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# Security Council

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## 10214th meeting

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New York

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| *President:* | Ms. Lassen/Mr. Bay | (Denmark) |
| *Members:* | Bahrain | Ms. Alalaiwat |
| | China | Mr. Fu Cong |
| | Colombia | Mr. Sánchez Niño |
| | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Mr. Mukongo |
| | France | Mr. Bonnafont |
| | Greece | Mrs. Balta |
| | Latvia | Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes |
| | Liberia | Mr. Sillah |
| | 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 | Mr. Waltz |

## Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 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 representatives of Israel and Qatar 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, Acting Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, High Representative for Gaza, Board of Peace; and Ms. Athena Rayburn, Executive Director, Association of International Development Agencies.

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

I give the floor to Mr. Mladenov.

**Mr. Mladenov**: I thank the members of the Security Council for the opportunity to brief the Council again.

When I last appeared before the Council (see S/PV.10125), I said that the credibility of any effort rests on telling the truth, including when it is uncomfortable. I intend to keep that promise today.

In March I reported that a framework for the decommissioning of weapons existed and that it had been put to the parties. In May I presented to the Council the 15 articles of the road map itself (see S/PV.10155), and on 30 July, Hamas and the Palestinian factions accepted the road map for completing the implementation of President Donald J. Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.

President Trump has called it a breakthrough. Indeed, it is a historic breakthrough. For the first time, Hamas and the armed factions in Gaza have agreed to hand over their weapons and to transfer full governing authority, civilian and security, to a transitional administration recognized by the United Nations. We now have the opportunity to dramatically improve life in a sustainable way for Palestinians in Gaza, to provide durable security for Israelis and to move from a conflict that has destabilized the region to an environment that offers peace, prosperity and economic opportunity for the entire Middle East.

To achieve that transformation, we need the full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and the road map. I know that some remain sceptical. I know that the Council has seen peace plans come and go and dissolve over time. It is, however, in the interest of Israelis and Palestinians alike and of the entire region that this plan does not unravel. The road map does not replace or contradict the Comprehensive Plan or resolution 2803 (2025). It starts by reaffirming both as the guiding international framework and operationalizes what the Council has already decided. It covers the decommissioning of every category of weapon in Gaza. There is no grey zone and no category left out. Weapons are to be removed from factional control into the custody of the transitional National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and to be rendered

unusable under international supervision. Withdrawal follows verified decommissioning and proceeds in phases. It is sequenced and reciprocal. Each step rests on the successful completion of the one before it.

Gaza cannot be disarmed in a fortnight. What the road map fixes is not a date of completion, but the order in which things should happen and the standard of proof required at each stage. The National Committee is composed of independent Palestinian professionals. Every police officer they will hire will be vetted, and those who fail vetting will not carry a weapon. An implementation verification committee will certify compliance. It will be led by the Board of Peace and the United States and supported by the International Stabilization Force (ISF) and the mediators.

Israel is not a signatory to the road map; in fact, we never asked it to be one. We asked Israel to reaffirm its commitments under the Comprehensive Plan and the Sharm el-Sheikh protocol. While it has reaffirmed that framework, the important questions of implementation still remain open.

Nothing in the road map asks Palestinians to relinquish their rights and aspirations. The credible pathway to a political horizon is in the Comprehensive Plan and is reaffirmed in the road map. An agreed document on disarmament does not immediately mean a disarmed Gaza, but no one should understate that what was achieved, in the road map, is that it contains three things that did not exist at any point in time before us. The first is acceptance. Hamas and the factions have accepted, in public, the Comprehensive Plan and the framework requiring their complete demilitarization and a complete handover of governance in Gaza — civilian and security, direct and indirect. The second is agreement on a key principle: one authority, one law, one weapon. The claim of every armed movement around the world rests on the right to hold weapons outside the legitimate authority. This principle requires that factions relinquish that claim. The third is the architecture. Progress is performance-based, not calendar-based. A phase opens only when the previous one has been certified as completed. That constrains all sides, and all must understand it as such. Our approach in the implementation phase will be to trust nothing and verify everything. What has been agreed on paper will matter only if it is translated into verified action.

As Council members know quite well from their own experience, much of the debate about Gaza is a debate about either weapons or the miserable conditions in the Strip. This is understandable. But Gaza’s crisis has never been only a security or humanitarian problem. It has always been a political and a governance problem. For nearly 20 years, political authority, military power and public administration were fused in the hands of a militant faction that built up its arsenal and capabilities. Israel dealt with it as a security problem to be managed rather than resolved, an approach that neither disarmed that faction nor displaced it but preserved it as the only address for everyone in Gaza. The price paid for that status quo of two decades was paid in blood: repeated wars, economic collapse, isolation and immense suffering for both Israelis and Palestinians. That is why the alternative to armed rule cannot be built in the absence of a legitimate civilian authority.

Under resolution 2803 (2025), the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza was constituted in January. It is led by Mr. Ali Shaath and has developed into an administration that is ready for deployment. It has established its operational plans for policing, public payments, security and early recovery. On security, it has designed the structure of the future civilian police and built the vetting system required to staff it. It has prepared a six-month Gaza recovery programme drawn from a broader two-year plan covering infrastructure, economic recovery, public administration, human development, digital transformation, legal affairs, peace and security, policing, weapons collection, decommissioning and tunnel clearance.

The National Committee is not intended, and it will never be, a replacement for the Palestinian Authority. Its purpose is to govern during the transition and restore effective administration. Administrative transition will ultimately be judged not by the structures that we establish, but by whether Palestinians experience greater security, more reliable services and a measurable improvement in their daily lives.

Before I turn to the humanitarian situation, let me say what no indicator can actually carry. Behind every story and every statistic from Gaza, there is a real, human, personal and painful tragedy. Almost three years of war have left the people of Gaza bereaved, displaced and exhausted. Next to them live the families in Israel who lost their loved ones in the massacre of 7 October 2023. Grief in this conflict has never respected and will never respect lines, fences, borders or walls. Nothing said in this Chamber will restore what has been lost by the people. Unfortunately, vengeance will only beget more vengeance, and the cycle of pain will never end. However, what we owe all these families is not yet another expression of sympathy, but relief, security and a way out of the cycle of pain and suffering.

A year ago, almost to this day, in fact, the Famine Review Committee confirmed famine in Gaza, the first ever recorded in the region. In August 2025, one in seven children screened was acutely malnourished. Nearly 13,000 were identified in a single month. Today, that picture has significantly improved. By December 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification declared famine conditions offset, and its most recent survey found acute malnutrition mitigated across the Strip. That did not happen on its own. It was achieved through the partnership of the Board of Peace, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), bilateral and multilateral donors and the State of Israel. I record this plainly, but I will not overstate it. These gains rest on sustained delivery. They are real, but they are also very easily reversible.

The pressing needs have now moved. They are sanitation, water and energy as well as the continuing restrictions on materials that can enter Gaza. Here, too, through tireless work with the United Nations and the NGOs, we have a plan to address immediate water, sanitation and hygiene needs. Several projects, in fact, have already been coordinated with Israel and approved in the areas of sanitation, clean water and public health, and we will be moving forward to implementation soon.

Despite this, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported continuing shortfalls in funding, and United Nations agencies are warning that the pipeline for food and other critical humanitarian items is at risk as early as at the end of September. What is not settled is shelter. Winter is around the corner, and Israel's present policy on quality shelter is not acceptable. The Board of Peace urges the State of Israel to allow better shelter into the Strip, for dignity, health and safety.

The International Stabilization Force continues also to generate under the command of United States Major General Jasper Jeffers. Sites are being prepared, and further countries are joining those that have stepped forward. I thank them and renew my appeal for continued contributions. The Board of Peace and the ISF are also preparing a monitoring and compliance mechanism that will support implementation moving forward. We will track the implementation of the commitments by the parties and progress in the handover of governance responsibility to the National Committee. This is a critical tool to build confidence, track progress and identify obstacles early enough to address them.

Alongside this, we are also implementing a very much needed deconfliction arrangement: a coordination cell and liaison through which emerging threats on the ground can be raised and dealt with before they escalate. In our most recent meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel, we went through his Government's concerns one by one and narrowed the areas that still require technical work. We reaffirmed a shared

objective: a demilitarized Gaza that can never again pose a threat. We also agreed on a mechanism through which remaining questions will be settled and established committees for that purpose. They are already meeting. This is not a process that has stalled. It has moved from the negotiating table to the engineering table.

I will not pretend before the Council that the road ahead is going to be easy. The first risk is the distance between what has been agreed and what is happening on the ground. Israeli strikes have continued since the road map was accepted, and Palestinian civilians are still being killed. The ceasefire holds, and casualties have fallen sharply, but they have not stopped. A ceasefire, in fact, under which civilians are still buried, is not yet one the people of Gaza can really feel. Every use of force that does not answer an imminent threat and every incident the deconfliction mechanism was not asked to resolve costs the process something very hard to buy back. After three years of war and 20 years of military operations, I ask: will another strike on a munitions depot stop Hamas from rearming or tightening its grip on Gaza? It will not. It only delays the demilitarization that would happen, and it obstructs the civilian transition that should take place to ensure that remilitarization will not be possible in the future.

The second risk runs in the opposite direction. Hamas has committed to ceasing all military activities. That commitment is still to be met in full. Every weapon carried, every tunnel still worked on and every convoy still obstructed sets the process back and hands an argument to those who want to resume war. And as experience has shown, it will be Palestinian civilians, women and children, who will bear the consequences. Gaza does not have it in it to have another catastrophe. If this ceasefire collapses and the Strip spirals into another full escalation, there will be no road map to return to, there will be no administration to deploy and there will be nothing left on the ground to rebuild. That would not be a setback. It would be a point of no return for everyone.

The third risk is time. Another winter is coming for people living in rubble and in tents. Ceasefires that deliver nothing visible are not sustained by patience; they are only exhausted by it.

None of this is an argument for stopping. It is an argument for knowing exactly what comes next. Three things must be in place for the process to move forward: the ISF needs to be able to deploy; Israel’s undertakings under the Sharm el-Sheikh protocol need to be implemented; and Hamas must adhere to its commitments. It is then that we can begin in those areas where the conditions are best. The National Committee and the ISF will enter Gaza. The Committee will begin to exercise its civil governance, while completing vetting and handover procedures. Police weapons will be handed over to the Committee’s custody for dismantling. Heavy weapons, depots, tunnels and production sites will be declared and moved for decommissioning. Militia and light weapons will also be decommissioned.

That unlocks real change that people can actually see: civil police rather than armed men on the streets, shelter before winter, recovery and rehabilitation and the prospect of reconstruction and Israeli withdrawal. Reconstruction at scale will follow verified and irreversible progress on demilitarization. It is the only way to ensure that what is built is not going to be destroyed again.

Finally, I have three requests of the Council.

