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Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Ms. Lassen	(Denmark)
<i>Members:</i>	Bahrain	Ms. Alalaiwat
	China	Mr. Fu Cong
	Colombia	Mr. Sánchez Niño
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mrs. Kabengele Lukundula
	France	Mr. Dharmadhikari
	Greece	Mr. Stamatekos
	Latvia	Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes
	Liberia	Mr. Brown II
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Panama	Mr. Alfaro de Alba
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Somalia	Mr. Mohamed Yusuf
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Dame Sarah MacIntosh
	United States of America	Ms. Locetta

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Israel to participate in this meeting.

I propose that the Council invite the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the meeting, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; and Ms. Hannan Sulieman, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Alakbarov.

Mr. Alakbarov: I thank you, Madam President, for convening this important meeting on the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It comes at a critical moment. While the fragile ceasefire in Gaza and regional tensions consume much of the international community's attention, the West Bank is at the breaking point. And this has not been a sudden deterioration. It is the result of decades of unresolved conflict that has deepened the unlawful Israeli occupation, driven the Palestinian Authority (PA) to the brink of collapse and undermined the prospects for an independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State.

In my briefing to the Council last month (see S/PV.10203), I described the explosive dynamics unfolding in the West Bank. Today I would like to highlight several developments that are deepening instability, while moving us further away from a negotiated end to the conflict.

I will begin with the sobering human toll. As of 10 August, 76 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank in 2026, including 18 children, by Israeli forces or settlers. In 2026, three Israelis, including one civilian and two members of the Israeli security forces, were killed in confrontations with Palestinians and in an alleged ramming by a Palestinian in the West Bank. One hundred and twenty-seven Palestinian communities have experienced full or partial displacement since January 2023, including 47 that have been entirely displaced, affecting more than 6,390 Palestinians. In 2026 alone, about 3,800 Palestinians, nearly half of them children, have been displaced due to settler violence, demolitions and evictions.

Settler violence has reached unprecedented levels. So far this year, the United Nations has documented more than 1,430 incidents involving Israeli settlers that resulted in casualties, property damage or both, affecting approximately 260 Palestinian communities, and many incidents occurred in the presence of Israeli forces. Nablus Governorate has been particularly hard hit by recent violence. On 24 July, Israeli settlers attacked Tell village, triggering an escalation that left four Palestinians and two members of the Israeli security forces killed. Hundreds of settlers then carried out multiple attacks, resulting in Palestinian injuries and extensive property damage. That same day, large groups of settlers attacked the villages of Urif and Sarrah, also in south-

west Nablus, causing injuries and extensive damage to Palestinian property. Similar incidents are occurring on a daily basis across the West Bank.

While accountability for such crimes remains rare, I note the 6 August indictment of an Israeli settler in connection with the July 2025 killing of Palestinian community activist Awdah Hathaleen in the South Hebron Hills. Last year, I visited Awdah's family as they were mourning his death, and I experienced first-hand the grief of the entire community. All perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice.

The pattern is clear. Palestinian populations are increasingly being forcibly displaced from villages across the West Bank before the settlers seize the vacated land. Settler attacks, which were previously concentrated in Area C, are increasingly reported in Area B and even Area A. Israeli military operations and movement restrictions continue to disrupt civilian life and humanitarian operations, with refugee camps particularly affected. From 5 to 7 August, the Israeli forces conducted a large-scale operation in Kalandia refugee camp, resulting in dozens of Palestinians injured, more than 60 people arrested or detained and extensive property damage. On 27 July, Israeli forces and officials again entered the Kalandia Training Centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East without authorization, while classes were in session. I reiterate that United Nations premises are inviolable and immune from any form of interference. Tensions have also increased in East Jerusalem. On 23 July, during Tisha B'Av, large organized Israeli visits to Haram al-Sharif, including by an Israeli minister, again raised concerns over the preservation of the status quo at the holy sites.

Alongside the mounting violence, Israel is significantly accelerating its settlement activities while consolidating its control across the occupied West Bank. Since the beginning of the year, Israeli planning authorities advanced or approved approximately 12,360 housing units in the occupied West Bank, including 7,200 housing units in Area C and 5,160 housing units in East Jerusalem. Significant resources are being allocated towards settlement expansion. On 14 July, the Government announced some \$431 million to support the establishment of 34 new settlements approved earlier this year. The funding will finance infrastructure and prefabricated housing. The Israeli authorities described the decision as strengthening Israel's hold on the West Bank and preventing the establishment of a Palestinian State.

On the administrative track, the implementation of reforms transferring planning, land management and heritage responsibilities in the West Bank from the military administration to Israeli civilian authorities continued, further entrenching Israeli civilian governance. The Israel Defense Forces also issued an unprecedented seizure order for privately owned land in Area A near Qabatiyah, south of Janin City, to construct a road linking Noa and Emek Dotan — two of the 34 settlements recently approved. This marks the first seizure of Area A land explicitly for settlement infrastructure.

These developments are taking place as the PA fiscal crisis remains acute. According to the PA, Israel is withholding some \$6 billion in clearance revenues, preventing the PA from paying full salaries and delivering basic services. Meanwhile, Palestinian financial stability faces a looming threat as of 1 September, when Israeli correspondent banks plan to end arrangements for processing shekel transactions. The extension of the indemnity waiver through the year-end is welcome but insufficient; sustained engagement among regulators is needed to secure a durable arrangement.

The Palestinian Authority's reform efforts also must continue, as outlined in resolution 2803 (2025). Furthermore, I welcome ongoing preparations ahead of the planned 28 November Palestinian legislative elections, including steps to update voter registration and publish the electoral timetable. All stakeholders must facilitate credible,

inclusive and transparent arrangements enabling all eligible Palestinians to exercise their electoral rights across the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The situation in the West Bank must be treated as an emergency requiring urgent action. The concern is not only the continued expansion of the settlements but also the speed and systematic manner in which new facts are being created on the ground. New outposts are established, often with State support, and can be retroactively authorized or incorporated into a wider settlement system. From these outposts, settler violence and intimidation have driven the displacement of the Palestinian communities. The spread of agricultural and grazing outposts is also deeply troubling. Requiring only a small number of settlers, they enable control over vast areas of land. Israeli monitoring organizations report that agricultural and pastoral outposts now exercise effective control over close to 20 per cent of the West Bank. On 10 August, members of my team participated in a PA-led diplomatic visit to Bethlehem Governorate, where only some 7 per cent of the land falls under Area A. They observed first-hand the impact of Israeli policies, which are constricting Palestinian movement while enabling settler encroachment, including incursions at the historic site of Solomon's Pool in Area A.

We must be clear-eyed about what is taking place. These are interconnected steps, not isolated developments. They are shaping the West Bank, weakening Palestinian governance and advancing de facto annexation. The stakes are high. If the West Bank continues to unravel, it will not only undermine the implementation of resolution 2803 (2025), which is the immediate focus of the international community; it will also further erode the prospects for ending the occupation and realizing a negotiated Israeli-Palestinian peace based on the two-State solution.

We have the means to prevent further deterioration and advance a credible path forward. There is a broad consensus on the essential elements of such a path. Resolution 2803 (2025) must be implemented immediately and in full. The New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution must be implemented together with resolution 2803 (2025) in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner. Together and within the framework of existing Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), they can provide the political vision and the coordinated international effort needed to end unlawful occupation, advance the two-State solution and resolve the conflict. We must act now, collectively and determinedly, to ensure concrete steps are taken towards that objective. The United Nations remains committed to supporting all efforts in support of lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States and both nations living side by side in peace.

The President: I thank Mr. Alakbarov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Sulieman.

Ms. Sulieman: I thank Denmark for convening this important briefing.

We meet as the situation facing children across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate. A grandmother told UNICEF colleagues that she was afraid to even step out of her home to put the rubbish outside because of near-daily settler attacks. She described how an improvised incendiary grenade was thrown into her kitchen, setting the house on fire while her grandchildren were inside. She has since covered the windows with corrugated iron to try to protect her family, but the persistent sense of fear and insecurity haunts them, particularly for the safety of children while traveling to and from school. Imagine raising children under conditions like this, living behind metal-covered windows, afraid to step outside, afraid of what might happen to one's children on the way to school, afraid of being exposed to violence in one's home. For far too many Palestinian families, these fears have become part of daily life.

Over the past three years, settler violence and increasingly militarized operations have escalated sharply across the West Bank. Children have been killed and injured. Families have been displaced. Homes, schools and essential infrastructure have been attacked or destroyed. And the fundamental spaces of childhood — the home, the classroom, the street, the community — are becoming increasingly unsafe.

