of recovery. Our thoughts are also with the families of those who are not returning home alive. The ceasefire agreement and hostage release deal offers a moment of hope and a new horizon for peace in the Middle East. All parties must adhere to the agreement in full and continue to negotiate in good faith.

This ceasefire is also a call to action for the international community. As we commend this significant progress, we recognize that urgent measures are still needed to alleviate the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. Sustained Israeli military operations and the blockade of humanitarian aid before the ceasefire have resulted in famine and untold horror for the people of Gaza. More than 54,000 children are acutely malnourished and face increased risk of death if untreated. There must be a flood of humanitarian aid into Gaza now. Additional crossings must be opened to allow aid to reach all corners of the Strip rapidly.

We welcome that the 20-point plan expressly states that aid should be provided, without interference, through the United Nations and its agencies. We also welcome the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued yesterday, which confirms Israel's obligations under international law — Israel must ensure and facilitate the provision of essential humanitarian aid. It is essential that the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other humanitarian organizations, are facilitated in full to carry out their life-saving work in Gaza and the West Bank. The work of UNRWA is essential and irreplaceable for millions of Palestinian refugees in the region, particularly in the current context in Gaza. It must be permitted to play its full General Assembly-mandated role in the humanitarian surge and recovery and reconstruction phases.

It is extremely concerning that proposed new Israeli registration requirements for international non-governmental organizations will mean that vital humanitarian actors may be prohibited from working in the occupied Palestinian territory before the end of the year. This would significantly worsen the humanitarian situation. For its part, Ireland will provide an additional €6 million in humanitarian aid for people in Gaza through United Nations agencies as they prepare to ramp up aid supplies following the ceasefire.

While international attention is understandably focused on Gaza, we must not lose sight of the worsening situation in the West Bank, in which Israeli military operations have displaced at least 40,000 people since January. Ireland is deeply concerned about the increasing instances of extremist settler violence and illegal settlement construction, which continue in an environment of impunity, restricting

life for Palestinian communities across the West Bank. As mediators negotiate the next phase of the 20-point plan, the West Bank must be a central part of efforts to reach agreement on a durable and sustainable peace through implementation of the two-State solution. Any implementation must also include support for the Palestinian Authority, and we must remain committed to the implementation of the two-State solution, for both Palestinians and Israelis, ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine and resulting in a viable, contiguous Palestinian State in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, based on the 1967 borders.

Ireland also remains concerned about regional stability and security. We welcome the continued United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon presence in Lebanon until 2027. This support is essential to ensuring the success of the Lebanese authorities. Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty undermine efforts to advance stability in southern Lebanon. Syria's transition remains a key focus. The recent elections were an incremental positive step, but huge challenges remain. International actors must support Syria's efforts for a just and inclusive future. Ireland regrets that serious talks on Iran's nuclear programme seem to be in abeyance, leading to the reintroduction of sanctions. For Iran to play a more positive role in the region, it must return to meaningful negotiations. And the recent further detention of United Nations humanitarian workers by Houthi forces in Yemen recalls our attention to the continuing conflict there.

In conclusion, this is now a critical opportunity to build just and lasting foundations for a wider settlement in the region and peace in the Middle East. We know from our experience in Ireland that any peace process needs to be inclusive. The Palestinian people, like the people of Israel, must be at the heart of any sustainable agreement that can deliver lasting peace. And the only credible solution is a two-State solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brunei Darussalam.

Ms. Pengiran Haji Tajuddin (Brunei Darussalam): Brunei Darussalam extends its warm congratulations to Russia on its assumption of the Security Council presidency for this month. This open debate underscores the continued commitment to ensuring that this issue remains a priority on the Council's agenda. I thank the Deputy Special Coordinator for his briefing earlier.

We welcome the signing of the ceasefire agreement in Gaza led by United States President Donald Trump, and we commend the sustained efforts of Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye in facilitating the mediation. Nevertheless, we must not allow these developments to overshadow the long-standing and profound suffering endured by the Palestinian people under occupation, which has spanned decades. Our focus must remain on addressing the root causes of the conflict, with the ultimate goal of bringing an end to the prolonged occupation and violence perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power. We also remain deeply concerned about reports of continued breaches of the ceasefire agreement. We condemn those violations and strongly urge all parties to adhere fully and in good faith to its terms.