First, the Council should state plainly and repeatedly what it has already decided. the complete decommissioning of weapons in Gaza and the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement are requirements of the framework endorsed by Security Council resolution 2803 (2025) and the only route to Israeli withdrawal, reconstruction at scale and creating the conditions for a credible political path towards Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

Secondly, I call on all Member States to work with the Board of Peace and the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, as well as the United Nations, to ensure that the necessary support and resources are mobilized. The International Stabilization Force requires troops, equipment and enabling capabilities. The National Committee requires support for police training, public administration and recovery. Gaza's students, the sick and the injured require countries willing to host them and provide education opportunities and medical treatment.

Last but not least, the Council must preserve the political destination of this transition.

There is an old saying in the Middle East: trust God, but tie your camel. That is, more or less, the architecture of this road map. No one is asked to rely on anyone else's good faith, but the mechanism is only a mechanism. It cannot manufacture political will, and it cannot manufacture time. What it can do is remove excuses. After the road map, no one can credibly say that there is no framework, that the obligations are unclear or that compliance cannot be measured.

One question I am often asked is whether there is an alternative. I have heard some object to the road map. I have yet to hear an alternative plan. Yet, I see only two choices. The first is Israeli reoccupation of Gaza, with one party governing 2 million people at a massive human, economic and reputational cost. The second is to allow the status quo that produced 7 October 2023, and everything that has followed it, to quietly reassemble itself — a Gaza in which Hamas is neither disarmed nor removed from governance but managed and contained. That is not a new policy, and neither option is a strategy. Both are actually a postponement, and both end in the same place. What remains is a choice. A Gaza disarmed, rebuilt and reconnected to the world, or a Gaza rearmed, divided and in rubble, with a radicalized generation raised inside it and the next war already on the horizon.

**The President**: I thank Mr. Mladenov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Alakbarov.

**Mr. Alakbarov**: I am briefing the Council today as tensions are rising and uncertainty deepens in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. As talks continue on the implementation of resolution 2803 (2025) and the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, the ceasefire remains fragile. Israeli strikes on Gaza are continuing, while humanitarian and security challenges persist. Meanwhile, the situation in the West Bank continues to rapidly deteriorate.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of High Representative Mladenov. I thank him for his persistent efforts, including recent discussions with the parties on the 15-point road map.

Full implementation would advance the Plan's transitional arrangements, including the disarmament of Hamas and all other armed groups, the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from Gaza, the deployment of the International Stabilization Force and the transfer of transitional governance responsibilities to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza. I urge all parties to build on this momentum, fulfil their commitments and advance the road map, in accordance with international law.

These steps must lay the groundwork for the broader objective: the establishment of a political horizon that will end the unlawful occupation, realize Palestinians' rightful self-determination and advance a two-State solution, with Palestine and Israel living side by side, on the basis of the June 1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

Addressing the dire situation in Gaza remains paramount. People in Gaza continue to endure intolerable conditions and immense hardship, and they are losing hope. Israeli airstrikes resumed on 12 August, following a week-long lull, while military activity, including shelling, drone attacks and ground operations, never stopped. During the reporting period, over 100 Palestinians were killed and over 400 injured, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health.

Around two thirds of Gaza remain inaccessible or subject to severe access restrictions, leaving civilians confined to overcrowded and insecure areas. The needs are immense and urgent. Humanitarian actors, specifically international non-governmental organizations, continue to face operational constraints related to access, supplies and funding, with the 2026 flash appeal only 40 per cent funded. More than 10 months into the ceasefire, this situation is unacceptable. Key bottlenecks must be addressed. I am sure that our colleague, Ms. Rayburn, representing international non-governmental organizations, will speak to these matters and more.

Soon, winter will descend on Gaza. Winterization efforts must be scaled up and facilitated. Plans are in place, but stocks of shelter and non-food items are depleted, access constraints on the entry of humanitarian items continue, and funding remains critically low. We must all do better. Gaza should not face another winter in cold tents.

The truth is that improving living conditions in Gaza requires moving beyond emergency relief. Essential systems and services must be restored with no further delay, in particular sewage and waste management, health services and essential livelihoods. Specifically, we must restore electricity, including at the Gaza power plant. A reliable electricity supply remains critical to the functioning of water, sanitation and other essential services. Fuel and engine oil must be allowed to enter at scale. The people of Gaza deserve dignity, stability and hope. Palestinians expect us to deliver more. As I said, they should not face another winter in the cold.

Human dignity must be at the centre of all efforts. The recovery of human remains and their dignified burial must be facilitated without delay. The conflict has also inflicted significant environmental damage. Massive quantities of untreated sewage are flowing, as we speak, into the Mediterranean every day, uncontained by borders. That must be addressed. The clearance of explosive hazards is equally vital for any efforts on the ground to proceed.

Over the six months since the reopening of the Rafah crossing, more than 5,400 Palestinians have been able to exit, and more than 5,400 have returned to Gaza, accessing vital medical treatment and reconnecting with their families. Increased movement in both directions is essential. Patients from Gaza must be facilitated to receive specialized care in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and internationally. In parallel, access to medical services must be expanded in Gaza, enabling its dedicated medical professionals to carry out their vital work.

Women and girls are key to recovery efforts. The message from women-led organizations in Gaza is clear: nothing should be written without the people in Gaza. They have to write the first step in every plan, for every recovery. This will require all parties to fulfil their commitments, and enhanced coordination among all stakeholders must be put in place. An effective and operational liaison function between the Palestinian Authority and the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza is critical. It is equally imperative that the international community align behind a unified Palestinian national recovery plan that addresses the needs identified in the rapid damage and needs assessment. In that context, I led a United Nations delegation to a meeting hosted in Cairo with the National Committee, during which we reviewed practical coordination mechanisms.

In recent years, Arab countries have contributed more than half of all resources dedicated to relief efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. As resources are stretched globally, the role of the region remains essential. I would like to recognize Egypt's steadfast commitment to humanitarian action. The Egyptian corridor has facilitated the entry of half a million tons of aid from various donors and organizations. Egypt supports 18 displacement sites inside Gaza and has recently restored electricity services for some 11,000 people, creating one of the few places in Gaza where every family has electricity.

Sustained engagement by Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye has also been instrumental in advancing mediation efforts. Qatar has also remained a steadfast partner through its strong field presence, providing shelter and non-food items. The United Arab Emirates remains the largest humanitarian donor to the Gaza response through Operation Chivalrous Knight 3 and has been a vital partner in bringing critical humanitarian items into Gaza. Jordan supports Gaza through humanitarian assistance and health care. The Jordan corridor remains an important source of supplies and must be enabled to operate at full scale. Jordan also maintains its special and historic role at the holy sites in Jerusalem. Saudi Arabia continues to demonstrate important leadership in sustaining international support for the two-State solution, including through the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. I look forward to those efforts being further advanced during next month's high-level meeting marking the anniversary of the New York Declaration. I would like to thank the countries of the region for what they do and ask them to stay the course.

The situation in the West Bank remains dire. Large-scale settler attacks continue with virtually no accountability for those crimes. Israeli security forces have frequently failed to protect Palestinians from settler attacks and, in some cases, have reportedly facilitated or participated in such violence. Israel, as the occupying Power, must ensure that the civilian population is protected and that perpetrators are held to account.

On 18 August, the Israeli authorities opened bidding for over 1,200 housing units in the E1 area east of Jerusalem. If implemented, the E1 plan will effectively sever the northern and southern parts of the West Bank from each other and from East Jerusalem, eroding prospects for a viable Palestinian State. I reiterate that settlements have no legal validity and are in flagrant violation of international law.

Yesterday, the Israeli authorities forcibly entered and unlawfully seized the Kalandia Training Centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in East Jerusalem. On Monday, members of my team participated in a Palestinian Authority-led diplomatic visit to the Centre, which plays a critical role in the community. I reiterate my call on Israel to act in accordance with its obligations under international law. All efforts to seize, control or expropriate UNRWA facilities must cease.

The Palestinian Authority's fiscal crisis remains acute. Israel continues to withhold the equivalent of some $6 billion in shekels in clearance revenues, while uncertainty over correspondent banking poses a further serious threat to Palestinian financial stability. The parties must urgently secure a long-term extension of correspondent banking arrangements, allowing regulators time to implement sustainable solutions.

Gaza's recovery and reconstruction and the broader political process are mutually dependent, and neither can be sustained in isolation. We have the means to advance a credible path forward. There is broad consensus on the essential elements of that path. Resolution 2803 (2025) must be implemented immediately and in full. Equally, the New York Declaration should be advanced in parallel and in a mutually reinforcing manner. Together with previous Council resolutions, they provide the political vision, practical

framework and coordinated international effort needed to support Gaza's recovery, reunify Gaza and the West Bank under a single, legitimate Palestinian Government, end the unlawful occupation and advance the two-State solution. We must act now to translate that vision into concrete steps. The United Nations remains committed to supporting all efforts towards a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, living side by side in peace and security.

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

I now give the floor to Ms. Rayburn.

**Ms. Rayburn**: On behalf of the Association of International Development Agencies, the umbrella organization bringing together more than 100 international development and humanitarian non-governmental organizations operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, I wish first to thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to brief the Council at today's meeting.

I will not spend time today remarking on the nominal improvement in the humanitarian situation inside Gaza since the October 2025 ceasefire, nor will I remark on the numbers of trucks and pallets or the tonnage of aid that have entered Gaza, or even the quantities that have been denied entry. That is because, regardless of the volume of assistance, metrics of aid getting into Gaza do not negate the abhorrent and more relevant reality that we have normalized a situation in which 2 million people are trapped and dependent on humanitarian assistance that is controlled and restricted by the State that has designed that scarcity.

Yes, the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification figures show that we have clawed our way back from an engineered famine in Gaza, but it is a disturbing marker of progress to celebrate the fact that a child who may no longer be at imminent risk of starving to death may still be killed at any moment by shelling, air strikes or gunfire, or may survive only to carry the consequences of hunger, devastation and deprivation for the rest of her life. At this scale, these consequences will be felt for generations. This is not success.

Let me be clear: improvements that have been reported to the Council are not a cause for celebration, nor do they shift or dilute the responsibility that ultimately still sits in this room. We have a collective responsibility to ensure a durable response. This means sustained humanitarian access, the delivery of basic services, recovery and the creation of conditions in which people in Gaza can begin to live rather than just survive the next 24 hours. This reality — this shared responsibility — is what I will focus my remarks on today.

What is imperative for the Council to note is that while resolution 2803 (2025) helped to provide a framework within which the reduction in hostilities became possible, the measure of that framework is not whether a Board of Peace, an International Stabilization Force or even a National Committee for the Administration of Gaza has been created. It must be whether those institutions are, in the short term, providing immediate protection, relief and safety for the civilian population, and in the long term, moving Gaza towards the required legal endpoint that has already been adjudicated: the end of Israel's unlawful presence and the realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. By these basic measures, the Board of Peace is failing. What is evident is that, with the operationalization of the Gaza Board of Peace, the rights of Palestinians in Gaza have been made subordinate to the far-reaching, capricious and arbitrary requirements of its occupier. This is untenable.