The numbers tell us just how grave the situation has become. Between January 2024 and the end of July this year, 174 Palestinian children were verified killed by the United Nations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. That is more than one child every week. More than 1,500 were injured. Nearly half of those injured were wounded by live ammunition. Over the same period, three Israeli children were killed and 15 injured. Boys, particularly adolescent boys, account for most of the children who have been killed and injured. The United Nations continues to monitor and verify grave violations against children in the West Bank. These include incidents in which children were shot when they did not pose an imminent threat. Some were shot while running away, while others were simply caught in the violence around them. At the same time, incidents of settler violence are increasing. These have resulted in grave violations against children, which have been identified by the Secretary-General in his latest annual report on children and armed conflict (S/2026/357).

These incidents leave more than physical wounds. Children who survive serious injuries may live with disabilities for the rest of their lives. Some face arrest. Others struggle to return to school. Exposing a child to violence, raids, intimidation and displacement takes a profound psychological toll. Parents tell us about children struggling to sleep, children who are afraid to leave home, children withdrawing from school and their communities. And parents tell us something equally devastating: they no longer feel capable of keeping their children safe. That is a terrible reality for any parent, and it is a terrible reality for any child.

The impact extends far beyond those children directly affected by the violence. According to the Education Cluster, more than 800,000 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, face barriers to safe and continuous education because of school closures, insecurity, movement restrictions and damage to infrastructure. In 2026 alone, 99 education-related incidents were documented, including children being killed, injured or detained in, or on their way to, school; schools being demolished; school buildings being used by military forces; and children being denied access to education. Parents are struggling to keep their children learning when the journey to school itself can be dangerous.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, across the West Bank, more than 900 additional movement barriers and restrictions have been imposed over the past two and a half years. Many gates are frequently closed, which results in highly restricted access to movement and essential services, including access to health services and water sources. During a recent UNICEF mission to the West Bank, colleagues were told that settler attacks have damaged water infrastructure and equipment, including water networks and storage tanks. This has resulted in reduced access to safe water and other basic water, sanitation and hygiene services. In some areas, developing new water sources is impeded and as a result, residents now are forced to rely on expensive water trucking. Access restrictions are further compounded by repeated intimidation at checkpoints, which deters or delays civilians from attempting to cross.

The situation of children in detention is also deeply concerning. According to the Israel Prison Service, at least 355 Palestinian children from the West Bank are currently held in Israeli military detention — the highest number in eight years. Nearly half — 164 children — are held under administrative detention without charge or trial. Children in detention continue to report violence, ill-treatment, humiliating and degrading

treatment and harsh conditions, with a pattern of inadequate nutrition and hygiene for children resulting in extreme weight loss and rampant scabies infection among child detainees. This year a UNICEF partner spoke to a boy who was arrested from his home in the middle of the night, faced physical violence, had his hands tied, was blindfolded and faced various violations. While being interrogated, the child was held in solitary confinement for more than 20 days.

The dire situation for children is being compounded by growing obstacles to humanitarian access and essential services. Local authorities have had tax revenues withheld and are unable to pay health and education workers, affecting children's access to basic services. Children requiring medical treatment must be able to reach it. Humanitarian workers and partners must be able to reach children safely, wherever those children live.

Despite those challenges, UNICEF and our partners remain on the ground. When families are forcibly displaced, UNICEF and partners provide emergency assistance, mental health and psychosocial services, cash, drinking water and hygiene and support to continue their education. But humanitarian assistance can only mitigate the consequences. It cannot remove the causes. That requires political action. Today, then, I leave the Council with four urgent requests.

The first request is to protect children. International humanitarian law and international human rights law must be strictly observed and followed. Law enforcement standards must be respected, with lethal force used only when strictly unavoidable to protect life. Specific safeguards must be put in place wherever children may be present. The administrative detention of children must end, and all practices concerning Palestinian children in the military justice system must be brought into line with international juvenile justice and child rights standards. We echo the call of the Secretary-General in urging Israel to agree and implement an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent grave violations against children.

The second request is to end the forced displacement of Palestinian children and families. Member States must use their political and diplomatic influence to prevent further displacement and signal zero tolerance for violence against children, families and communities.

The third request is to protect children's access to education, healthcare and other essential services. Children must be able to reach school safely. And children requiring medical treatment must be able to reach hospitals and health facilities.

The final request is to protect humanitarian operations. Vital supplies must be allowed into and across the West Bank without unnecessary delay. Public services upon which children and families depend must be protected from interruption. And humanitarian organizations and their partners must be able to operate safely, independently and without administrative measures that prevent them from reaching children in need.

The humanitarian consequences of what is happening in the West Bank are profound. But behind every statistic is a child: a child afraid to walk to school, a child recovering from a gunshot wound, a child held in detention, a child watching her family home being demolished and a child sleeping behind corrugated iron because her grandmother is trying to keep fire from coming through the window again. These should not be the defining experiences of childhood.

Children in the West Bank have the same rights as children everywhere: to live, to learn, to be protected and to imagine a future beyond violence and fear. UNICEF will continue to advocate for the protection of all children and to provide

humanitarian assistance and protection to every child it can reach. But humanitarian organizations cannot create the political conditions that children need to be safe. That responsibility rests with Member States, which have the power to change them.

The President: I thank Ms. Sulieman for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Dharmadhikari (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Deputy Special Coordinator, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Hannan Sulieman, for their briefings.

France, together with the other European members of the Council, called for a meeting to be held on the situation in the West Bank, in view of the violence that has taken place in recent weeks resulting in several Israeli and Palestinian casualties.

We cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening in the West Bank. The violence being perpetrated there is part of a trend towards accelerated settlement expansion and an escalation in settler violence against Palestinian civilians. This situation is a direct threat to regional stability and to the viability of the two-State solution, which lies at the heart of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution adopted last year and which France supports unreservedly. We are committed to safeguarding Israel's security, which is also central to our diplomatic policy.

As Israel has announced the launch of a large-scale military operation, France calls on all parties to remain calm and exercise restraint. It reiterates the Israeli army's obligation to protect the civilian population.

Four trends are overlapping and exacerbating the situation on the ground.

First, violence against the Palestinian population is intensifying, in a climate of impunity and, at times, even with the complicity of the Israeli armed forces. These acts of terror are unacceptable. We condemn the increasing targeting of women and children and restrictions imposed by Israeli forces on movement and access to healthcare, in contravention of international law. Terrorist attacks targeting Israeli civilians must also cease.

Secondly, Israeli settlement activity is accelerating, in complete disregard of international law. Its continued expansion — as exemplified by the E1 project, the legalization of outposts, land confiscations and the demolition of Palestinian structures — contravenes resolution 2334 (2016). France is firmly opposed to the process initiated by Israel of de facto annexation and forced displacement. France and its European Union partners have imposed sanctions on the entities and individuals responsible and will take further measures, including sanctions and trade measures, to address this situation.

Thirdly, Israel continues to undermine the Palestinian Authority by refusing to transfer tax revenues to it and to reinstate its correspondent banking relationships on a long-term basis. These measures jeopardize the Authority's ability to provide essential services to the Palestinian population and to carry out the necessary reforms. France welcomes the Palestinian Authority's announcement of parliamentary elections in November 2026 and presidential elections in early 2027. It calls on all parties to ensure that elections are held that enable the Palestinian people to express their will democratically throughout the occupied territories.

Lastly, attacks against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue, as illustrated by repeated Israeli incursions into its training centre in Kalandia. These attacks are intolerable. We call

on Israel to remove the obstacles to the Agency's vital work and to respect the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

The situation in the West Bank is inextricably linked to that in Gaza; both are integral parts of Palestine. Instability in the West Bank undermines the progress made possible by the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, the peace plan and resolution 2803 (2025) adopted by the Council, and it is jeopardizing the two-State solution.

France deplores the Israeli Prime Minister's rejection of the agreement on the disarmament of Hamas, a demand that we have long maintained and that lies at the heart of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, adopted last year. France commends the efforts of the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye to achieve this objective, which is essential for regional security, and once again calls on all parties to take up this agreement. Hamas must lay down its arms. It is also essential that the Israeli army withdraw from the Gaza Strip and that the International Stabilization Force be deployed there, in support of Palestinian forces and in preparation for the full return of the Palestinian Authority.

Finally, humanitarian aid must be allowed to enter Gaza immediately, in full and on a massive scale, as the Council called for by adopting resolution 2803 (2025) last year.

One year after the adoption of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, which must remain the road map for our collective action, France will continue to support efforts towards a two-State solution, the only viable solution for lasting peace and security for all in the region.

Mr. Stamatekos (Greece): Allow me to begin by thanking our briefers, the Deputy Special Coordinator, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Hannan Sulieman, for their remarks.

Greece, together with its fellow European members of the Security Council, called for today's meeting, as we consider it essential for the Council to remain seized of the developments in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We meet at a critical moment amid ongoing efforts to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and advance its next phase. We must first ensure that the prospects for peace are not eroded by developments on the ground in both Gaza and the West Bank, which constitute a single, indivisible territorial unit of a future Palestinian State.

The situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem remains concerning. We are witnessing developments that threaten to fundamentally alter the realities on the ground: settlement expansion, repeated evacuation orders, demolitions and evictions, as well as forced displacement. Such actions run counter to international law and resolution 2334 (2016), while continuously eroding the foundations upon which the two-State solution must be built. The rise in settler violence targeting Palestinian civilians, including Christian communities, is a source of grave concern and should be addressed promptly. Thorough investigations, the prosecution of perpetrators and effective follow-up remain essential.

At the same time, Greece firmly condemns terrorism and all attacks against civilians. Israel has legitimate security concerns, which must be addressed in accordance with international law. We call on all sides to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from actions or rhetoric that could fuel further violence and escalation. We also reiterate the paramount importance of preserving and respecting the historic and legal status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Any actions that undermine that long-standing

arrangement are deeply concerning and must be avoided. That principle is indispensable for interfaith coexistence and regional stability.

The stabilization of the West Bank also requires addressing the severe humanitarian and economic pressures facing the Palestinian population. The continued withholding of Palestinian tax revenues is placing the Palestinian Authority under unsustainable financial strain. We reiterate our call for the immediate release of those revenues, which are essential to maintaining institutional stability, delivering basic services and enabling the Palestinian Authority to pursue its reform agenda.

We acknowledge the steps already undertaken by the Palestinian Authority towards reform under exceptionally difficult circumstances and encourage their continuation. A strengthened, reformed and effective Palestinian Authority remains a credible partner for peace. We want to see the Palestinian Authority succeed in its reform agenda and return to Gaza as soon as conditions allow.

The international community must continue to ensure the safe, rapid and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need. The role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in providing essential humanitarian assistance, healthcare, education and protection services to Palestine refugees in Gaza and the West Bank remains indispensable in that regard. Greece will continue supporting those efforts, including through the European Union's Palestinian-European Mechanism for Management of Socio-Economic Aid, channeling its funding to East Jerusalem hospitals.

In conclusion, the current moment calls for renewed political courage and diplomatic engagement. As reaffirmed in the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and by the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, the international community remains committed to preserving a credible political horizon. For Greece, the path ahead can only be through a meaningful political process leading to a negotiated two-State solution that allows Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace, security and dignity.

Ms. Pavluta-Deslandes (Latvia): I thank the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Hannan Sulieman, for their informative briefings.

Together with Denmark, France, Greece and the United Kingdom, Latvia has called for today's meeting to underline that urgent steps are needed to address the deteriorating situation in the West Bank. At a time when attention is focused on the full implementation of the comprehensive peace plan in Gaza, developments in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remain a matter of growing concern and must not be overlooked or viewed in isolation from enduring international efforts to achieve stability and peace in the region.

In the past seven months, the trajectory has been alarming. More than 1,380 settler attacks have been documented by the United Nations, affecting more than 250 Palestinian communities across the West Bank. This year alone, 77 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers. It is particularly appalling that one in five Palestinians killed in these violent incidents was a child. Three Israelis, including two members of the Israeli forces, have been killed by Palestinians in the West Bank during the same period. This violent environment fuels mutual hatred and leads to increasing security risks for both Palestinians and Israelis.

The humanitarian situation in the West Bank continues to deteriorate, driven by forcible displacement, settlement expansion, settler violence and growing access constraints. Displacement has reached unprecedented levels this year, with July

recording the highest number of people displaced since April 2025. Continued settlement expansion and the annexation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are not acceptable. We once again call on Israel to end its settlement policy and ensure accountability for attacks on and the killing of civilians. International law and commitments, including resolution 2334 (2016), as well as previous arrangements to which Israel has pledged itself, must be fully respected.

The increasing acts of violence and vandalism by settlers directed against religious sites and places of worship in the West Bank further inflame tensions in already volatile environments. We call on Israel to abide by the historic status quo arrangements governing the holy sites in Jerusalem and to protect and ensure the safety of all religious communities.

The extensive grid of checkpoints and roadblocks continues to make it difficult for Palestinians to access their workplaces and basic services, including schools and hospitals. Students have been affected by demolitions, military raids on educational institutions and detention while travelling to school. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights treaty, stipulates that every child has the right to education. Moreover, education is one of the strongest foundations for lasting peace and reconciliation, to be fostered through a reformed curriculum that leaves no room for extremism. Access to healthcare is similarly affected, with patients, including children in need of specialized or emergency care, facing delays in reaching medical facilities. Safe and sustained access to education and healthcare, the protection of civilians and the facilitation of rapid, safe and unimpeded access to essential services must be ensured.

The measures contributing to the Palestinian Authority's fiscal crisis and undermining the Palestinian economy are deeply concerning. Israel must ensure that the Palestinian banking sector can operate unobstructed and that withheld tax revenues are released, enabling the Palestinian Authority to meet its budgetary obligations and provide essential services. At the same time, the Palestinian Authority must fulfil its commitments to pursue meaningful, comprehensive reforms. This must include strengthening governance and accountability, addressing radicalization, ensuring the provision of basic services, including education in line with UNESCO standards, and reforming the payment system for families of prisoners. Concrete steps must also be taken to prevent incitement, discourage violence and promote peaceful coexistence. Progress on those commitments is an essential part of international support for the Palestinian Authority and its institutions while awaiting the holding of fair and inclusive elections as announced.

For decades, we have witnessed that military power, as well as armed resistance, fuels the recurring cycle of violence, reignited by proponents of extreme views on both sides. This trajectory does not constitute a path to sustainable peace. Addressing both the security concerns and the legitimate aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians requires renewed momentum. The full implementation of the comprehensive plan, as put forward by President Trump and endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 2803 (2025), requires genuine engagement by all parties. A political perspective encompassing Gaza and the West Bank is the only way to achieve long-term stability. In line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the New York declaration, Latvia reaffirms its commitment to the two-State solution and to contributing to the shared objective of peace and stability in the region.

The President: As I give the floor to the next speaker, I would like to warmly welcome to the Security Council Ambassador Sarah MacIntosh, the new Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations. We look forward to closely engaging with her on the Council's work in the days ahead.

Dame Sarah MacIntosh (United Kingdom): It is an honour to be here, and I look forward to working with all colleagues here and across the United Nations family. Thank you, Madam President, for the introduction. I thank Deputy Special Coordinator Alakbarov and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF Sulieman for their briefings.

The United Kingdom is clear that the only credible path to lasting peace and security remains the two-State solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian State, made up of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. There are three priorities to advance progress towards that goal.

First, in Gaza, the United Kingdom welcomes the recent focus on implementing resolution 2803 (2025) and wants to see it implemented in full. That means all parties delivering on their commitments, including respect for the ceasefire, Hamas fulfilling its decommissioning commitments, the phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces, as set out in the 20-point plan and the road map, phase 2, and the transition of governance and security control to the Palestinian Authority. We encourage the Palestinian Authority to continue implementing reforms needed to fulfil that role. We thank the United States, Qatar, Türkiye and Egypt for their tireless efforts to progress these negotiations. The United Kingdom will continue to work with all our partners to end the conflict in Gaza and the terror threat from Hamas. As Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband has said, conditions for the people of Gaza remain appalling. Israeli authorities must end unacceptable restrictions on aid and enable safe, sustained and unhindered humanitarian access across Gaza.

The second priority is addressing violence in the West Bank. The United Kingdom condemns escalating violence across the West Bank. In July alone, 13 Palestinians and two Israelis were killed. Recent attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian villages and communities, in some cases alongside Israel Defense Forces personnel, are appalling. These are not isolated incidents. The July report by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs records more than 1,300 settler-related incidents affecting over 250 Palestinian communities, around 900 Palestinians injured, and more than 3,200 displaced. At least three Israelis have been killed and 24 injured this year.

Children are among the most affected by this conflict. They are being exposed to repeated violence, displacement and disruption due to movement restrictions and military operations. On 4 August, Israeli forces demolished three donor-funded classrooms at the Sha'ab al-Butum school, just weeks before the start of the school year. We call on the Government of Israel to fulfil its obligations to protect the Palestinian population of the occupied territory. We welcome recent arrests and indictments by Israeli authorities of perpetrators of settler violence. But perpetrators have acted with impunity for too long, and much more must be done to prevent and prosecute acts of violence. Israeli authorities' security measures must be proportionate, consistent with international law and contribute to de-escalation.

The third priority is to halt the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Settlements are illegal under international law. They undermine the viability of a two-State solution, and they fuel insecurity for both Palestinians and Israelis. The Government of Israel has approved 104 settlements in four years, an increase of 80 per cent, and allocated unprecedented funding to the construction of new settlements. The United Kingdom condemns threats to expand illegal settlements and outposts and opposes the decision to reintroduce the E1 settlement plan, which aims to cut the West Bank in half.

We are alarmed by recent mass incursions at Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. The status quo on Jerusalem's holy sites must be respected.

In the past weeks, we have seen renewed efforts to implement resolution 2803 (2025), which offers the most viable pathway towards lasting peace. The deteriorating trajectory in the West Bank must not undermine that hard-won progress.