Let us be clear: peace cannot be negotiated from a position of permanent disadvantage. The international community must redouble its efforts to foster dialogue and ensure parity between the concerned parties. No peace process can succeed when one party continues to live under occupation while the other wields the full attributes of statehood. Genuine negotiations require an environment in which parties meet as equals, not under conditions of subjugation. The two-State solution will remain distant as long as one party enjoys full sovereignty, unrestricted access to international institutions and comprehensive security guarantees while the other remains stateless and fragmented and is denied the basic attributes of self-

determination. Lasting peace requires justice and equity. Only when both peoples can live side by side in security, freedom and dignity, with mutual recognition, can peace endure.

Last month, at the General Assembly, as my Foreign Minister clearly stated,

“Recognizing the State of Palestine, and supporting its full membership in the United Nations, is not a reward. It is an inherent right of the Palestinian people. It is a matter of principle, justice, and humanity.”

Granting the State of Palestine its rightful place among nations is essential to unlocking a credible peace process and securing its full and independent statehood. Brunei Darussalam’s position remains unequivocal and guided by the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We once again urge the Council to recommend the admission of the State of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations. This is not merely a symbolic gesture, but a necessary step towards correcting a fundamental imbalance. Meaningful negotiations cannot take place when one party sits at the table as a fully recognized member of the international community while the other continues to plead for a voice.

We stand firm in our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for peace, freedom and inalienable rights to self-determination. We also remain unwavering in our support for the two-State solution and the creation of a fully independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Vasconcelos (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico is taking part in this quarterly debate of the Security Council, cautiously hopeful about the situation in the Middle East. There was an urgent need to halt the war and the uncountable death toll, which continued to mount week after week. That is why we recognize the initial joint efforts of Egypt, the United States, Türkiye and Qatar.

We welcome the release of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza and of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, in particular women and children, as an important step towards a final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The fragility of the ceasefire reminds us that the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, must ensure that hostilities do not resume and that all parties comply with the recently reached agreements. Mexico supports the deployment of a temporary international mission to monitor the ceasefire, as well as the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and the West Bank.

The world has seen the images of the entry of United Nations convoys into a completely desolate terrain and the slow return of the Palestinian population to different locations in the Gaza Strip. We express our appreciation to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the rapid and efficient distribution of humanitarian aid since the first days of the ceasefire, as well as the 60-day plan it proposed to alleviate the most basic needs of the Palestinian population. The Security Council must be unequivocal in demanding the immediate, unconditional and unimpeded delivery of large-scale humanitarian assistance. We echo the calls of the United Nations for the Israeli authorities to allow more humanitarian organizations to bring in supplies. It is particularly urgent that such supplies be distributed throughout the Gaza Strip before the onset of winter.

At a critical time for the provision of basic services, we note with concern that electricity and water may be completely disconnected from United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) facilities, and

we are alarmed that some of its property may even be confiscated. These actions are contrary to the privileges and immunities enjoyed by United Nations entities. Next November, the General Assembly is to renew UNRWA's mandate, and Mexico reiterates that there is no other agency that can replace the services that UNRWA provides to Palestinian refugees.

I conclude by recalling that the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution laid out a path for the day after the end of hostilities. In that document, the expectations for the reconstruction of Gaza and the necessary foundations for a two-State solution, including the admission of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations, are clear. The Declaration was equally clear on the need to rebuild the social fabric of Palestinian and Israeli societies and to promote narratives of peace that will ensure the coexistence that both peoples long for.

Let the achievements made not become just another temporary halt in the long history of spiralling violence in the Middle East. Palestinians and Israelis deserve a better future.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Iceland.

Ms. Orradottir-Ramette (Iceland): Iceland welcomes the much-needed ceasefire for the people of Gaza. We reiterate the need for immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to ensure the full resumption of the unhindered distribution of aid to the people in need, in line with international humanitarian law.