The situation for international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is a vivid example of the fact the Board of Peace has not only done nothing to wrest control of the Gaza Strip from the State of Israel but

has also, thus far, functioned to further entrench Israel's unlawful presence. It is under the oversight of the Board of Peace that Israeli authorities deregistered more than 30 international organizations renowned for their capacity to deliver assistance worldwide in some of the most complex crises on Earth. With the new registration process created by the Israeli Government in March 2025 and implemented in January 2026, among other authorities granted, Israel unlawfully granted itself the authority to deny access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory to any organization that it deems critical of their unlawful actions in Gaza or the West Bank. In meetings with Israeli authorities and NGO representatives last year, it was made clear to organizations that they were to deliver and stay silent, or else their delivery would not be enabled at all.

Across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, international NGOs represent more than half of all active health partners, providing more than 100,000 general clinical consultations per month and supporting the bulk of critical health system functions in Gaza. The shelter response is led by international NGOs, which accounted for more than 74 per cent of shelter and non-food item activities last year, and we are one of the only providers of inpatient treatment for children suffering from severe and acute malnutrition inside Gaza. The State of Israel has taken this path since the October 2025 ceasefire announcement to restrict these organizations, in full knowledge of the size and scope of their operations and the impact that this would have on the humanitarian response. I can attest to this, having in negotiations with the Israeli authorities shared this information myself directly with them, in full transparency and on multiple occasions in the presence of permanent sitting members of the Council.

The facts of the operational capacity and presence of international NGOs in Gaza are also matters of public record, as are the acute needs in Gaza documented and reported to the Council for almost three years. What remains unclear, however, is the legal basis on which the State of Israel continues to obstruct the provision of impartial humanitarian assistance, in direct contravention of its unconditional obligations under article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. What is also unclear is why the mandate that the Council handed to the Board of Peace is being used to obfuscate Israel's continued actions, which are violating the fundamental rights of Palestinians in Gaza and the most basic rules of international humanitarian law. This cannot be the new status quo.

Since the ceasefire was announced and the Board of Peace was created, in addition to the barring of many international aid organizations, the Board has overseen the deaths of more than 1,000 Palestinians reported to have been killed by the Israeli military; continued rejections of medical items considered dual-use, including basic medical items, such as scissors, crutches, wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs; the continuation of an arbitrary restriction on engine oil, forcing the cost of engine oil up to 45 times its normal price, bringing the humanitarian response today to an absolute breaking point; rejections of fresh produce, such as watermelon and onions, for the reason that it is not within the humanitarian policy — a policy that has never been published in full or made available — and is therefore not permitted for entry at this time; continuing rejections of international specialized medical staff seeking to enter Gaza; and the almost daily movement of the supposedly fixed yellow ceasefire line, which has now moved so far west since October that it has restricted or resulted in the full loss of access to at least 85 humanitarian facilities, including water points, schools and health clinics.

Humanitarian assistance, by its nature, cannot be conditioned. And yet, we witness the Israeli authorities shrinking almost daily the physical space in Gaza in which we can operate, with no accountability for the consequences on the lives of Palestinians, who continue to be treated barely as an afterthought. The Board of Peace, if claiming responsibility for the improvements in the situation on the ground in Gaza, must equally take ownership of and action on the violations that continue to be committed under its watch. The Board of Peace is either responsible for all developments, good and bad, or

none of them. This leaves us with the question: which of these outcomes are intended, and which are a symptom of inherent flaws? Ultimately, it is the Council that must reckon with these possibilities, but it must be done urgently, because the consequences of that reckoning are not here. They are in Gaza, where almost two-thirds of the population still live in tents or makeshift shelters, and in the past 72 hours alone, multiple air strikes in deeply populated areas caused damage to humanitarian sites and put civilian and humanitarian personnel lives at risk.

I would use this moment to highlight to the Council that for almost three years, it has been humanitarian actors working with communities on the ground that have been tasked with assessing the humanitarian situation inside Gaza. This is a duty that we have discharged to the best of our abilities and at the cost of the lives of the more than 400 of our colleagues who have been killed.

When we describe the conditions, the abject horrors that we have witnessed and what is required to meet the immense needs, this is what we are seeing with our own eyes and what we are trained and qualified to assess and communicate to the world in good faith, with the only purpose being to alleviate human suffering and ensure the protection of the civilian population under international law. And for almost three years, the Council has received contradictory reports on the levels of death and destruction, the number of trucks, aid getting in, aid getting denied and detailed technical descriptions of the various obstructors and enablers of assistance. Even today, these conflicting reports are and will be evident in what is presented to Council members. What is critical is that the Council's action be guided by credible, on-the-ground knowledge from actors with the required experience, expertise and mandate to speak on these issues without bias.

With the adoption of resolution 2803 (2025), the Council assigned clear responsibilities to ensure a comprehensive and long-lasting ceasefire in Gaza, the provision of humanitarian assistance and a viable path forward for reconstruction and peace. But in doing so, the Council did not relinquish its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations, nor did it suspend the legal order within which those responsibilities must be exercised.

Today I would like to close by inviting the Council to reflect on how it is discharging those responsibilities. Are Council members able to determine, to their own satisfaction, that they are clear about the facts on the ground and the trajectory of the situation in Gaza? Are they clear on the reasons why we are almost one year into a so-called ceasefire and still advocating for the necessity of engine oil and fresh produce? Are they clear on the intentions for the planned communities being constructed in the south of Gaza under their mandate and their compatibility with Council members' obligations to ensure the protection of Palestinians' fundamental rights?

If the answer to those questions is not an unequivocal yes, I do not ask Council members to take our professional assessment on trust. Instead, they should exercise their powers of enquiry and come and see for themselves. We encourage the Council to undertake an urgent mission to Gaza. Let the reality on the ground, the facts, our colleagues and Palestinians themselves speak to them. We are here, and we are ready to receive them.

**The President**: I thank Ms. Rayburn for her briefing.

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

**Mr. Waltz** (United States of America): I thank High Representative Mladenov and Mr. Alakbarov for their briefings today.

UNICEF recently issued a report in June. This report, its latest, opens with a photograph of an infant named Leah at a mobile clinic in Gaza City. She was there for a routine health check-up, and, unlike her parents, she has a very real shot at growing up, having never experienced repression and terror at the hands of Hamas. That is something I think we should take on board and understand: she has a chance here.

The same report from UNICEF found that acute malnutrition among children under 5 in accessible areas of Gaza has dropped by an incredible 82 per cent in under one year. I will say that again: an 82 per cent drop in malnutrition for children under 5 in areas of Gaza in just under one year. Of course, we absolutely have a very long way to go, and I appreciate High Representative Mladenov's very candid assessment of both the progress and the needs we still have. But in UNICEF's words, "children's nutrition improves when aid and commercial supplies reach them". It should be no surprise, or it should not be a shock to anyone here, that when terrorist groups stop hoarding and using aid as a cruel lever for control, people's lives get better.

Frankly, after hearing Ms. Rayburn's briefing, it is quite disturbing to hear a representative of civil society at the Security Council ignore United Nations reports — including by the Commission of Inquiry, frankly no friend of Israel over the years — with repeated and credible reports of torture by Hamas. There was not a word from Ms. Rayburn in the civil society briefing, not a word on the kneecapping of Palestinians, who recently dared to step out and protest Hamas rule, and not a word of other reports on Hamas using hospitals as human shields, building tunnels and command centres under schools.

It is amazing to see — let me put it this way. You know who is not starving in Gaza, Ms. Rayburn and members of the Council? Hamas fighters are not starving. You do not see their leadership starving. You do not see their wives, who are carrying Birkin bags on camera, starving. So I would encourage everyone to re-read, I would encourage our civil society briefers to read, all of resolution 2803 (2025) — debated extensively but passed by the Council without opposition — including the annex, which is the only United Nations document that says no annexation. At the same time, it says there is a pathway to a two-State with reform.

Finally, the progress that we have made, through the Council in just the last year, is something I do think should be applauded but realistically evaluated. Of course, we have a long way to go, but now Gaza has one of the lowest rates of acute malnutrition in the region, and that is a result of the work that many people have done to bring calm to Gaza. For the first time in modern history, a new future for Gaza is credibly within reach — one without war, without terrorist overlords, without tunnels, without hostages and without suffering. But that is only if those of us in this room and those engaged on this issue around the world keep up the pressure on Hamas. It would be nice if we had briefers here who would actually say "Hamas" and mention these terrorists.

We will continue to call on support for President Trump's Comprehensive Plan, which was endorsed by the Council and has established the International Stabilization Force through resolution 2803 (2025).

It should not surprise anyone in this room that Hamas itself has committed to disarming — twice: first in October 2025, following the President's peace plan, and again just a few weeks ago when it accepted the 15-point actionable road map laid out by the Board of Peace to implement the Plan.

Obviously, there are sceptics. We hear them. We all know what kind of organization we are dealing with. Hamas is a terrorist group, responsible for horrific acts of violence against Americans, against Israelis, against the people of Gaza and against the rest of the world. Therefore, believe me when I say that we will judge Hamas by what it does, not only by what it says. But let us also remember something else. The

sceptics said that the hostages would never come home, and certainly not all of them, including, sadly, the dead. They did come home, each and every one. The sceptics said that this war could not end and that an agreement could never be reached, but we did reach an agreement. And now they say Hamas will never disarm. We will see. The thing is that we have heard the term "impossible" before. The President and his team have made a habit of proving conventional wisdom wrong.

The International Stabilization Force is one example. For years, the Council has debated the issue of Gaza. During the debate over resolution 2803 (2025), we said repeatedly that there are two choices: Hamas rules, or the Israel Defense Forces occupies. Or work with us on a third way. I hear of a lot of critics, as the High Representative said, handwringing and criticizing, but I do not hear a lot of alternative credible plans.

Now, for the first time, troops and personnel from partner nations are scheduled to arrive to keep the peace. Tactical vehicles are already at the International Stabilization Force logistics base. Countries as far as Uganda, Morocco and Kazakhstan have offered thousands of troops to this effort. No, they are not moving as quickly as we would like, but they are moving. And yes, the disarmament of Hamas must and will be closely scrutinized. It must be verified by objective parties. Nothing, not one thing, will be taken on trust. But let us not have small ambitions here. With a verified process, we have the potential to unlock a future for the people of Gaza free from Hamas, free from suffering under terrorists that raped and pillaged them for a generation. Once Hamas demonstrates full compliance with their commitments, Israel will begin its phased, and eventually complete, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Think again of those words from the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict. Remember the Council's pledge. Gaza cannot sustainably rebuild while Hamas retains the ability to plunge it back into war. We will be frozen in a cycle of humanitarian aid rather than rebuilding, until Hamas disarms and demilitarizes.