Mrs. Kabengele Lukundula (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanks the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Hannan Sulieman, for their insightful briefings.

Barely a month ago, on 29 June, my delegation had already had occasion to express its concern about the persistence of violence and tensions in the West Bank (see S/PV.10186). Developments since then have unfortunately only heightened that concern and underscore the urgent need to maintain conditions conducive to the establishment of a lasting peace. The Democratic Republic of the Congo considers that de-escalation and the prevention of new tensions must remain an absolute priority, in the interests of all the populations concerned and of regional stability. The Democratic Republic of the Congo condemns all violence against civilian populations, Palestinian and Israeli alike, as well as all acts of terrorism, and calls on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint.

My country is closely following the developments in the situation and the growing difficulties facing civilian populations, particularly in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Displacement, restrictions on access and disruptions to essential services continue to affect the most vulnerable communities.

My delegation is particularly attentive to the situation of children, who are the primary victims of the consequences of that instability. In the West Bank, disruptions to access to education, health care and essential services further compound the vulnerability of children and the most vulnerable families. The Democratic Republic of the Congo underscores the importance of preserving, as far as possible, the continuity of these services and of guaranteeing every child the opportunity to grow, learn and develop in decent conditions conducive to their future.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo takes this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the full implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) and of respect for the obligations arising from international law. We encourage all parties concerned to avoid measures and actions likely to further fuel tensions, compromise stability on the ground or reduce the prospects for a negotiated and lasting solution.

Concerned about the humanitarian situation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo calls for continued efforts to guarantee safe, rapid, predictable and coordinated humanitarian access to people in need. In that regard, it commends the efforts of United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations that continue their mission under difficult circumstances.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo also encourages stronger coordination among the actors concerned in order to facilitate the delivery of assistance, with due regard for legitimate security requirements, the protection of civilians and international law. Particular attention must be paid to the protection of humanitarian personnel and to the continuity of essential services, especially in the areas of health, education, water and sanitation.

My country's Government is convinced that the response to the current challenges must be part of a broader political perspective. The international community must continue to support efforts to create conditions for lasting peace based on dialogue, respect for international law and due consideration of the legitimate security concerns of all parties. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also recognizes Israel's legitimate security concerns and stresses that both those concerns and the protection of civilians must be taken into account in full respect of international law. It therefore encourages

all parties to opt for restraint, pursue dialogue and refrain from any action likely to further aggravate the situation on the ground. Only a credible, negotiated political process based on the relevant United Nations resolutions will make it possible to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, offering people the security, dignity and stability to which they legitimately aspire.

In conclusion, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its commitment to respect for international law, the protection of civilians and the search for a lasting political solution. We remain convinced that the path of dialogue, restraint and cooperation must prevail over that of confrontation so as to preserve the prospects for peace and stability in the region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo therefore calls on the international community to continue its efforts with steadfastness and determination to create conditions conducive to a lasting peace, based on coexistence, dignity and security for all.

Mr. Brown II (Liberia): Liberia thanks the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF for their qualified briefings.

Seventy-nine years ago, Liberia cast its vote for General Assembly resolution 181 (II) — a vision of two sovereign homes: an Arab State and a Jewish State. One was born, and Liberia was among the first to recognize it. The other has spent nearly eight decades caught in the cruel physics of occupation, displacement and unfulfilled promise. Liberia has never withdrawn that vote. Today, the Council treats the two-State solution like a permanent destination we describe in briefings rather than a political decision we actually enforce. We deplore, we adjourn and meanwhile, physical facts on the ground are set in concrete.

The latest United Nations reports lay bare a rapidly deteriorating reality across the West Bank. Over 33,000 Palestinians remain forcibly displaced from Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams — their homes emptied, their right of return denied. Acceleration of the E1 settlement project and ongoing land grabs threaten to sever the West Bank in two, dealing an irreversible blow to any viable, contiguous Palestinian future. These are not administrative adjustments. They are the systematic burial of peace.

Yet, Liberia's clarity remains absolute on two non-negotiable principles.

First, security is indivisible. No durable peace can ever take root while Israelis live under the terror of attacks. We condemn such violence unequivocally. Concurrently, we condemn with equal severity the unbearable suffering inflicted upon Palestinian civilians, whereby women and children bear the catastrophic brunt of a crisis not of their making. Hamas, an armed faction that holds a population's statehood hostage to its own survival, paradoxically undermines the very liberation and much-needed statehood it claims to pursue. The full implementation of resolution 2803 (2025) and the decommissioning of non-State weapons are essential to establishing one legitimate Government, one law and one accountable security authority. The same is and must be true of ending settlement expansion and its associated violence in the West Bank.

Secondly, human dignity cannot be conditional. The Secretary-General's reports record a staggering scale of violence and violations against children across the region. No child should ever become collateral damage to the political failures of adults.

Liberia asks the Council to measure our credibility on this issue against four tests: protection, return, accountability and viability. If we fail these four tests, let us then drop the diplomatic pretence. We are not preserving a two-State solution. We are presiding over its slow-motion disappearance. History will not ask whether the Council issued enough press statements or debated the Middle East and Palestinian question

times without number. It will ask whether, when the window for peace was being sealed shut beneath concrete and violence, we had the courage to act.

Liberia cast its vote for two States in 1947. Seventy-nine years later, we continue to stand for the security of both peoples, the dignity of both peoples and the absolute right of their children to inherit a future defined by peace, definitely not by perpetual war.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): The Permanent Representative of Liberia just reminded the Council, very rightly, of its responsibilities towards the situation we are discussing. The two briefings we have heard today are, in fact, calls for action. The situation as presented is grave. The figures quoted speak for themselves.

Deputy Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov provided the crux. These are not isolated developments. These are interconnected steps building on decades of conflict and occupation that are undermining the prospects of the two-State solution. Deputy Executive Director Hannan Sulieman informed us of the wide-ranging humanitarian consequences of what was happening in the West Bank, especially for children, and again, rightly, called for protection. The Council must respond, because the situation in the occupied West Bank is deteriorating rapidly. What we are witnessing is a clear pattern of coordinated, illegal measures designed to entrench the occupation, alter the demographic and territorial realities on the ground and undermine the prospects of a Palestinian State. Settlement expansion has reached an alarming scale. The expansion of settlement in the E1 area, the launch of the Crimson Thread project and the settlement activities in the heart of the West Bank are all part of a broader effort to fragment the Palestinian territory. This is accompanied by unprecedented settler violence. The West Bank has experienced its largest displacement crisis since 1967. Furthermore, expanded unlawful Israeli authority over land registration, administration and enforcement is compounding de facto annexation in violation of Security Council resolutions and International Court of Justice advisory opinions.

Alongside these measures, the continued withholding of Palestinian revenues is severely undermining Palestinian institutions. These revenues belong to the Palestinian people and must be released immediately and in full. We are equally alarmed by escalating provocations at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif. On 24 July, the group of eight Arab-Islamic countries, in their statement, condemned the continued mass incursions by settlers. The cumulative effect of these mutually destructive policies and actions is intimidation, dispossession and forced displacement, thereby perpetuating the cycle of occupation and annexation, all in flagrant violation of international law.

In Gaza, the humanitarian situation is extremely fragile. President Donald J. Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provided an important opportunity to alleviate humanitarian suffering and advance a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood. This opportunity must not be allowed to be squandered. Pakistan has welcomed the positive developments under the Board of Peace towards the implementation of the Gaza peace plan and resolution 2803 (2025). We appreciate the mediators, including the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, for their sustained efforts. However, Israel's continuing military escalations and rejection of the road map risk undermining this diplomatic process and jeopardizing the prospects for peace.

In view of the concerning developments, the international community and this Council in particular must act without delay.

First, the Council must ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately halts all settlement activity and reverses all unlawful measures aimed at altering the status, character and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2234 (2016).

Secondly, settler violence needs to end immediately, and those responsible must be held accountable.

Thirdly, the Palestinian people must be provided international protection, as also requested by the Palestinian President in his letter to the Council. The Council must respond to the four recommendations concerning protection made by the UNICEF representative today.

Fourthly, Israel must respect the historical and legal status quo at the holy sites including Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif and halt all provocative actions.

Fifthly, resolution 2803 (2025) and the comprehensive peace plan must be implemented fully and in good faith. The Council must have a serious discussion on how to tackle the obstacles and violations.

As the Foreign Ministers of the group of eight Arab and Islamic countries, including Pakistan, affirmed on 6 August in their statement, the ongoing Israeli violations in the Gaza Strip cannot be viewed in isolation from the attacks carried out by settlers in the occupied West Bank, the unlawful expansion of settlements and the unilateral measures aimed at altering the status quo in occupied Jerusalem. Taken together, these practices constitute a systematic policy aimed at imposing a fait accompli by force, undermining the foundations of the two-State solution.