Iceland has consistently condemned the horrendous terrorist attacks on Israel two years ago. We welcome the fact that, at long last, all living hostages have now been freed and returned to their families.

Hamas needs to shoulder responsibility. It must relinquish control of Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority. There is no justification for terror and Hamas has no role in the future of Palestine. There is no justification, either, for the collective punishment of millions of Palestinians. Accountability is vital, on both sides, and communities must be allowed to heal and recover.

The responsibility of the occupying Power, Israel, under international law, including international humanitarian law, was clearly and strongly reconfirmed and explained by the International Court of Justice yesterday. Iceland submitted a written statement to these proceedings.

Iceland is a long-standing contributor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and has repeatedly voiced its concerns over Israeli legislation against the Agency, including actions against United Nations premises in East Jerusalem. As is very clearly stated in yesterday's advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, Israel, as the occupying Power, has a legal obligation to ensure the well-being of civilians under its occupation.

While the world's focus is on Gaza, the relentless occupation in the West Bank must not be overlooked. There, Palestinians are experiencing the worst restrictions and the heaviest militarized operations for decades.

Iceland recognized Israel in 1948 and Palestine in 2011. Both peoples have an equal inalienable right to self-determination. Lasting peace depends on it being fully realized. A two-State solution, in which Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace and mutual recognition, remains the only viable path to peace.

We were inspired by the successful leaders meeting in September in New York, and the peace plan, brokered by the United States and others, is an important step towards this. The agreement must now be implemented. We must ensure that

extremists and spoilers on both sides are not allowed to stand in the way and to derail these efforts.

The future State of Palestine must be built on the foundations of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We expect the Palestinian Authority to accelerate political and institutional reform, and Iceland stands ready to support this journey, along with the international community.

The Council must live up to its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations in its pursuit and maintenance of international peace and security. Palestinians and Israelis alike deserve a better, more secure future, based on a just, lasting and sustainable peace.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Soberón Guzmán (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We support the statement to be made by Uganda, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; the statement made by Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations; and the statement made by Senegal, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

On the eve of the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations, it is shameful that the Security Council has not been able to stop Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people. The anti-democratic use of the power of veto by the United States has prevented this organ from contributing to international peace and security, thus perpetuating Israel's barbarism against Palestine and thwarting the efforts of the international community to bring this criminal policy of annexation to an end. The historical complicity of the United States and its unbridled political, diplomatic, military and financial backing have ensured the occupying Power's impunity throughout decades of outrages against the Palestinian people.

In blatant violation of international humanitarian law, Israel has indiscriminately attacked civilians and critical infrastructure, while depriving the Palestinian population of water, electricity, medicines and fuel in a bid to exterminate them. It is obstructing and manipulating the entry of humanitarian aid and using hunger as a weapon of war, while expanding its colonizing practices. Israel must be held accountable for the crimes against humanity, apartheid and genocide perpetrated against the brotherly Palestinian people. In the Gaza Strip alone, more than 67,000 deaths have been recorded since October 2023 as a result of Israel's aggression. After two years of brutal genocide, a belated and fragile peace agreement has recently been brokered, which the international community has welcomed in the hope that it will put an end to the barbarity.

Meanwhile, impunity abides amid Israel's aggression against other countries in the Middle East, such as Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen. The recent violation of the sovereignty of Qatar, which has played a constructive role in mediation efforts in Gaza, is yet a further example of Israel's aggressiveness and its expansionist policy. Moves to reshape the Middle East by force are flagrant violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and entrench the cycle of violence and insecurity in the region.

Peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question. We reaffirm the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to an independent and sovereign State based on the two-State solution, within the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, whereby the right to return is guaranteed to refugees. At the same time, we demand that Palestine be admitted as a full Member State of the United Nations as a matter of

urgency. To so proceed, albeit belatedly, would represent an act of justice towards the Palestinian people.