Let us sum this up: last fall there was war, hostages and suffering. Now, less than a year later, after the passage of resolution 2803 (2025), there are no hostages in Gaza; aid, by the United Nations own figures and reporting, is reaching those in need — not enough, but far more than previously; Hamas has agreed to disarm in full; the Israel Defense Forces is pulling back; and the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza is authorized to move in. President Trump's peace plan, now the 15-point road map, is our best hope for peace in Gaza. Let us put politics and agendas aside, let us support this new way, and let us realize a better future for that young girl in UNICEF's recent report.

**Mr. Bonnafont** (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Acting Special Coordinator, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, and the Executive Director of the Association of International Development Agencies, Ms. Athena Rayburn, for their briefings.

I would like to discuss the situation both in Gaza and in the West Bank, which are both integral parts of Palestine and the futures of which are inextricably linked.

With regard to Gaza, we listened with interest to Mr. Mladenov's assessment of the implementation of resolution 2803 (2005). For France, the resolution represents a path to peace and reconstruction for Gaza, as we look towards peace between Israel and Palestine through the two-State solution. France has welcomed the agreement on the disarmament of Hamas and the armed factions, whose grim track record is known to all, and my delegation thanks Mr. Mladenov for the clarifications he has just provided in that regard. For France, this disarmament has been a long-standing demand and 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. We commend the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye for their efforts in that regard.

We call on all parties to seize upon this agreement. For it to be effectively implemented, Israel, just as much as Hamas, must commit to it in good faith. It is important that Hamas disarm, that the Israeli army withdraw and that the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza be deployed, along with the International Stabilization Force, in support of the Palestinian forces, all in preparation for the full return of the Palestinian Authority.

The humanitarian emergency persists amid a situation that remains catastrophic. Obstacles to the delivery of aid and the work of humanitarian actors continue, fuelled by the arbitrary closure of crossing points. The restrictions on essential, so-called dual-use goods are untenable. Nothing justifies those obstructions.

We are concerned about the daily violations of the ceasefire. We firmly condemn the public remarks made a few days ago by the Israeli Minister of National Security, Mr. Ben-Gvir, calling for 30 or 40 people to be killed each night in Gaza. Israel has a responsibility to respect its obligations under international law and implement the peace plan.

It is imperative that recovery and reconstruction efforts begin within a framework consistent with international law. The restoration of decent living conditions cannot be made contingent upon the completion of the disarmament process. We call on our partners to support those efforts within the framework of the United Nations.

What is happening in the West Bank is disgraceful and demands the Council's attention. The Israeli Government's publication of tenders for the E1 settlement project is unacceptable and is contrary to both international law and resolution 2334 (2016). The project would cut the West Bank in two and deal an irreversible blow to the territorial contiguity of the Palestinian State and the two-State solution. We call on Israel to reverse that decision, and we warn companies of the legal, economic and reputational risks that they face by participating in the project.

The escalation of acts of terror by settlers and the climate of impunity in which they thrive are also alarming. We call on Israel to ensure the protection of the Palestinian population and to arrest and bring to justice those responsible, as it is obliged to do under international law. France and its European partners will remain mobilized. Sanctions have been imposed on the entities and individuals responsible. New sanctions could be adopted.

Obstacles to the essential work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue, as illustrated by yesterday's Israeli incursion into its Training Centre in Kalandia. We call on Israel to cease those unacceptable attacks and respect United Nations privileges and immunities.

Lastly, Israel must urgently transfer the tax revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority and renew correspondent banking relations on a sustainable basis. Otherwise, the Palestinian Authority's ability to provide essential services to its population and to implement the necessary reforms will be compromised.

The untenable situation in Gaza and the West Bank undermines the prospects provided by the ceasefire agreement, the peace plan and resolution 2803 (2025). It jeopardizes the two-State solution and regional stability. The Council has a responsibility to preserve that political prospect and guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as well as Israel's security. France will continue to work to that end, in accordance with the New York Declaration.

**Mr. Fu Cong** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Acting Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov and Ms. Athena Rayburn for their briefings.

Recently, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has continued to escalate, with a sharp increase in violence, repeated flouting of fairness and justice and

repeated breaches of the moral bottom line, casting an even darker shadow over the prospects for resolving the Palestinian question. The Palestinian people have endured immense suffering, with generations waiting for historical injustices to be redressed. The international community must act in a timely manner to prevent further harm to the Palestinian people, salvage the political prospects for the two-State solution and make every effort to achieve lasting peace.

I would like to make three points.

First, no effort should be spared to uphold the ceasefire in Gaza and restore peace and stability at an early date. Recently, the Board of Peace announced progress on the arrangements for the second phase of the ceasefire agreement. Israel not only openly rejected those arrangements but went even further by escalating its deadly attacks on Gaza, undermining the fragile situation there. The facts have made it abundantly clear that the fundamental reason why lasting peace has yet to be achieved in Gaza is the lack of political will for peace and that the biggest obstacle is the dangerous attempt to deliberately prolong the hostilities. We urge the relevant parties, in particular Israel, to sincerely and fully implement the ceasefire agreement and take positive steps towards lasting peace. Countries with significant influence over the parties concerned should uphold an impartial position and make concrete efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. The international community, especially the Security Council, should earnestly shoulder its responsibilities, work to protect civilians in Gaza, ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and prevent an even more severe humanitarian disaster.

Secondly, acts of violence and annexation must be stopped and tensions in the West Bank eased. The security situation in the West Bank is becoming increasingly perilous, and acts of violence against Palestinian civilians are appalling. In recent days, settlers in the West Bank have besieged Palestinian residents for days in an attempt to drive them out and seize their homes. China strongly condemns such acts. Despite strong opposition from the international community, Israel has persisted in going its own way and launched tenders for settlement construction in the E1 area. That move will seriously undermine the territorial integrity of Palestine and the foundations of the two-State solution. Any attempt at the de facto annexation of the West Bank is unacceptable. All settlement activities violate international law and Security Council resolutions and must cease immediately. We urge Israel to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power and curb settler violence, rather than tacitly condone or abet it. Economic conditions in the West Bank are deteriorating. Israel should return the clearance revenues as soon as possible and lift unreasonable restrictions on the movement of people and goods.

Yesterday, Israel further escalated its suppression of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, forcibly entering and occupying the Kalandia Training Centre. China expresses grave concern in that regard and urges Israel to respect the Agency’s privileges and immunities and its normal discharge of its duties.

Thirdly, international fairness and justice must be upheld and the implementation of the two-State solution advanced. The fundamental way to resolve the Palestine-Israel issue is to remain committed to a political settlement, stay firmly anchored in the right direction of the two-State solution, promote the resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, achieve the early establishment of an independent State of Palestine and realize harmonious coexistence between the Arab and Jewish peoples. However, voices rejecting and denying the two-State solution continue to emerge, which is deeply concerning. Palestine is the homeland of all Palestinians. Governance of the West Bank and post-war reconstruction in Gaza should be advanced in accordance with the principle of Palestinians governing Palestine. The international community should act on the basis of international law, with the aim of addressing both symptoms and root causes, and, through practical action, support the just cause of Palestine in pursuing its legitimate national rights, reject any unilateral action that undermines the foundations

of the two-State solution and work towards the early realization of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question. The legitimate right of Palestinian leaders to attend the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly should be safeguarded.

The question of Palestine has always been at the heart of the Middle East issue. It must not be marginalized or instrumentalized, still less should the Palestinian people become victims of political manoeuvring. The Palestinian question has been on the United Nations agenda for more than 70 years, and its resolution is long overdue. China stands ready to work with the international community to jointly push for an end to hostilities, alleviate the humanitarian disaster and implement the two-State solution, thereby making greater contributions to bringing an early end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and achieving lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

**Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan): We thank Acting Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov and High Representative Nickolay Mladenov for their comprehensive briefings. We also take good note of the statement by Ms. Rayburn, particularly her reminder to the Council regarding its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

As we have heard today, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is at a critical inflection point. We are witnessing two dangerous and mutually reinforcing trends. First, systematic violations of international law continue with impunity. Secondly, deliberate, illegal actions on the ground are undermining the territorial and political foundations of a viable future Palestinian State and, linked with that, the prospects of lasting peace. Together, these actions by the occupying Power are prolonging the present crisis and deepening humanitarian suffering.

Despite the clear position of the Council and repeated calls for their cessation, Israel's illegal settlement activities continue unabated. The advancement of the E1 settlement project, which would effectively sever the West Bank, is particularly alarming. Beyond threatening the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian State, the project places thousands of Palestinians at risk of forcible displacement. The Foreign Ministers of the group of eight Arab-Islamic countries, including Pakistan, have unequivocally condemned Israel's settlement policies, categorically rejected the E1 plan and called it a dangerous escalation.

Settler violence has also reached alarming levels. The United Nations recorded approximately 190 attacks per month in early 2026, which is unacceptable and warrants urgent action. The continued withholding of approximately $6 billion in Palestinian clearance revenue is undermining the financial position of the Palestinian Authority and its ability to provide essential services. These revenues must be released without delay.

The situation in Gaza remains equally grave, as testified by the briefers. Despite the ceasefire and the positive diplomatic developments, Palestinians continue to face death, destruction and severe humanitarian hardship. Since the announcement of the ceasefire, more than 1,200 Palestinians have been killed. Israeli violations have continued, including repeated, unjustified and highly indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, while the humanitarian situation remains extremely fragile.

Under the circumstances, there is a valid question. If the ceasefire is holding, as we have been told, then how are strikes continuing and civilians being killed? It must be underlined that the ceasefire was the first, most essential step of the plan. It must be fully respected. As noted by Mr. Mladenov, the ceasefire must deliver for the people.

There are, nevertheless, positive developments under President Donald J. Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, endorsed by resolution 2803 (2025), along with subsequent actions by the Board of Peace. Notable efforts have been undertaken to advance peace and take the process forward. However, despite the

mediation by the United States, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, Israel's continued military escalation and rejection of the road map threaten to derail this diplomatic process and undermine the prospects for peace.

We are also deeply concerned about the unauthorized entries by Israeli authorities into the premises of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in occupied East Jerusalem. The forcible entry into the Kalandia Training Centre yesterday is particularly troubling. United Nations facilities and personnel must be respected and protected, and their privileges and immunities must be upheld, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter.

We believe that urgent action is required from the international community, including the Council.

First, Israel, the occupying Power, must immediately halt all unlawful measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This includes a complete end to all illegal settlement expansion, settler violence, annexation measures and the forced displacement of Palestinians, in line with Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016). I must note that all members around this table — all members of the Council — have rejected annexation. We must therefore ensure that we stop all steps that are moving in that direction.