The situation is approaching a dangerous tipping point. Unless this trajectory is reversed, the consequences for the two-State solution and for peace and stability across the region could be catastrophic. The path to peace is clear. It lies in ending the Israeli occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, through the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital. It is the only credible foundation for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Russia supported the convening of today's Security Council meeting, with a focus on developments in the West Bank. We believe that international attention must not be allowed to move any further away from the task of achieving a just and lasting Middle East settlement, the cornerstone of which was and remains the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This conflict, which for decades has been a key source of tension in the region, perpetuates its overall state of crisis and causes new hotspots of tension to emerge across the broader Middle East region.

We would like to thank Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, and Hannan Sulieman, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, for their detailed briefings on the situation in the West Bank.

We agree with the United Nations representatives' alarming assessments. In essence, the West Bank is approaching a point of no return, with the risk of a profound destabilization of the military and political situation throughout the region. The reasons for this dangerous trend are well known and lie in Israel's creeping expansion into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the escalation of settler violence and the unprecedented tightening of Israeli restrictions on the movement of Palestinian residents.

Contrary to the position of most of the international community, West Jerusalem continues its unlawful policy of building new settlements. Just the other day, the authorities announced another tender for the construction of more than 600 housing units in the Ramallah/El-Bireh district. Violence perpetrated by settlers has reached alarming levels. Not only do they act with impunity, but on some occasions they do so with the connivance of the Israeli military. In late July and early August, a wave of attacks swept through several towns, during which radicals set fire to mosques,

vandalized homes and vehicles, and dozens of people were injured. According to openly available sources, settler violence is reaching new all-time highs. Since the start of the year, more than 11,000 attacks have been carried out, and more than 20 West Bank civilians have been killed at the hands of Israeli civilians.

At the same time, there has been an intensification of operations by the Israel Defense Forces to clear settlements in the West Bank and refugee camps. These armed raids are accompanied by arbitrary arrests of Palestinians and widespread restrictions on their movement. Of particular concern is the fact that, owing to such measures, the largest Palestinian cities are being blockaded, and even emergency medical services have been suspended. We call on Israel to refrain from any arbitrary actions, including settlement activity, that undermine the prospects for a two-State solution, to take effective measures to curb settler violence and to immediately resume compliance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Equally troubling is the volatile situation in another part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories: the Gaza Strip. The implementation of the United States peace plan for Gaza has all but ground to a halt. It is, of course, significant that, thanks to the mediators' efforts widespread bloodshed in the Strip has been stemmed. However, the ceasefire continues to be systematically violated, primarily by Israel, as the casualty figures clearly show. In less than a year since the ceasefire agreement formally took effect, the Israelis have killed almost 1,300 Palestinians. UNICEF reports that nearly 300 of them were children. In other words, over the past 300 days, one child has been killed every day in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli military.

Despite this tragic state of affairs, here, in the Security Council, a number of Western delegations have in recent months laid the entire blame for the stagnation of the peace plan for Gaza entirely at Hamas' door. We all recall how, at Security Council meetings, persistent calls were made for the leadership of the Palestinian movement to agree immediately to lay down their arms, to not obstruct the work of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and to accept the road map proposed by High Representative of the Board of Peace Nikolay Mladenov. The hope is that our Western colleagues would demonstrate the same unity and resolve vis-à-vis the other party to the conflict, given West Jerusalem's public rejection of the road map and Hamas' agreement to the deal.

We have consistently underscored that the success of any Middle East peace process will be gauged by the achievement of the overriding goal of the establishment of a single, independent and contiguous State of Palestine in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital — a State that coexists in peace and security with Israel. As the experience of recent years has shown, the Palestinian question, and indeed the entire constellation of Middle East peace process issues, cannot be resolved with hasty, ad hoc backroom deals. Equally futile are attempts by individual countries to monopolize the role of sole mediator, not least when the chief mediator acts exclusively in the interests of one side in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Under such circumstances, one can hardly expect justice or the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's aspirations.

Nevertheless, an alternative path always remains open. Lasting stability and a turnaround in the situation in the Middle East can and must be achieved through coordinated international and regional efforts, grounded in the extensive body of international law underpinning a settlement, whose cornerstone is the "two States for two peoples" formula.

Mr. Alfaro de Alba (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): Panama welcomes the convening of this meeting and expresses its appreciation to Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, and Ms. Hannan

Sulieman, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, for their valuable and moving briefings. We also acknowledge the representatives of the State of Israel and the Observer State of Palestine, who are joining us at this meeting.

We note with deep concern the worsening situation in the West Bank, as conveyed in the figures by the speakers, where the recent escalation of violence and intimidation continues to claim lives, displace communities and compound the humanitarian situation. On top of this come restrictions on movement that continue to limit the civilian population's access to essential services, including emergency medical care, and to their livelihoods, exacerbating the conditions faced by the most vulnerable communities. As Ms. Sulieman made harrowingly clear in her briefing, children are among those bearing the brunt of this situation.

The persistence of violence, the upsurge in attacks and the forced displacements are not only affecting the West Bank, which is the subject of this meeting, they are also jeopardizing thousands of children's well-being, development and access to safe and continuous education. Accordingly, we point to the importance of ensuring safe and uninterrupted access to education, free from fear or intimidation. Child protection, access to education and the availability of proper medical care are crucial ingredients for preserving community resilience and laying the foundations for lasting peace. Schools must remain safe spaces for learning and protection, free from fear, intimidation, and the repercussions of conflict. Any impact on educational facilities or disruption to access to education blights children's future prospects.

Not only does violence claim lives and destroy livelihoods; it also creates a climate of constant fear that restricts freedom of movement, exposes victims of attacks to the risk of displacement and harms their physical and mental health by turning everyday activities, such as leaving the house, into a constant source of insecurity. The protection of the civilian population must therefore remain an immediate priority, in full accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and the relevant resolutions of the Council.

Against this backdrop, Panama reaffirms its support for the ongoing work of the United Nations and its agencies, particularly the commendable efforts of UNICEF, alongside international and local humanitarian organizations, in assisting the civilian population, protecting children and supporting efforts to maintain stability. Such endeavours must be able to proceed safely, independently and impartially in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law. We therefore renew the call to guarantee the protection of humanitarian personnel and to facilitate full, safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access for those in need.

The persistence of violence, the lack of political progress, the unabated attacks and the measures that inflame tensions continue to undermine the conditions necessary to preserving a credible prospect of peace. We reiterate that any unilateral action that alters the reality on the ground is incompatible with the spirit and objectives of the relevant resolutions of the Council, including resolution 2334 (2016), whose implementation remains paramount to safeguarding the foundations of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable peace. To this end, it is indispensable to resume a credible political process, shore up confidence, support a reformed Palestinian Authority that is capable of duly discharging its responsibilities and eschew unilateral measures that mean that the prospects of a negotiated solution in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions remain a remote prospect.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, China extends its deepest condolences to the victims of the devastating earthquake in Colombia and expresses its sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured. We are confident that under

the leadership of their Government, the Colombian people will unite to overcome the disaster and rebuild their homes as soon as possible.

China supports the convening of this emergency meeting of the Security Council, which is both timely and necessary. I thank Deputy Special Coordinator Alakbarov and Deputy Executive Director Sulieman for their briefings.

China is deeply concerned about the recent escalation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and is deeply distressed by the increasing civilian casualties caused by the ongoing violence. Against the backdrop of increasing instability in the region, we must not allow the Palestinian question to be ignored or marginalized. The international community should take swift action to do everything possible to curb conflict and violence, save innocent lives and uphold fairness and justice.

I would like to make three points.

First, we must set the record straight, address the root causes and truly respect the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. For some time now, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza has seen a sharp deterioration, leading to more pain and suffering for the Palestinian people. At its core, this is due to the fact that the fundamental principles of international law have not been respected. While the Palestinian people's rights to survival and development have long been ignored, the lives of Palestinian peoples are just as precious as those of any other people. The international community must uphold a clear sense of right and wrong, further build consensus, promptly correct all erroneous words and deeds that deny or infringe upon the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and guarantee their equal rights, so as to effectively uphold international fairness and justice.

Secondly, decisive and effective action must be taken to stop conflict and violence. The situation in the West Bank has been escalating dangerously. The occupying Power is pushing forward with settlement expansions, desecrating and vandalizing religious sites, blockading refugee camps and carrying out mass arrests, while settler violence is intensifying. It is shocking that the training centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has been forcibly raided on two occasions. The protection of civilians is not an empty catchword, but an obligation under international law that the occupying Power must fulfil. Israel must implement resolution 2334 (2016), cease settlement activities, curb settler violence and ensure strict accountability. The Agency's normal functioning, in accordance with its mandate, must be respected.