Cuba stands with Palestine in the face of the genocide. The words spoken by Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz at the United Nations in 1979 continue to hold true in their entirety, when he said that the Palestinians “are [...] living symbols of the most terrible crime of our era” (*A/34/PV.31, para. 24*). The defence of the Palestinian cause is a battle for humankind itself.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Olabi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): As a people steeped in the horrors of war, the Syrian Arab Republic welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and conveys its hope that this development will help to end the suffering of Palestinian civilians and pave the way for the delivery of urgent humanitarian relief, ushering in regional stability. We underscore the need to maintain the ceasefire and ensure that Israel does not resume its attacks against the Strip. Syria conveys its appreciation for the efforts and mediation of the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America and the Republic of Türkiye in securing this agreement.

At a time when Syrians are aspiring to rebuild their country, to turn the page on suffering and to achieve the security and stability for which they have yearned for so long, the Israeli occupation authorities are pursuing their aggressive practices against the Syrian people by persistently violating the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces. In recent months, they have encroached on the buffer zone — the area of operations of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) — and set up 10 positions there. They have also encroached on large swathes of southern Syria, established military checkpoints to harass Syrian civilians and bulldozed fertile agricultural land, forests and nature reserves, threatening the livelihoods of the local population and jeopardizing peace and stability in southern Syria and the wider region.

Syria categorically rejects any pretexts that the Israeli occupation authorities seek to advance to justify their crimes and acts of aggression and condemns in the strongest of terms these Israeli crimes, which are aimed at undermining the security and stability of the country. We hold the Israeli occupation fully responsible for those crimes, as they violate Syria’s sovereignty and imperil the unity, territorial integrity and security and the welfare of its people. We call on the United Nations and the Security Council to take decisive action to stop these Israeli practices, to put an end to, and to prevent the recurrence of, its attacks and to compel the occupying authorities to withdraw their forces from Syrian territories, including the occupied Golan Heights and the areas upon which they recently encroached, and to prevent any interference in Syria’s internal affairs.

For months, Syria has been engaged in serious discussions with Israel, thereby making peaceful and diplomatic means, not confrontation, its priority in the quest for an outcome that addresses genuine security concerns on both sides. However, Israel’s alleged security concerns are expressed only militarily, in the form of ground incursions and an illegal presence on Syrian territories, coupled with control over the country’s economic and water resources, in flagrant violation of Syrian sovereignty and the rules of international law. That state of affairs is wholly antithetical to the claim of seeking peace. When the desire for security and stability is genuine, the path entails not force and hegemony, but dialogue. The ongoing occupation and the policy of fait accompli serve only to fuel further tensions and undermine opportunities for peacebuilding. In the same vein, allow me to quote part of the Trump declaration for enduring peace and prosperity:

“We hereby commit to the resolution of future disputes through diplomatic engagement and negotiation rather than through force or protracted conflict. We acknowledge that the Middle East cannot endure a persistent cycle of prolonged warfare, stalled negotiations, or the fragmentary, incomplete, or selective application of successfully negotiated terms.”

My country underlines that it is crucial for both UNDOF and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to continue fulfilling their mandates and calls for them to be kept in place and bolstered so that they are capable of duly performing their tasks, in particular the monitoring of Israel’s repeated violations and the prompt reporting of them to the Council. In this connection, Syria voices its concern about the impact of funding cuts on UNDOF’s capability to discharge its mandate and underscores the need for it to be given sufficient resources so that it can perform its mandate in full and without hindrance.

In conclusion, my country sees the momentum generated by the Trump declaration for enduring peace and prosperity as a historic opportunity for our region — one that all should seize, with a sense of realism and responsibility, while upholding the inalienable rights of peoples and ensuring a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace. In our view, the path to peace remains clear, and it will be achieved only with full respect for Syrian sovereignty, strict adherence to the principles of international legitimacy and full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, which my country affirms will remain Arab and Syrian. It is an integral part of the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic and an eternal right that will not be subject to compromise or waiver and cannot lapse by statute of limitations.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Van Schalkwyk (South Africa): We thank the Russian Federation for convening this quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East providing all Member States with an opportunity to address the Security Council on developments in the region.