Secondly, the Gaza peace plan and resolution 2803 (2025) must be implemented fully and in good faith, starting with full enforcement of the ceasefire and its proper verification.

Thirdly, those with influence must use their diplomatic and economic leverage to enforce compliance with international law and Security Council resolutions.

Fourthly, accountability must be ensured for all violations of international law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including war crimes and other grave violations. Mr. Mladenov rightly referred to real, human, personal and painful tragedy behind the numbers and figures that we often hear. That is the tragedy endured by the besieged populations, the Palestinians, under a brutal occupation that has continued for decades, and that is the root cause of the problem. It is that illegal occupation that must be vacated, in the interest of durable peace and stability in the region, which is a shared objective of the Council and the wider international community.

Pakistan's solidarity with the Palestinian people remains firm. We stand with them in their legitimate struggle for dignity, justice and self-determination. The only viable path to peace for all people in the region is a just, comprehensive peace based on Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, with the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

**Ms. Alalaiwat** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Acting Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, for his important briefing. I am also pleased to welcome the participation of the High Representative for Gaza and the Director-General of the Board of Peace, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, and we wish him every success in his endeavours. I also thank Ms. Athena Rayburn, Executive Director of the Association of International Development Agencies, for her briefing.

Allow me to address the following points.

The Kingdom of Bahrain reiterates its warning regarding the dangerous and ongoing escalation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, especially the escalation

of violence by settlers, settlement expansion, the demolition of homes and facilities and the seizure of land. This undermines trust and the prospect of a two-State solution. We refer to the Council meeting held two weeks ago (see S/PV.10207) to discuss the grave developments in the West Bank, at which the Kingdom of Bahrain called for the protection of civilians, particularly children, and warned of the repercussions of escalatory and unilateral policies, measures and practices in the West Bank, given that these could impose new facts on the ground and undermine prospects for peace. In this regard, the Kingdom also reaffirms its categorical rejection of any attempts to annex any part of Palestinian territory or to alter it geographically or demographically and to forcibly displace the Palestinian people. We call for compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Bahrain underscores the importance of implementing resolution 2803 (2025) and the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and of supporting the progress made and practical arrangements being undertaken by the Board of Peace, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and the International Stabilization Force. The Kingdom of Bahrain also calls for the removal of all impediments to a consolidation of the pillars of stability in Gaza, reconstruction, an improvement of living conditions, a guaranteed sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid at scale and the completion of the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the relevant arrangements and commitments, while reaffirming the unity of the Palestinian territories and the need to move towards a serious and credible political process that culminates in a two-State solution. In this connection, the Kingdom of Bahrain looks forward to the various meetings and discussions on the question of Palestine during the high-level week of the eighty-first session of the General Assembly in September so as to keep up the necessary political and diplomatic momentum and to reaffirm that the Palestinian cause remains at the top of the international priorities.

Secondly, the Kingdom of Bahrain reiterates its warning about the repercussions of violations against Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Jerusalem and any attempts to alter the character of the city and its historical and legal identity, particularly as these practices are provocative to millions of Muslims and Christians worldwide and threaten regional security and stability. The Kingdom of Bahrain emphasizes the importance of adhering to a discourse of coexistence and tolerance in the face of extremist ideology and the need to respect the existing historical and legal status of the holy sites, while bringing violations to a definite end, particularly those targeting the entire 144 dunums of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque as a place of worship exclusively for Muslims. Accordingly, the Kingdom reaffirms the importance of the historic Hashemite custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and values the role of the Al-Quds Committee, chaired by His Majesty the King of sisterly Morocco.

Thirdly and lastly, the Kingdom of Bahrain commends the efforts of the Palestinian Government to meet the aspirations of the brotherly Palestinian people, commit to the national reform programme, proceed with legislative elections on 28 November and complete the electoral and democratic processes leading up to presidential elections in 2027. It also calls on the international community to continue supporting the Palestinian Government, including by seeking the release of Palestinian clearance revenues and ensuring that the necessary banking arrangements continue.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain calls for international and regional efforts to continue to be coordinated with a view to safeguarding the inalienable rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost among them the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent, sovereign State along the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside the State of Israel in security and peace, in accordance with the two-State solution, international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, so as to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

**Ms. Pavļuta-Deslandes** (Latvia): I thank the Acting Special Coordinator, Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, for his informative briefing. I welcome the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, to this meeting and thank him for the comprehensive briefing. I also thank the Executive Director of the Association of International Development Agencies, Ms. Athena Rayburn, for her contribution to the discussion.

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, put forward by President Trump and endorsed by resolution 2803 (2025), remains at the core of ongoing international efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region. Latvia welcomes the continuing efforts of the Board of Peace and the mediating countries — Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States — to pursue the full implementation of the plan. To achieve this goal, all parties must engage genuinely and fulfil their commitments. Against this backdrop, I would like to underline three points.

First, we note with deep concern the ongoing daily strikes that continue to cause further civilian casualties in Gaza. Since the announcement of the cessation of hostilities, more than 1,200 Palestinians have been killed and more than 4,000 injured. Attacks endangering Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers also continue. We once again call on all parties to respect the ceasefire in good faith in its entirety, as required by the Comprehensive Plan and resolution 2803 (2025). Israel's right and obligation to defend its citizens, who were deeply scarred by the 7 October 2023 terrorist attack, is a clear principle underpinning our diplomatic efforts. At the same time, international law, including international humanitarian law, must be fully respected, so as to ensure the protection of civilians, journalists and humanitarian personnel across both Gaza and the West Bank. The rhetoric of annexation and statements calling for targeted killings of Palestinians expressed by some Israeli politicians are unacceptable.

Further constructive steps are needed to advance the Comprehensive Plan and prevent a resurgence of violence in Gaza. There is no future for non-State armed groups and terrorism in Gaza. We once again underline that the complete disarmament of Hamas and its relinquishing of power are imperative. Concurrently, the deployment of the International Stabilization Force and the withdrawal of the IDF must take place, as outlined by Mr. Mladenov. With the support of the international community, including United Nations agencies and the Palestine Donor Group, the work of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and its deployment on the ground are indispensable for restoring dignified living conditions for the people of Gaza and must start without further delay. The early involvement of the Palestinian Authority, alongside its ongoing reform efforts and preparations for the upcoming elections, would lay the foundation for future self-sustaining governance in Gaza.

Secondly, three months before the anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2803 (2025), the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains appalling. Conditions are continuously critical across multiple sectors, with severe water insecurity depriving civilians of adequate access to safe drinking water and the water needed for basic hygiene and sanitation. These conditions are compounding already grave public health risks amid disrupted health services, damage to, and attacks on, healthcare facilities and personnel and persistent shortages of essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment. Repeated displacement continues to expose civilians to increasingly precarious conditions and, as we heard, there is an urgent need for basic shelter assistance and other vital relief to meet the needs of displaced families, especially ahead of winter. Sustained, safe and predictable humanitarian access remains essential to an effective response and must be facilitated without conditions, in accordance with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. International humanitarian organizations, including United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations, continue to play a critical role in delivering life-saving assistance, despite severe operational constraints. Their work must not be hindered.

Thirdly, the international community, including in this Chamber, has repeatedly opposed entrenching the annexation of the West Bank. Today, we note with regret that the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, including in the E1 area, continues. Increased settler attacks and harassment, movement restrictions and demolition of property and infrastructure contribute to the forced displacement of Palestinians and fuel the vicious cycle of vengeance and radicalization. We urge Israel to address the situation, with full respect for international law and commitments, including resolution 2334 (2016), and all previous arrangements to which it has pledged itself. The withheld Palestinian tax revenues must be released without delay. Attacks against Israeli civilians, incitement to violence and all forms of terrorism are equally unacceptable, and the Palestinian Authority must fulfil its commitments to pursue meaningful, comprehensive reforms. This includes strengthening governance and accountability, addressing radicalization, including in education in line with UNESCO standards, and reforming the payment system for families of prisoners.

It is essential that the Comprehensive Plan deliver the expected results. Neither Israel's security concerns nor the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians can be realized amid the risk of yet another devastating escalation. A political perspective encompassing Gaza and the West Bank is the only way to achieve long-term stability. It is crucial to continue and reinforce international engagement towards peaceful coexistence through the two-State solution, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions and the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

Latvia reaffirms its very firm commitment to the shared objective of peace and stability in the region.

**Mr. Nebenzia** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Acting Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Ramiz Alakbarov and High Representative for Gaza of the Board of Peace Nickolay Mladenov for their briefings. We also listened carefully to Ms. Athena Rayburn.

The assessments we have heard today indicate that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is on a dangerous trajectory, with tragic consequences for both parties to the conflict and the entire region. Developments in recent months clearly demonstrate that the lack of progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track is fraught with further suffering and civilian deaths, escalating tensions and the emergence of new hotspots throughout the Middle East.

We all remember how the majority of those present in this Chamber hoped that the adoption of resolution 2803 (2025) in support of President Donald J. Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict would pave the way towards an end to violence in the region. We would also like to recall that our country, largely at the request of our friends in the Arab and Muslim world, did not stand in the way of the adoption of that document. At the same time, we provided a detailed analysis of all the pitfalls of such a hasty decision by the Council. We warned of the risks of disregarding the broad, internationally recognized legal framework for a Middle East settlement and its key element, namely the two-State solution.

International mediation efforts have succeeded in halting large-scale bloodshed in Gaza, and that achievement is undeniable and deserves full support. Regrettably, it is still too early to speak of lasting peace in the Strip. Ten months after the agreements formally entered into force, ceasefire violations and killings of Palestinians continue. This is clearly reflected in the statistics: the death toll from Israeli attacks since 10 October 2025 is approaching 1,300. According to daily United Nations reports, serious difficulties also persist on the humanitarian front. The Israeli occupation and restrictions on the entry of aid and construction materials have trapped the Strip's 2 million

inhabitants. People are forced to crowd into less than 50 per cent of the enclave's territory. Virtually every family struggles to find shelter, while more than 70 per cent of Palestinian children under the age of two have unhealthy diets.

Other key provisions of the peace plan also remain on paper, including the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza becoming operational and the deployment of the International Stabilization Force (ISF) in the Strip. Nor are any practical steps towards reconstruction in Gaza currently under way.

Let us stick to the facts. Over the past several months, we have heard that progress on those issues could begin once Hamas agreed to begin phased disarmament in conjunction with the withdrawal of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) units. But Israel has no intention of withdrawing the IDF from the Gaza Strip. Mr. Mladenov also stressed the pivotal nature of this principle of reciprocity in his May briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.10155). We note the efforts of the High Representative for Gaza of the Board of Peace to prepare a road map to that end. The Islamic movement agreed to implement the road map, but the Israeli leadership publicly rejected it.