The situation in Gaza is equally concerning. Even after the announcement by the Board of Peace concerning progress on the second phase of the ceasefire, Israel has persisted in its refusal to halt its operations. It has now been more than 300 days since the signing of the ceasefire agreement, yet a lasting ceasefire has yet to be achieved. The current situation is not due to a lack of ceasefire proposals, but instead to the lack of political will to implement one. China calls on Israel and all relevant parties to implement fully and in good faith the Gaza ceasefire agreement and urges Israel to comply with international humanitarian law by lifting restrictions on the entry of humanitarian supplies. Countries that have significant influence over the parties should take concrete actions to de-escalate the situation.

Thirdly, we must stay the course and make every effort to revitalize the political prospects of the two-State solution. The two-State solution is the only viable path to resolving the Palestinian question, as recognized by the international community. Any hesitation, scepticism or wavering is unacceptable. Both Gaza and the West Bank are integral parts of the State of Palestine. Israel must end its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories as soon as possible and cease undermining the governance structures of the Palestinian National Authority. The international community should

fully respect the will of the Palestinian people, advance post-war reconstruction in Gaza in accordance with the principle of Palestinians governing Palestine, return to the correct path of the two-State solution and realize the early establishment of an independent Palestinian State. Only in this way can peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel be achieved and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East be secured.

On the question of Palestine, China has always been on the side of peace, justice and conscience. China will, as always, support the just cause of the Palestinian people to realize their legitimate national rights and work to bring about an early end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and to make unremitting efforts to restore stability to the region and bring peace to its people.

Ms. Alalawat (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): We commend the convening of this meeting at a highly sensitive time. We thank the briefers, Deputy Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Hannan Sulieman, for their comprehensive briefings.

We would like to emphasize the following points.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has supported international and regional efforts to end the conflict in the Gaza Strip, including the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and the role undertaken by the Board of Peace in support of practical arrangements that contribute to stability and reconstruction, improve living conditions and pave the way for a serious and credible peace process. Accordingly, the Kingdom stresses that the success of any peace process also requires addressing the alarming escalation in the West Bank, which undermines confidence and reduces the likelihood of implementing the two-State solution. The most conspicuous aspects of this escalation are the expansion of settlements, the confiscation of land, the demolition of homes and schools, the restrictions imposed on cities and camps, the escalation of settler violence and the attempts to impose a unilateral reality. This has exacerbated the suffering of civilians, especially that of children, and jeopardized the prospects for calm and peace.

The unprecedented escalation of violence against the Palestinian people in the West Bank gives cause for concern, amid a continued lack of accountability. According to United Nations statistics, 76 Palestinians have been killed since early 2026. In this context, the Kingdom of Bahrain stresses the importance of protecting civilians, including children, from the consequences of this highly dangerous escalation. The Kingdom of Bahrain cautions against the repercussions of the aforementioned policies, practices and measures, owing to their unilateral nature, as they aim to impose new facts on the ground and violate international law, including international humanitarian law, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the inalienable rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. They also run counter to the international consensus rejecting the annexation of any part of the Palestinian territory.

Secondly, the violations against Muslim and Christian holy sites and the attempts to alter the identity of Jerusalem are the clearest evidence of the alarming volatility in the West Bank. In this context, we warn of the dangerous repercussions of these practices, as they are an outrage to the conscience of millions of Muslims and Christians throughout the world and have the potential to inflame tensions.

In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain underscores the importance of spreading a message of coexistence and tolerance to counter extremist ideologies and behaviours. We stress the need to respect the historical and legal status quo of holy sites and to end the ongoing violations, including the illegal excavations under and around Al-Aqsa Mosque. In that regard, we underline that the entire blessed Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif complex constitutes a place of worship exclusively for Muslims. The administration of the Aqsa Mosque is therefore subject to the historic Hashemite custodianship over Muslim and Christian holy sites in Al Quds Al Sharif. In this regard,

we welcome the initiative of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to hold an emergency ministerial meeting in the Jordanian capital of Amman on 5 August, and we also welcome the outcomes thereof.

Thirdly and lastly, the Kingdom of Bahrain stresses that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the land of Palestine, which encompasses the West Bank and Gaza. It is the capital of the State of Palestine, which must be established along the 4 June 1967 borders, a State that lives side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel. This would bring the two-State solution to fruition and pave the way for the desired regional integration, thereby fostering security, stability and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

Mr. Mohamed Yusuf (Somalia): Allow me to begin by thanking Deputy Special Coordinator Alakbarov and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Sulieman for their updates and for the continued work of the United Nations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Somalia remains deeply troubled by the recent surge in violence across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The past weeks have seen more civilian deaths, injuries, displacement and destruction, worsening an already dire humanitarian and security situation. We unequivocally condemn the growing violence and terrorism by Israeli settlers against Palestinian communities, often in contexts in which Palestinians are left unprotected.

These attacks on civilians are not isolated incidents. They are happening in a wider context of long-standing occupation, illegal settlement expansion, demolitions, evictions, military operations, movement restrictions, land seizures and ongoing settler violence. Together, these factors are eroding the foundations of Palestinian life in the West Bank. Since January 2025, more than 33,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced by Israeli military operations in Janin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams camps — the largest displacement since 1967. Many more lives remain at imminent risk. Settler violence is a major driver of this crisis, with more than 1,800 attacks in 2025 alone, affecting some 280 Palestinian communities. This pattern must be reversed. Somalia reiterates that Israeli settlements, including those in East Jerusalem, are a flagrant violation of international law and resolution 2334 (2016).

A worrisome development has also been seen in the increasing use of archaeology and heritage claims to justify settlement expansions and restrict Palestinian access to land and holy sites. All actions that alter the status or demographics of the Occupied Palestinian Territory must stop and be reversed immediately. We are particularly alarmed by measures that fragment the Palestinian territory, threatening its viability as a contiguous, sovereign State. Continued settlement expansion undermines not just future negotiations but also the very basis of the two-State solution.

As we have heard, the situation of children demands urgent attention. Palestinian children are facing violence, displacement, detention, abuse and disruption of their education. Prolonged insecurity is inflicting severe psychological distress. School closures, movement restrictions and attacks on education have become alarmingly common. The ongoing financial crisis and the disruptions to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools make matters worse. Children must not grow up seeing violence, occupation and displacement as a normal daily occurrence. Their protection and that of schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructure must be guaranteed under international law.

The impact goes beyond children. Restrictions on movement and access are affecting healthcare, livelihoods, water and sanitation and are making it harder for humanitarian organizations to provide assistance. Humanitarian workers themselves face growing dangers and obstacles. We are especially concerned by the recent

incursions into UNRWA premises in East Jerusalem, including repeated unauthorized entries by Israeli security forces. Such incidents cannot be normalized. United Nations premises must be respected and protected, and UNRWA's vital work must not be jeopardized.

Somalia is also concerned about the deteriorating situation facing the Palestinian Authority, especially with the occupying Power's withholding of hundreds of millions in collected tax revenues, which undermines the provision of basic services. Weakening Palestinian institutions while settlement expansion accelerates moves us further from peace. Accountability is essential. Violence by settlers must not go unpunished. Restraint and de-escalation must be prioritized.

Yet, restraint alone will not solve the root causes, which are entrenched in occupation, settlement expansion and the lack of a credible political horizon. The West Bank and Gaza are one territory and must be governed by a single legitimate Palestinian Authority. A political process that ignores this will not bring lasting peace. Somalia stands firmly for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to an independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The Council must ensure that a just and lasting solution remains achievable. We call on Israel, as the occupying Power, to ensure an immediate end to settlement activity and violence, full respect for international law, unhindered humanitarian access, the protection of civilians, especially children, and real accountability for violations, including ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Above all, unless the international community and the Council turn commitment to the two-State solution into meaningful action, we are maintaining the status quo of Israeli occupation, perpetual violence and suffering for the Palestinians, including children, and the people of the region.

Ms. Locetta (United States of America): I thank our briefers this morning.

As the United States has said many times, we strongly condemn violence by any party in the West Bank. The United States appreciates the Israeli Government's condemnation of, and the increased actions to counter, violence in the West Bank. Israel has taken specific steps such as increasing law enforcement actions to boosting the Israel Defense Forces presence and allocating significant financial resources to counter violence. The United States will continue to work constructively to increase security, reduce tensions and enhance stability that is beneficial for both Israelis and Palestinians alike. President Trump's 20-point Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict makes clear that the Palestinian Authority must verifiably complete a slate of reforms. The United States will not accept compensation for terrorism under the guise of welfare or through any other attempts to evade detection under a different name. The United States reiterates its opposition to annexation of the West Bank.

The Security Council must continue to show our strong support for the Board of Peace and the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG). They are working to advance President Trump's peace plan, which the Council endorsed in its historic resolution 2803 (2025) in November 2025. We also welcome the progress that the Board and NCAG have achieved thus far. This includes boosting humanitarian assistance with safeguards in place to minimize Hamas' stealing and looting of resources. We further welcome the milestone achieved at the end of July, when Hamas finally and for the first time committed to an actionable plan for its disarmament. All parties must build on this momentum towards full and irreversible disarmament and ensure that Gaza is never again a launching pad for threats to Israel's national security. This path forward, as the Board of Peace has noted, holds the promise of delivering significant benefits to the people of Gaza.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Denmark.