South Africa continues to believe that peace in the Middle East remains contingent on resolving the question of Palestine. Our failure to find a lasting solution to the plight of the people of Palestine and ensure their self-determination, security and freedom remains an enduring threat to the international community’s core objective of achieving a just and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine that results in Palestinian statehood. Despite these challenges, we are pleased by the respite created by the latest ceasefire agreement under the first phase of the Gaza peace plan, which has required the delivery of humanitarian aid. The concern, however, is that the amount of humanitarian aid being allowed by the occupying Power is far below the minimum required for survival. It is also of grave concern that the occupying Power has, in violation of the ceasefire agreement, continued bombardment of the Gaza Strip, resulting in significant civilian casualties. We reiterate that it is imperative for all parties to commit to fully cooperating in implementing the ceasefire agreement, which we hope will pave the way for a more inclusive, just and enduring peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.

The Gaza peace plan presents an opportunity to end the devastating famine and human suffering and to forge a credible political path towards lasting peace and security. We call for a renewed commitment to the realization of Palestinian statehood as a framework for lasting peace. Palestinians deserve peace, security and dignity, just like Israelis. But it must be clear that the peace plan must abide by international law and prioritize the human rights of the Palestinian people. It is for this reason that we underscore that nothing can justify deliberate killings, the

injuring of civilians or the use of famine against hopeless and traumatized civilians through wanton acts of genocide. The entire population of Gaza has been enduring destruction at a scale and speed unparalleled in recent history. The ongoing historic injustice, with decades of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, continues to pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

The advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice yesterday reaffirms the legally binding obligations incumbent upon Israel under international law. The opinion provides authoritative clarity on the legal responsibilities relating to the presence and operations of the United Nations and other humanitarian actors within the occupied Palestinian territory. The Court's findings underscore that there is no legal ambiguity regarding Israel's obligations to facilitate and respect the mandates of international and humanitarian institutions operating in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Court emphasized Israel's responsibility as an occupying Power to ensure that the population of the occupied Palestinian territory has the essential supplies for daily life. The Court also noted the indispensable role of the United Nations, including the impartiality and neutrality of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing humanitarian relief in Gaza and supporting the self-determination of the Palestinian people. UNRWA must be permitted to be fully operational, as it remains the backbone of humanitarian operations in Gaza.

South Africa reaffirms our commitment to peace in the Middle East. We stand ready to share our experiences in peacebuilding, transitional justice and reconciliation, and we are willing to assist in nation-building efforts. However, in order to pave the way for a lasting peace, it is necessary to put an end to Israel's long-standing and serious violations of its international legal obligations outlined in two previous International Court of Justice advisory opinions. We believe that any path towards alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people cannot be complete without their legitimate right to self-determination, an end to the occupation and the establishment of a viable independent State. In this regard, we welcome the historic international consensus that reflects the collective solidarity with the Palestinian people and reinforces the recognition of their legitimate rights.

In conclusion, the Member States must work collectively to take active, irreversible steps to end Israel's unlawful occupation and realize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination through statehood that delivers true sovereignty on equal terms with Israel.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Kwoba (Uganda): I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 121 member States of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

I congratulate the Russian Federation on its accession to the presidency of the Security Council this month and express appreciation for granting NAM the opportunity to present its position on the question of Palestine.

NAM reaffirms its long-standing, common and principled position on the question of Palestine and is deeply concerned about the implications of this historical injustice against the people of Palestine and, most critically, the Gaza conflict and its unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

NAM supports all prospects for a just solution to this historic injustice and for peace and security in the region. The grave situation in Gaza has led to a worsening humanitarian situation, not only in Gaza but also throughout the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, with rising Israeli military raids and settler violence and constant violations against the historic status quo at the holy sites

of Jerusalem. The Member States of the United Nations conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 12 and 24 of the Charter. The Security Council must uphold its mandate to maintain international peace and security and must act to implement its own resolutions. We call on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities and to act forthwith for the full implementation of all its resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine, including its most recent resolutions. NAM welcomes the Gaza ceasefire and demands that the ceasefire is permanent, respected and fully implemented by all parties in the Gaza Strip and once again urges the Council to fulfil its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

NAM commends the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt to convene and host the Sharm el-Sheikh peace summit on 13 October, which focused on unequivocal support to the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement to end the illegal Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, concluded on 9 October and mediated by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar, Türkiye and the United States of America, with an aim to consolidate the peace process in the Middle East by ending the illegal Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and enhancing the resilience of Palestinian people on their land and reaching a political settlement for the Palestinian question through ending the occupation and achieving the two-State solution, in accordance with international law.