We regret that some of those present in this Chamber, for whatever reason, continue to gloss over what is really happening around Gaza. Perhaps they should heed the voices of reason from the countries that are also members of the Board of Peace. They, too, have been referred to today. Specifically, we have in mind the most recent statement, issued on 16 August, by the foreign ministers of the Arab-Muslim group of eight, who jointly condemned Israel's position and held West Jerusalem fully responsible for undermining efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory — that is, the West Bank.

Public statements by prominent Israeli political figures, as well as the Government's plans and concrete actions, confirm that West Jerusalem has no intention whatsoever of pursuing de-escalation or complying with the international legal framework for a Middle East settlement. Israel's Ministers of National Security and Finance speak of the need to kill 30 to 40 Gazans every day and to bring about the displacement of the enclave's residents with a view to re-establishing settlements there.

At the same time, we observe negative developments in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where the Israeli authorities are consistently pursuing a policy of strengthening their administrative and legal control, contrary to resolution 2334 (2016). The settlement activity of Benjamin Netanyahu's Government has reached unprecedented levels, as Mr. Alakbarov regularly informs us. Of particular concern is the E1 settlement plan approved in 2025, which would cut the Palestinian territories in two and effectively destroy the territorial integrity of the State of Palestine. Along with many other responsible States, Russia condemns West Jerusalem's provocative policy and calls for an end to settlement activity, whether under the E1 project or elsewhere in the occupied territory.

Equally alarming is the policy of creating irreversible realities on the ground, which is accompanied by unprecedented Israeli settler violence, continued IDF raids in the West Bank, sweeping restrictions on the movement of Palestinians and the infringements of their right of access to basic services.

Nor can we overlook West Jerusalem's destructive policy towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which remains the central institution providing comprehensive assistance to both residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Palestinian refugees throughout the region. We call on the Israeli authorities to comply fully with their obligations as the occupying Power, cease arbitrary raids on UNRWA facilities, including the Kalandia Training Centre, and, more broadly, ensure that United Nations personnel can work unhindered in accordance with their mandates. We are convinced that the Agency's mission must continue until a

final peace settlement is reached, providing for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

We have always held that lasting peace and equal security can and must be achieved through the resumption of direct dialogue between the opposing sides on all remaining disputed issues, on the basis of the extensive international legal framework, with the formula of "two States for two peoples" at its core. Our country remains ready to engage with all constructively minded partners to redress the historic injustice and support the efforts of the countries of the region themselves to build a prosperous Middle East free from crises.

**Mr. Sillah** (Liberia): Liberia thanks Acting Special Coordinator Alakbarov, High Representative Mladenov and Executive Director Rayburn for their insightful updates. We further welcome the participation of the representatives of Israel, Qatar and the Observer State of Palestine.

About 100 years ago, after our own independence, Liberia cast its vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 181 (II). We voted then, as we stand today, for a vision of two sovereign homes: an independent Arab State and a Jewish State living side by side in peace, security and mutual dignity. That commitment has never wavered. Yet, every day, the Council's decisions go unimplemented, the space for peace contracts, civilian suffering deepens, and the legal authority of this institution is diminished. The fundamental question before us today is whether compliance with international law will remain optional.

The advancement of tenders for 1,234 housing units in the E1 area — part of a broader plan for 3,401 units — demands our urgent attention. This is not a routine administrative step. It directly threatens to sever the territorial contiguity and political viability of a future Palestinian State. With the 19 October deadline approaching, the window for preventive action is narrowing. The legal baseline is clear. Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) affirms that settlements built in occupied territories since 1967 have no legal validity. This obligation was further reinforced by the International Court of Justice in its July 2024 advisory opinion. In a spirit of constructive engagement, Liberia calls for a pause to the E1 tenders, a halt to settlement expansion and decisive steps to prevent settler violence through accountability.

Equal clarity must govern Gaza. Resolution 2803 (2025) outlines an agreed international architecture: a sustained ceasefire, full humanitarian access, transitional administration under the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, complete demilitarization and a phased, verified withdrawal. There can be no selective compliance. Hamas and armed groups must fulfil their obligation to disarm, relinquish power and defer to a single, unified civilian administration under the principle of one authority, one law and one weapon. Israel must uphold the ceasefire, facilitate unhindered humanitarian access, cooperate with the International Verification Committee and execute its withdrawal as agreed milestones are met.

Having emerged from our own history of conflict, Liberia knows that human suffering cannot be held hostage to procedural delays. The access of civilians to water, shelter and medical care is an absolute obligation under international humanitarian law. Security for Israel and self-determination for Palestine are not mutually exclusive; they are mutually dependent. Israeli security cannot be secured by perpetual occupation, nor can a viable Palestinian State exist as isolated enclaves.

Liberia calls for three immediate actions: a pause on the E1 tenders and a halt to settlement expansion; the full, verified implementation of the Gaza transition framework by all parties; and Council action to protect the physical conditions required for a two-State solution.

Sustainable peace in the Middle East crucially depends on the decisions of the Council to act while we can. Let us not fail to do so while we still can.

**Dame Sarah MacIntosh** (United Kingdom): I thank Acting Special Coordinator Alakbarov, High Representative Mladenov and Executive Director Rayburn.

Last November, the Council adopted resolution 2803 (2025), sending a powerful message of international support for President Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza. As we have heard from High Representative Mladenov, important progress has been made, which we welcome. But success relies on the actions of the parties themselves.

First, all sides must fulfil the commitments they have made. The ceasefire must be respected. Israel must deliver its commitments made in the 20-point plan, including a phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from Gaza. Hamas must deliver on its commitment to decommissioning its weapons and terror infrastructure. And there must be a credible Palestinian-led transition of governance and security across the whole of the Gaza Strip. We encourage the Palestinian Authority to implement the reforms necessary to take on its responsibilities. Plans to hold legislative elections in November 2026 and national elections in 2027 in Palestine are an important step. They must be free, fair and inclusive.

Secondly, resolution 2803 (2025) requires the full resumption of aid into Gaza and the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure. Yet the humanitarian situation remains dire. Averting starvation cannot be the benchmark: 59 per cent of Gaza's population still faces crisis levels of food insecurity or worse; 1.9 million Palestinians remain displaced; and fuel shortages are affecting hospitals and water and sanitation infrastructure. The Government of Israel must end excessive aid restrictions, ensure that all aid, including fuel and engine oil, can enter predictably and at scale, open all crossings and review the dual-use list to allow vital aid supplies in. Hamas must stop obstructing humanitarian operations, as they did in July at a United Nations warehouse and food distribution point. This disrupted the delivery of life-saving assistance, with two truck drivers reportedly assaulted. The increasingly dangerous pattern of intimidation, violence and obstruction, which puts humanitarian workers at risk, needs to end.

The inviolability of United Nations premises must also be respected. The forcible entry and reported seizure of the Kalandia Training Centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Jerusalem yesterday is deeply concerning. The United Nations, including UNRWA, and non-governmental organizations should be able to operate safely and at scale, in line with international humanitarian law.

Accountability is essential where these standards are not met. It is right that the Israeli military will launch a criminal investigation into the killing of 5-year-old Hind Rajab, six of her family members and two paramedics in Gaza in 2024. However, the decision to bring no criminal action over the fatal strikes on a World Central Kitchen convoy in April 2024, which killed seven staff members, including three British nationals, is unacceptable. Their families deserve justice, accountability and answers from the Government of Israel.

Thirdly, regarding the West Bank, resolution 2334 (2016) is clear that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal. We call on the Government of Israel to immediately retract the construction tenders for the E1 settlement project. Those unilateral plans take us further from peace. They will drive a wedge through the West Bank, isolate East Jerusalem and exacerbate instability. As Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband has said, we will not stand back and accept the destruction of the two-State solution.

We have also witnessed the tragic consequences of unprecedented levels of violence. The United Nations reports that 80 Palestinians and three Israelis have been

killed in the West Bank this year. We are appalled by recent settler attacks in Tayyibah, the ongoing siege of homes in Qusrah and the killing of a 17-year-old in Sa'ir. The Government of Israel has said that addressing extremist violence is a priority. As Qusrah has shown, the current approach is not working. More must be done to tackle settler violence, cease actions that enable it and ensure accountability.

Restrictions on the Palestinian economy are also pushing it to the edge of a cliff, with more than $6 billion in revenues withheld since May 2025, $5.8 billion trapped in banks and correspondent banking services at risk. That threatens public services, the banking system and the viability of the Palestinian Authority.

There is strong international support for the full implementation of resolution 2803 (2025). The parties themselves must fulfil their commitments and refrain from actions that undermine peace. They must give Palestinians and Israelis the future they deserve, in which a safe and secure Israel exists peacefully alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian State comprising Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

**Mr. Alfaro de Alba** (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): Panama thanks Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Acting Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process; Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, High Representative for Gaza; and Ms. Athena Rayburn, representative of the Association of International Development Agencies, for their briefings. We likewise welcome the presence of the delegations of Israel, the observer State of Palestine and Qatar at this meeting.

The explanations provided by the briefers have offered us a useful, compelling and, at times, tragic update on the reality on the ground, although, in some respects, their accounts were also interestingly contradictory with regard to positive progress or delays and shortcomings, the bright spots and the shadows.

In 45 days, one year will have elapsed since the purported ceasefire in Gaza entered into force on 10 October 2025, and the reality on the ground continues to prove precarious. Since then, more than 1,280 Palestinians have lost their lives and more than 4,100 have been injured, equivalent to four Palestinians killed and 13 injured each day, on average.

Panama stresses the importance of protecting the civilian population in Gaza at all times and calls upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from any action that could place civilians at risk and comply fully with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

Protecting the civilian population entails ensuring full, safe, sustained and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance on the scale required, which is indispensable to its survival. Access to water, food, medical care and other essential services remains limited amid accumulated destruction that impedes the restoration of the minimum conditions required for a dignified life.

To make it possible to improve those conditions, the protection of those providing such assistance must likewise be guaranteed. Humanitarian personnel must be able to carry out their work safely and independently, without having to risk their lives to assist the civilian population and without obstruction. That protection must extend to all United Nations facilities, without exception. All parties must fully respect at all times the inviolability of the premises of the Organization, as well as its privileges and immunities.

That complex reality on the ground reinforces the urgent need to make progress through diplomatic channels and capitalize on the momentum generated in recent weeks in order to enable the next phase of the peace agreement for Gaza, endorsed by the Council in resolution 2803 (2025).

We once again urge the parties and the mediators to preserve and strengthen avenues for dialogue and to fulfil in good faith the commitments they have undertaken, while seeking to make comprehensive progress in implementing the various components of the agreement.

The demilitarization of Gaza, the progressive withdrawal of Israeli forces and legitimate security guarantees for Israel must be accompanied by reformed and unified Palestinian governance that lays the foundations for reconstruction and for the restoration of dignified and safe living conditions for the Palestinian population throughout the Strip.