I would like to start by thanking Deputy Special Coordinator Alakbarov and Deputy Executive Director Sulieman for their briefings.

What we have heard today are not just statistics, as Deputy Executive Director Sulieman Solomon stressed this morning. It is the daily reality of Palestinian children living under the threat of settler violence, loss of livelihood, demolition and displacement. These realities were also reiterated in the June report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, examining violations and crimes against and affecting Palestinian children. At the same time, we hear that July was an exceptionally deadly month in terms of settler-related violence. This is why Denmark — together with France, Greece, Latvia and the United Kingdom and supported by other Council members — called for this urgent briefing.

The two-State solution, as charted in the resolutions of the Council, remains the only viable path to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In September 2025, 142 States reaffirmed their support for this vision in the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. But in order for this vision to materialize, the current trajectory in the West Bank must urgently be reversed.

We would like to emphasize four urgent matters.

First, settler violence must stop, and those responsible must be held accountable. No Palestinian child should witness homes set ablaze, access to school hampered, destroyed livelihoods or blocked water sources. We urge the Israeli authorities to take immediate measures to prevent violence, protect civilians and ensure accountability. The European Union (EU) has recently put additional extremist Israeli settlers and organizations responsible for serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians under sanctions.

Secondly, the expansion of illegal settlements must end immediately. We remain deeply concerned about the potential issuing of tenders for the E1 settlement, which threatens to separate East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank and divide the West Bank in two. We urge businesses to be aware of the potential legal, financial and reputational risks associated with bidding for these contracts. We once again stress that resolution 2334 (2016) must be fully implemented.

Thirdly, Palestinian children deserve to grow up under a functioning, effective and reformed Palestinian Authority (PA) that is able to pay salaries and provide essential services. We therefore reiterate our call for Israel to release withheld tax revenues and for the PA to continue its important work on necessary reforms, including on democracy and good governance.

Finally, these developments in the West Bank cannot be separated from what happens in Gaza. The stability of both Gaza and the West Bank is critical to any lasting peace and to Israel's long-term security. It is in the interest of both Palestinians and Israelis to transition Gaza from war to peace. We took note of the recent news of progress towards an agreement on the disarmament of Hamas and urge all parties to reach a full agreement on this decisive issue. And we continue to call on all parties to fully respect the ceasefire, on Hamas to disarm and on Israel to ensure the phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces, in line with resolution 2803 (2025), and to guarantee unhindered humanitarian aid.

A lasting ceasefire would lay the groundwork for early recovery and reconstruction. In this regard, we welcome the EU's launch of the Team Gaza initiative,

which Denmark is a part of. This initiative will contribute to the much-needed early recovery efforts in Gaza, including in the crucial areas of water infrastructure and removal of rubble and waste.

Developments in the West Bank threaten the vision of a two-State solution that we, as the international community, have elaborated in so many resolutions and declarations over the past decades. The longer we wait, the less realistic that vision becomes. The Council must stay loyal to its decisions and ensure the implementation of a two-State solution, reuniting Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under a reformed Palestinian leadership, along the 1967 borders — two States in which Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace and security.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine.

Mr. Mansour (State of Palestine): Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation to you, Madam President, for convening this urgent briefing at the request of Denmark, Greece, France, Latvia and the United Kingdom, supported by Bahrain, China, Russia and Pakistan, to address the critical situation and ongoing escalation by Israeli occupation forces and settlers in the West Bank. Allow me also to thank the two briefers — Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Hannan Sulieman — for their comprehensive reports.

Let me also add that I listened very closely to the very clear, principled, powerful statements from all those present with regard to the violations committed by the Israeli occupying forces and settlers against the Palestinian people, especially children. We appreciate this very strong sentiment. And as many have indicated, what is needed is action. The members make up the Security Council. Council members have responsibilities: to act and to enforce international law and the Council's will and resolutions; rather than to allow a single party to continue disrespecting all of us, refusing to listen to any one of us or to be held accountable and thereby brought to the position established as an obligation incumbent upon each Member of this esteemed organization, the United Nations.

We cannot continue meeting to condemn, to explain, to give details and, yet, to have business proceed as usual: somebody takes note, ignores all of us, does not respect their obligation as a member of the Organization, and we do not act. We can act. We should act. We are formed as a Security Council to make sure that the peace and security of the world is maintained. And if any one party or State does not meet its obligation to be held accountable, the Council has tools available to it with which to act.

Israel's objective remains the same: seizing maximum Palestinian land with minimum Palestinians. All its policies can be traced back to this singular objective, pursued through military assault, settler violence, home demolitions, discriminatory laws and annexation measures. The tools and the excuses may vary, but the pattern is always the same: uprooting Palestinians from their land or denying them the right to build on it in order to grab it. The Palestinian State is recognized by nearly 160 States. We exist as a State. I sit behind a plaque that reads "State of Palestine". We have 160 countries that recognize the State of Palestine, including the vast majority of the members of the Security Council.

The reality is that one State is illegally occupying the land of another State. Therefore, we need the international community, the Security Council, to help the State of Palestine, which lives under ruthless occupation — "illegal occupation", to use the words of the International Court of Justice — to end this illegal occupation as rapidly as possible. Of course, we appreciate all efforts to make this occupation less vicious —

if there is such a thing — in the process of and on the path to ending this illegal occupation. That is the main objective: ending this illegal occupation, not making it a nicer occupation. Many members experienced this when putting an end to colonial occupation and control in the past. I therefore do not need to explain to them their struggle to attain their freedom and liberation. We are the last kid on the block. We need to end this evil system imposed on us, which is oppressing us, stealing our resources, killing our children and committing all the evil acts described by non-governmental organizations, all United Nations agencies and in United Nations reports. This needs to end. All people who respect and honour international law, their obligations as Members of the United Nations and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations must help us put an end to this tragedy.

We, the Palestinian people, are playing our part: we are staying on our land. We have lost thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, killed and injured during the past three years alone. We are doing our part in order to attain the freedom and independence of our State. We need the help of those who believe in the same principles to which we are committed. We appreciate the fact that some members have taken measures. However, there is more that needs to be done, because this ruthless, illegal occupation refuses to comply — according to descriptions within the Council, in reports or by the International Court of Justice. What should we do, then? Should we just keep urging them and appealing to them, or should we resort to other measures and use the tools available to us? Some members are doing so in their national capacity, and we appreciate that. Yet there is more that needs to be done so that this illegal occupation cannot continue to believe that it will make all of us come to the conclusion that we are wrong and that this illegal occupation is right.

By paying a heavy price, the Palestinian people are telling the world that we will never surrender. We are fighting for our legitimate rights, including our right to self-determination, the independence of our State and the rights of the refugees. We are not reinventing the wheel. All those who have faced similar situations have struggled for their rights. But they all received support from the international community, and we also expect that support.

While the State of Palestine is recognized by nearly 160 States around the world, Israel rejects it. The settlers remain armed and unhinged, with Israel's full support and complicity. Israel has created an enabling environment for violence by its soldiers and settlers. Israel has guaranteed them effective impunity and unleashed them against Palestinian communities, refugee camps and villages in order to torment and terrorize the Palestinian population. Many members provided details about those acts.

For years now, we have called for international protection — a need to which many members have referred — in accordance with the resolutions of this very Council, as well as for deterrence, real accountability and practical measures to counter these policies on the ground, rather than merely condemning them in international forums. While countries are taking measures, those measures are no match for the grave Israeli breaches, nor are they dissuasive in nature.

Only when it is too late will the world again realize that the cost of inaction far exceeds the burden of resolute action. In the West Bank, this attack on the Palestinian people includes an attack on the Palestinian Authority (PA), whose role is essential to preserving the Palestinian presence on the land. Through the theft of our financial resources and the attacks on our institutions, both of which many members have referred to, Israel is seeking the collapse of the PA in the hope that this will precipitate the transfer of Palestinians outside Palestine: in other words, displacement.

Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, annexation is under way. It is not an idea; it is under way, brutally and relentlessly. Palestinians have now been confined

to 30 per cent of the Gaza Strip, 40 per cent of the West Bank and 13 per cent of East Jerusalem. That is by design, through decades of policies aimed at emptying the land of its people, displacing and replacing them. The past few years have seen a dramatic acceleration of those policies, which have yet to be met with an appropriate response capable of putting an end to them. There is some action, but we need more action until this illegal occupation yields to international law and the position and resolutions of the Security Council.