The Movement acknowledges with appreciation the NAM member States that participated in the Sharm el-Sheikh summit, including those who contributed during the lead-up to the summit — Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — and emphasizes the importance of cooperation among the States that participated in the Sharm el-Sheikh summit to provide all means to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement and maintain its continuity. NAM further emphasizes the need to begin consultations on ways and mechanisms to implement the next stages of the settlement of the Palestinian question.

NAM condemns the daily Israeli violations of the cessation of hostilities arrangement since its entry into force on 27 November 2024, in the form of thousands of aerial and territorial violations against Lebanon and the launch of raids that have claimed the lives of and wounded hundreds of victims. NAM condemns the continued Israeli occupation of five border positions in southern Lebanon and the establishment of two so-called buffer zones within Lebanese territory. Those actions prevent the full deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces south of the Litani River and the return of civilian lands, restrict the freedom of movement of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon peacekeepers and deny them access to some of their border positions, all of which constitutes a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and of resolution 1701 (2006) and a blatant breach of the cessation of hostilities arrangement. NAM calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and force Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese occupied territories immediately, fully and unconditionally and to release all Lebanese captives held by Israel.

NAM stresses that establishing peace in the Middle East requires Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, most notably resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), which reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Golan is null and void and without international legal effect. NAM condemns the Israeli incursions that have been taking place in the Syrian territories since 8 December

2024, in flagrant violation of international law, the United Nations Charter and the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, and calls on the Security Council to exert pressure on Israel to fully withdraw from all Syrian territories. NAM condemns the repeated attacks against the Syrian Arab Republic, as they constitute a clear aggression against a sovereign State and a flagrant violation of the provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution arising out of the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution as a reaffirmation of the unwavering international commitment to a just and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine. The Movement calls for the necessary coordination and cooperation among all States to advance the Declaration's objectives, mobilize international efforts at the political, economic, financial, legal and security levels and foster momentum by building on national, regional and international initiatives aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian people. NAM welcomes the recognition of the State of Palestine by a majority of countries and calls on the Security Council to urgently recommend the admission of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations, out of respect for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the relevant United Nations resolutions and as a bold and long-overdue commitment to long-lasting peace in the Middle East.

NAM member States once again reiterate their call for the continued provision of necessary humanitarian and socioeconomic assistance to the Palestinian people, including Palestinian refugees. The Movement reaffirms the continued indispensability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), along with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, in the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance, in line with international standards, and urges the international community to support the Agency in all ways, including with sufficient and predictable funding. NAM rejects all attempts by Israel to weaponize humanitarian assistance and undermine UNRWA by creating illegal parallel agencies as a threat to multilateralism and the General Assembly mandate to provide humanitarian assistance.

In conclusion, the Movement seizes this opportunity to reiterate its call for collective international efforts to uphold international law and bring an end to the historic and grave injustice against the Palestinian people. NAM member States reaffirm their commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects, including the plight of the Palestinian refugees, and reaffirm their support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve justice and fulfil their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. NAM calls on all Member States to uphold their obligations in accordance with international law, the relevant resolutions and the rulings by the International Court of Justice and to undertake tangible actions, including urgent measures of accountability, bring an end to this prolonged and tragic injustice, end the illegal Israeli occupation and help the Palestinian people to finally realize their rights.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are still a number of speakers remaining on the list for this meeting.

I intend, with the concurrence of members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 October.

The meeting was suspended at 6.05 p.m.