That prospect of stability and recovery cannot be realized without the political will of all parties involved in the conflict, which is necessary to ensure fulfilment of the commitments that each has undertaken, including the willingness expressed by Hamas, which entails its timely disarmament.

What is happening in Gaza cannot be separated from the situation in the West Bank. Protracted violence against Palestinian civilians, demolitions, displacement and restrictions on movement continue to heighten tensions and undermine the prospects for a negotiated political solution.

Of particular concern are decisions relating to the E1 area and other measures that continue to alter the reality on the ground, given their implications for the territorial contiguity of the West Bank and the prospects for achieving a political solution.

Panama reiterates its call for to avoid any unilateral measure that would alter the territorial or demographic reality on the ground and recalls that the full implementation of Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2334 (2016), remains indispensable to preserving the conditions necessary for peace.

It is therefore essential for the Palestinian Authority to continue advancing its process of reform and institutional strengthening. At the same time, economic and financial measures that could impede that process and diminish the Palestinian Authority's capacity to meet the needs of the population must be avoided.

Gaza and the West Bank are integral parts of a single territorial, political and social reality. It is counterproductive to seek progress in building a future for Gaza while the minimum conditions required to achieve a solution are deteriorating in the West Bank.

Panama will continue to support a negotiated political solution that will allow Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security and dignity.

**Mr. Mukongo** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanks Special Coordinator Alakbarov, High Representative Mladenov and Executive Director Rayburn for their briefings.

Since our most recent meeting on this question (see S/PV.10207), developments in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and across the region, more broadly, continue to command our full attention. These developments come at a time when the diplomatic efforts undertaken over recent months are still seeking to consolidate the gains made and to preserve a sustainable political outlook.

In Gaza, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its full support for resolution 2803 (2025) and the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, which the resolution endorses. We commend the efforts made by the High Representative for Gaza, the mediators and the partners involved in its implementation, and we encourage them to continue these efforts so that the current differences can be gradually resolved.

The momentum generated by the adoption of this resolution must now be channelled into further progress. Several important issues remain unresolved, and the

progress made is still limited. As time goes on, it is important to preserve the momentum generated around the plan and to maintain the conditions that will make it possible to seek the compromises necessary to implement the resolution.

In this context, the Democratic Republic of the Congo encourages the parties to continue their dialogue and calls for renewed commitment to preserving and consolidating the gains achieved through considerable effort, in the interests of the people of Gaza and Israel and, more broadly, the interests of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, who are called upon to live in peace and security. In the same spirit, we reiterate the need to preserve the ceasefire. Despite its fragility, it remains essential to the continuation of diplomatic efforts and the uninterrupted provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. The Democratic Republic of the Congo urges all parties to work towards consolidating the ceasefire.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains concerning. Although the delivery of aid has improved since the ceasefire was established, needs remain considerable. In terms of access, only a few crossing points are operating on a limited basis to deliver aid. Consequently, a significant proportion of the population continues to have difficulty accessing food, healthcare, water and other essential services.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo emphasizes the importance of continuous, safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, in accordance with international humanitarian law. In this regard, respect for the principle of accountability by all parties is a prerequisite for consolidating peace and security in this region. The regularity and predictability of such access remain essential to enable humanitarian actors to sustain their operations and meet the needs of the population over the long term. Furthermore, the humanitarian situation cannot be separated from the political and security environment in which assistance is provided. Consolidating the progress sought under resolution 2803 (2025) must also make it possible, as was mentioned, to preserve the conditions necessary for a sustainable and effective humanitarian response. The progress made must be evidenced by tangible improvements in the situation of civilian populations.

With regard to the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterates its full support for resolution 2334 (2016) and the importance of complying with its provisions. My delegation also reaffirms its support for the efforts of United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations, which are continuing their work in a particularly complex operational environment. We are following with concern the continuing violence and other developments that could bring about lasting changes to the situation on the ground. The persistence of these trends comes at a time when the diplomatic efforts under way in the region require the opposite, namely that the conditions for a sustainable political solution be preserved.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterates its firm condemnation of all forms of violence targeting the civilian population, both Palestinian and Israeli, and of attacks and acts of terrorism. My delegation deplores the resulting consequences, which contribute to further destabilizing the situation, and calls on all parties, in the face of persistent tensions, to exercise restraint and to prioritize de-escalation.

These developments cannot be viewed in isolation from the efforts currently under way in Gaza. While resolution 2803 (2025) has helped to set in motion a process that must now be preserved and advanced, developments in the West Bank are likely to complicate the political environment. That is why our delegation considers it essential that the efforts undertaken under resolution 2803 (2025) be allowed to continue, while ensuring that developments on the ground do not jeopardize the broader prospects of a political settlement.

Compounding this already fragile situation are the continuing tensions in the region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is following recent developments in Lebanon with concern and calls for calm and restraint on the part of all parties. In the current context, it is important that these tensions do not hinder the diplomatic process under way or lead to a further deterioration of the regional situation. In this regard, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and to compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In this context, my delegation calls upon all parties and all those in a position to contribute to the search for a political solution to act responsibly. The framework is in place, and considerable efforts have been made to bridge the differences. The challenge now is to ensure that the efforts already under way yield further progress, while preventing developments on the ground from gradually eroding the space created by diplomacy. Our support for resolutions 2803 (2025) and 2334 (2016) stems from this same conviction: safeguarding the gains made, encouraging the continuation of efforts currently under way and keeping alive the prospect of a lasting political settlement. Such momentum will have a real impact on the ground, not only to deter actions that continue to fuel fears of a full-scale resumption of hostilities, but also to ensure that, from a humanitarian perspective, the constant risk of a relapse into famine in Gaza and the West Bank is averted.

Finally — and I shall conclude on this point — the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirms its willingness to work alongside the members of the Council and all relevant partners to advance diplomatic efforts and bring positions closer together, in the interest of the region's populations and of peace.

**Mrs. Balta** (Greece): Let me thank Acting Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov and High Representative for Gaza to the Board of Peace Nickolay Mladenov for their briefings. I also thank Ms. Athena Rayburn for her remarks.

Nine months after the adoption of resolution 2803 (2025), the necessity for a credible political horizon in Gaza remains as urgent as ever. The commitments undertaken under the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict must now be translated into concrete action on the ground. Greece welcomes the progress achieved thus far, including the release of all hostages, the scaling up of humanitarian assistance and Israel's approval of the entry of the International Stabilization Force into Gaza. Most importantly, it is imperative that all parties maintain the current talks, which are essential to advance the implementation of the plan and build on the progress achieved thus far. At the same time, urgent further steps are needed to address the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Despite the relative improvement in conditions, thousands of civilians continue to be affected by water insecurity, severe pressure on the health system, malnutrition and inadequate shelter — all amid extreme summer temperatures and drought conditions. Humanitarian and commercial flows must be sustained, made predictable and further increased. In this vein, the role of humanitarian actors, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, remains indispensable. In this regard, we are concerned about the incursion into the United Nations Kalandia Training Centre. We reaffirm that the integrity and inviolability of United Nations premises must be respected, upheld and protected.

Early recovery must move forward in parallel with the ongoing political and security discussions. Momentum should be maintained on projects addressing immediate social and economic needs, while ensuring that the transitional arrangements strengthen, rather than replace, Palestinian institutions. The disarmament of Hamas and other armed factions is also a priority. The terror groups are an impediment to peace and to the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Hamas cannot have a role

in the governance of Gaza. We commend the efforts of High Representative Mladenov on accelerating the discussions on disarmament as addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns is a necessary condition for peace. We encourage the necessary arrangements for the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) to enter the Strip and assume its responsibilities as soon as possible so as to implement the crucial plans on housing and the restoration of basic services. We also support the deployment of the newly vetted Palestinian police forces. We believe that the roles of NCAG and the Palestinian Authority are complementary. We will continue supporting the Palestinian Authority on its path for reform. The ultimate objective should be the return of a reformed and effective Palestinian Authority to Gaza as soon as possible, in accordance with resolution 2803 (2025). At the same time, we should collectively continue engaging with Israel on the release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues, which are critical to the financial stability of the Palestinian Authority and its reform efforts.

The situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem remains deeply concerning. Settlement expansion, forced displacement, demolitions and settler violence, including against Christian communities, threaten to fundamentally alter the realities on the ground. We are strongly concerned at the recent tenders for the construction of housing units in the E1 settlement, as such actions run counter to international law and undermine the prospects for a negotiated two-State solution. Inflammatory rhetoric and provocative statements are similarly counterproductive. In this context, consistent investigations, follow-up and implementation of the relevant decisions remain essential. Of paramount importance are the preservation of, and respect for, the historic and legal status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem — an essential element of interfaith coexistence and regional stability.

In conclusion, Greece will continue to support all efforts aimed at reinvigorating a credible political process, leading to a negotiated two-State solution in line with all relevant Security Council resolutions and the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. International initiatives, including the recent meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State solution in Rome, provide further impetus to advance the political process and contribute to implementing the commitments undertaken. Greece will remain committed to working to turn the present opening into lasting progress towards sustainable peace and stability in Gaza and the West Bank.

**Mr. Yusuf** (Somalia): I thank Acting Special Coordinator Alakbarov and High Representative Mladenov for their briefings. I also listened carefully to the remarks of Director Rayburn of the Association of International Development Agencies, which underscored the urgent realities facing Palestinians and humanitarian actors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the dangerous humanitarian disconnect in the implementation of resolution 2803 (2025).

Somalia wishes to underscore the following key points.

First, the situation in Gaza remains deeply alarming and requires sustained attention. The humanitarian crisis is acute. Nearly 2 million individuals — approximately 94 per cent of Gaza's population — now require shelter or basic household assistance, while water insecurity affects the vast majority of residents. As we have heard, humanitarian access remains severely restricted, and the needs on the grounds are immense. Somalia reiterates its call for the full, immediate and faithful implementation of resolution 2803 (2025), with tangible improvements for Palestinian civilians, including unimpeded humanitarian access, reconstruction and the advancement of a credible political process towards peace. We note the recent agreement on the 15-point road map with Hamas for Gaza's next phase, which outlines steps for disarmament and Israeli withdrawal. While this development is significant, Somalia is concerned about the lack of progress in implementation, in particular the ongoing

ambiguity about timelines and a lack of clarity regarding the sequencing of commitments under resolution 2803 (2025), which could entrench the long-standing occupation of Palestinian territory. We note with regret the posture of the Israeli occupation in its rejection of this road map and its unwillingness to proceed at this stage. This has direct implications for the ceasefire and accountability for the situation on the ground. Of the 150 cases of troop conduct in Gaza reviewed by Israel, the occupying force, only two have resulted in criminal referrals, further eroding confidence in the accountability process. The Council must insist that Israel, the occupying Power, provide clarity, transparency and genuine engagement vis-à-vis agreed steps in order to create the conditions necessary for peace and stability.