In Gaza, Israel's response to the agreement reached on disarmament and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza was not to welcome it but to reject it and continue its bombardment of the Palestinian population. The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution rely on key principles: no occupation, no annexation and no displacement. That is what the two plans have in common. The Israeli Government is fully committed to pursuing all three activities at all costs and by all means. We all say no to annexation, no to occupation and no to displacement. But the Israeli Government is not only talking, but working day and night, using all means, to say yes to annexation, yes to occupation and yes to displacement. The Plan builds towards the reunification of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the Palestinian Authority, as many members have indicated, as well as towards Palestinian self-determination and independent statehood. The Israeli Government is fully committed to preventing all of that at all costs and by all means. It does not hide that; it announces it every day.

While Palestine and the Arab and Muslim countries are doing their utmost to ensure the implementation of the Plan — a number of such examples and recently released statements were referred to — Israel keeps undermining it. Whether for electoral purposes or territorial objectives, this constant undermining of international efforts has to stop. Lives are at stake, and they cannot be subject to electoral calculations or radical ideologies.

The future of the region is at stake, and it cannot be left to be decided by colonial appetites or hegemonic aspirations. We have a common vision and a common plan, and we cannot allow any spoiler to derail them. They must be implemented. We are all saying that we want to implement President Trump's 20-point Plan, as reflected in resolution 2803 (2025), and the New York Declaration. But that means all of it — all 20 points of the Plan — not an à la carte menu from which one selects what one likes and discards the rest. It means points 1 through 20, together with the New York Declaration. The will of the international community cannot bow to the colonial whims of the Israeli Government.

Elections are to take place in Israel and Palestine in the coming weeks. The world should send an unequivocal signal that it has charted a path for Palestinian freedom, self-determination and independent statehood that leads to two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security, and to a region of sovereign States that together can foster a future of shared peace, security and prosperity.

The other path leads to a very different outcome, one this region has visited time and time again, one of occupation, wars, loss and bloodshed. How much more bloodshed — from our children, our women, the vulnerable and all the Palestinians — do we need to put at the altar for this illegal, vicious occupation to leave us alone and to allow the international community to prevail and succeed in supporting the Palestinian people in their quest for freedom, dignity and independence?

I appeal to the Security Council: show our people that there is a peaceful path that leads to freedom, dignity and security, and demonstrate to the Israeli people that this path of colonizing Palestinian land and controlling and destroying Palestinian lives is

not the path that leads to security, peace and acceptance. It is time for our region to unleash its true potential, one that can be achieved only through a free Palestine and respect for the rights and safety of all peoples and the sovereignty of all States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Danon (Israel): At the outset, I would like to convey our thoughts and prayers to the people of Colombia following the devastating earthquake.

As we gather to discuss the escalation in Judea and Samaria, let me set the record straight: Israel condemns all violence against Israelis and Palestinians. Israel does not tolerate extremism; we confront it. But we do not ignore the reality on the ground. While Israeli extremist attacks are declining, Palestinian terrorist attacks are on the rise, making up the majority of attacks in Judea and Samaria.

In May, there were 348 Palestinian terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria alone — eight pipe-bomb attacks, 282 stone-throwing incidents, 32 fire-bomb attacks, 24 arson incidents and two serious car-ramming attacks. That is up from 325 attacks in the month of April. According to the Israeli security forces, another 408 terrorist attacks were stopped before they could happen.

How many members of the Council have condemned these terrorist attacks against the Jews? None of these attacks were mentioned by the briefers. None of these attacks were mentioned by many members of the Council. This is the bias we are confronting today. The Council is focusing on one side of the violence while ignoring the other.

Israel is combating extremist violence in all its forms. When it comes to Israeli extremism, we are expanding our presence on the ground in Judea and Samaria. Israel's comprehensive framework has led to increased enforcement against Jewish extremism. Those efforts have been successful. Through the first quarter of 2026, we opened 354 investigations, filed 20 indictments and arrested 35 extremists. This has led to a decrease in extremist violence. There were 116 total incidents of Israeli extremist violence in June, down from 165 in March.

Enforcement is ongoing. Last week, an Israeli was indicted for the alleged killing of a Palestinian near Hebron. He will face the Israeli justice system. We condemn this violence. We prosecute these crimes. We hold perpetrators accountable. Our Prime Minister, Defence Minister and military leaders have all made clear that addressing extremist violence is a priority for our Government.

At the same time, Israel is intensifying its efforts to prevent Palestinian terrorism. Our security forces are working every day to dismantle terror networks and prevent attacks before they reach Israeli civilians. We are finding a growing threat. Iranian weapons, funding and training are flowing into Judea and Samaria, alongside efforts by Hamas to establish new terrorist infrastructure.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is supposed to help us to mitigate this problem, to fight terrorism. Instead, it continues to fall short of that responsibility. Even after a presidential decree from Mahmoud Abbas, the United States Department of State informed Congress that the PA has continued its pay-for-slay policy. Through 2025, they distributed approximately \$200 million to terrorists and their families. We still see incitement to violence promoted in their communities. This does not stabilize the region; it fuels violence. This terrorism does not just threaten communities in Judea and Samaria. The proximity is clear. It is being exported throughout the State of Israel. The danger is present, the violence is endless, and the victims are real.

A few months ago, a Palestinian terrorist infiltrated Israel from the village of Qabatiyah, near Janin, in northern Samaria. He drove from Qabatiyah to Beit She'an, an Israeli city 25 miles away. He rammed his car into Shimshon Mordechai, who was

killed standing on the side of the road. Then he hit and injured a 16-year-old boy in a nearby town. The terrorist kept driving to the entrance of Kibbutz Ein Harod, where he rammed into Aviv Maor, who was waiting for her parents to pick her up from the bus stop. After he rammed into her, he stabbed her until she died. Aviv was only 18. She loved nature and animals. She was passionate about horseback riding and photography. But that was not the end. He continued driving. He kept going. He found one more victim at the entrance to the city of Afula. When the terrorist could not run the man down in his car, he smashed his head with a rock. This was a 50-minute rampage of terror until he was neutralized.

Let me ask the Council: why was there not a special session after that incident? What about the shootings at bus stops in Jerusalem and other events?

This reality reflects a double standard that we must address today. When speaker after speaker refers to settler violence, it is an insult to thousands of years of continuous Jewish history in the land of Israel. Jews have never been and will never be settlers in Judea and Samaria. The vast majority of residents in Judea and Samaria are law-abiding citizens. Those committing violence are a tiny fraction of the people living there. They do not represent the broader community. That is why when the term settler violence is used, it is a provocation because it denies our connection to the land of Israel, it distracts from constant terrorist attacks against Israelis, and it collectively labels entire innocent communities for the crimes of the marginal extremist minority.

When Israelis are involved, some here use a collective label. They call it settler violence — and the term has been used many times today. But when Palestinian radicals carry out attacks, those same members refer only to the ones responsible. That is the standard for all extremist violence around the world. Let us look at the countries represented here. Let us take a look at the United Kingdom. A few months ago, a radical Islamist stabbed two Jews in Golders Green, a Jewish neighborhood in the heart of London. Did anyone use that attack to label nearly 4 million British Muslims as a threat? Did anyone describe it as evidence of Muslim violence throughout Britain? Of course not, because we understand the difference between extremists and an entire population. That is not justice; it is prejudice. Yet that is exactly the standard being applied to the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria today, comprising half a million Jews. In other words, when people say settler violence, what do they mean, that half a million Jews are terrorists or support terrorism?

While Palestinian terrorists seek to drive Israelis from their homes, some voices in the Council speak as though Jews have no right to live in Judea and Samaria. That is not true. We are not occupiers. We are not settlers. Our right to live on our land is based on our historical connection to it. It is described in the Torah — the Old Testament. Even the Qur'an mentioned the connection of Jews to the land. This past week Jews around the world read a verse from the Torah: "You are crossing the Jordan River to inherit the land that God is giving you. You will inherit it and dwell in it." Judea and Samaria is where our story in the land of Israel began. It is where it will continue. There has been a continuous Jewish presence in this land for thousands of years. The names Jerusalem, Hebron and Bet El are not names invented by modern leaders or modern politicians. They are part of the DNA of the Jewish people, and this history was recognized by the international community. The League of Nations' mandate for Palestine affirmed the historical connection of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. It called for the founding of a Jewish national home there. The international legal framework established after the First World War confirmed that historical connection. That framework included Judea and Samaria. Our history is not a political slogan. It is part of our historical and international record.

I could lecture for hours about our biblical rights, our historical rights, our legal rights to Judea and Samaria, but if we want to be practical today, and if the Council is

serious about bringing security and stability to the region, it must understand a simple truth: we are not going anywhere. Jewish communities will stay in Judea and Samaria, just like the Palestinian communities. More than half a million Jews live in four large cities and over 200 communities in Judea and Samaria, alongside more than 2 million Palestinians. The Jewish communities are not temporary outposts. They are not obstacles to peace. They are permanent neighbourhoods, cities, homes and families. Today, the Council has a choice. It can either repeat rhetoric that fuels the conflict, or it can support real efforts to find a way to live in peace, stability and security.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.