Secondly, Somalia emphasizes that humanitarian aid is a legal and moral imperative and must not be politicized. It should be removed from security prerequisites, such as disarmament verification, in the implementation of resolution 2803 (2025). All border crossings must remain open so as to ensure the rapid and safe delivery of essential supplies, including fuel, medicine, food and water. Gaza's healthcare system is at risk of collapse, with thousands in need of specialized care and urgent evacuation, while medical facilities are overwhelmed or destroyed. The restoration of medical corridors to the West Bank should also be immediate, and efforts to rebuild Gaza's healthcare infrastructure are essential. Somalia rejects collective punishment in all its forms; civilians, especially women and children, must never bear the consequences of political or military decisions.

Thirdly, developments in the West Bank and East Jerusalem remain a source of grave concern. In August, the announcement of tenders for 1,234 new housing units in the E1 area threatened to further fragment the West Bank and undermine the prospects for a viable Palestinian State. Today, it is evident from the trajectory of Israeli policy that Israel's long-standing annexation is shifting from a de facto to a de jure reality. Recent legislative and administrative changes transferring key authorities from military to civilian Israeli control in the West Bank are clear steps in this direction.

In that regard, Somalia condemns these actions and reaffirms that all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and in contravention of resolution 2334 (2016). We call directly on Israel, the occupying Power, to reverse those measures, which exacerbate tensions and undermine the pursuit of a just peace. While the recent indictment of settlers for a deadly attack is a rare step towards accountability, such measures remain insufficient.

Fourthly, the protection of civilians and the safeguarding of humanitarian operations must remain central to the Council's efforts. The challenges faced by Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory are profound. Since the ceasefire in October 2025, more than 1,250 Palestinians have been killed and more than 4,000 injured in Gaza alone. In 2026, settler violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has resulted in 70 Palestinian deaths, including 18 children, and more than 1,500 incidents have been recorded, affecting hundreds of communities.

Somalia is also deeply concerned about the restrictions affecting the ability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to fulfil its mandate. UNRWA remains an indispensable provider of services to millions of Palestine refugees and must be protected and supported. We therefore join the Secretary-General in strongly condemning the recent unauthorized entry by the Israeli authorities into UNRWA premises at the Kalandia Training Centre, which was the fifth instance of unauthorized entry by the Israeli authorities into the Centre since May. It is imperative that United Nations premises be respected and that humanitarian and United Nations staff be able to operate safely, with their privileges and immunities fully upheld.

Lastly, the multifaceted challenges before us cannot be addressed solely through humanitarian assistance, which is under severe restriction today. A durable political solution addressing the long-standing root cause of occupation is indispensable. The faithful, full and immediate implementation of resolutions 2803 (2025) and 2334 (2016) must be prioritized. The unity and territorial integrity of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, must be preserved.

Somalia is particularly concerned about the withholding of $6 billion in Palestinian Authority tax revenues and banking restrictions, which threaten Palestinian governance and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Somalia reaffirms its unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

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

Let me also start by thanking Acting Special Coordinator Alakbarov, High Representative Mladenov and Ms. Rayburn for their important briefings.

Today we take stock of the implementation of resolution 2803 (2025), nine months after its adoption. High Representative Mladenov asked the Council to say plainly and repeatedly what the Council has already decided and plainly stated. Despite the continuous efforts of the Board of Peace and regional mediators, we must face the facts: we have not seen the progress that we had hoped for and promised nine months ago.

Resolution 2803 (2025) sets out several important requirements: the disarmament of Hamas, the deployment of the International Stabilization Force, the assumption of its responsibilities in Gaza by the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, and the phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from Gaza. We welcome the progress made towards a disarmament agreement and call on all parties to embrace it and commit to it in good faith.

Resolution 2803 (2025) and the 20-point Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict also call for full humanitarian access, including the rehabilitation of infrastructure. Yet severe restrictions persist. Civilians in Gaza continue to live in appalling conditions. Many live in tents exposed to the elements, without sanitation, clean water or sufficient food. This leaves them dangerously vulnerable to disease. Hundreds of thousands of children remain out of school, denying them not just an education today but years of opportunity in the future.

The 20-point plan specifically required the rehabilitation of hospitals. However, we continue to hear reports that there has been little to no improvement in the healthcare situation since the ceasefire. Most hospitals in Gaza are fully or partially destroyed, and medical care is taking place in makeshift facilities or tents. Despite the ceasefire, no health facility in the Gaza Strip has been rehabilitated to full functionality.

Denmark therefore once again calls for the medical corridor between Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to be reopened. We also once again call for the lifting of all restrictions on humanitarian aid, in line with international humanitarian law. This includes the unreasonable restrictions on dual-use items. As we heard today from Ms. Rayburn, international non-governmental organizations play a crucial role in humanitarian aid operations in Gaza. They should be allowed to operate.

Allow me to return to the West Bank, where the situation has deteriorated even further since our most recent meeting, just two weeks ago (see S/PV.10207). The Acting Special Coordinator has described the situation in detail, and we have all seen the images of settlers terrorizing Palestinian communities. Such acts of violence should be adequately addressed and accountability ensured. As discussed at our most recent

meeting, settlements continue to expand. With tenders issued last week for the E1 settlement project, de facto annexation has moved one step closer. As Foreign Minister Løkke Rasmussen has stated, this tender is a destructive move by the Israeli Government, undermining the two-State solution. Denmark again calls for an immediate halt to the E1 plans and underscores that settlements are a flagrant breach of international law.

Economically, Palestinian life in the West Bank is suffocating in an ever tighter chokehold. Israel's continued withholding of tax revenues is driving the Palestinian Authority even deeper into debt and undermining its capacity to deliver services and implement the necessary reforms.

Finally, many speakers today have mentioned Israel's latest unauthorized seizure of the Kalandia facility belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in East Jerusalem yesterday. This, too, is unacceptable. We urge Israel to abide by its international obligations to ensure the protection and inviolability of United Nations premises. Denmark fully supports UNRWA's indispensable mission.

In closing, it has been said many times in the Chamber, but it bears repeating today: Gaza and the West Bank are two parts of the same story and two integral parts of a future Palestinian State. We cannot address one while allowing the other to deteriorate.

We all see the trends clearly. If we continue down this trajectory, we will very soon be in a situation where the two-State solution we all committed to will no longer be a possibility, and where steps towards a de facto annexation will be irreversible.

Lasting peace can only be achieved through the two-State solution, most recently reaffirmed in the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. Denmark will continue to work towards its full realization, for both Palestinians and Israelis alike.

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** (Palestine): Allow me at the outset to thank the presidency of the Council for holding this meeting at such a critical and dangerous juncture, and to thank Denmark for the meeting held yesterday by the Security Council at the ministerial level on "Food under fire", which placed emphasis on the humanitarian situation, among other issues, in the Gaza Strip. Allow me also to thank the briefers for their contributions.

The International Court of Justice concluded in no uncertain terms that "the violations by Israel of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force and of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination have a direct impact on the legality of the continued presence of Israel, as an occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (see A/78/968).

In addition, it stated that the

> "sustained abuse by Israel of its position as an occupying Power, through annexation and an assertion of permanent control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continued frustration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, violates fundamental principles of international law and renders Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unlawful".

Annexation has long been under way, but Israel has now crossed the Rubicon when it comes to full-fledged, full-blown annexation with the release of the tenders for the E1 plan. The Israeli Government stated clearly that its goal in issuing these tenders was the destruction of the Palestinian State and the triumph of the settler State. This is in parallel

with the settlers' violence terrorizing the Palestinian population that the Israeli Government has helped to unleash, is refusing to control and continues to effectively support. They do not care that annexation kills any prospect for peace in our region. This is indeed their objective, as their appetite for colonial conquest is far greater than their concern for their own people.

They want to derail the efforts of President Trump and the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, which encompasses the clearly affirmed policy of President Trump rejecting annexation, while Palestine, the region and other international partners are mobilizing to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and to implement the resolutions of the Council in this regard.

Their objectives are clear. They are ideological and electoral, and reflect the illusion that the Palestine question can be addressed by the annihilation of our national project and the destruction of our State and our people. This is madness, and this strategy of perpetual war and denial of our rights has failed over and over again, but comes with a heavy and unbearable human toll.

Israel's obligations are clear, as clear as its disregard for them. Israel's crimes committed against our people and the grave breaches of international law are among the best documented in history, as the Council is aware.

I am therefore here to speak of the obligations of the rest of the international community in view of Israel's persistence in committing these breaches. Allow me to start by thanking all the countries and their leaders who have taken a clear and unequivocal stance, following the release of the E1 tenders, in condemning the E1 plan and the settlement regime and calling to reverse all these illegal unilateral steps.

We call on all States to abide by their obligations under international law, as clarified by the International Court of Justice. The Court spelled out clearly the obligations of States as they pertain to non-recognition, distinction, non-assistance and accountability, as well as to supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The obligations are as follows. Member States are under an obligation not to recognize any changes in the physical character or demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the territory occupied by Israel on 5 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, except as agreed by the parties through negotiations and to distinguish in their dealings with Israel between the territory of the State of Israel and the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.

This obligation of distinction encompasses the obligation to abstain from treaty relations with Israel in all cases in which it purports to act on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part thereof; to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; to abstain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The steps relating to ending all trade with settlements are of critical importance, as the settlements' economy represents $30 billion a year and is built on the theft of our land and resources, and not only the taxation money that they steal from us.

Let us also be crystal clear that these steps include taking action against businesses and financial institutions, including banks, that contribute to the illegal settlement enterprise, including in the context of the E1 tenders. All legal avenues must be used to

hold these businesses and financial institutions accountable and to ensure that they withdraw and, when relevant, pay reparations, as well as punitive fees, for their actions.

The Court also underlined that:

> “all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They are also under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel’s illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.

It added that

> “it is for all States, while respecting the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that any impediment resulting from the illegal presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination is brought to an end” and “to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in the Fourth Geneva Convention”.

Annexation is an attack on our sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is an act of war against our State and our people. It is the ultimate breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It must be stopped.

The Council has adopted numerous resolutions supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including independent statehood, and condemning and considering illegal and invalid all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. Those resolutions must be fully implemented.

The New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution reiterated that strong opposition to all illegal actions that undermine the viability of the two-State solution, including settlement activities, and expressed States’ commitment to taking concrete measures in accordance with international law and in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July 2024.

Those commitments will help to realize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and counter the illegal settlement policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and policies and threats of forcible displacement and annexation. Such concrete measures are now of the utmost necessity and urgency.

The attacks on the United Nations, notably the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), aim at facilitating such forcible displacement of our people and annexation of our land. The storming of the UNRWA Kalandiya Training Centre, the raising yet again of the Israeli flag on United Nations premises and the childish yet dangerous video of Ben-Gvir, in military attire, behind the desk of the Centre’s Director constitute breaches of the United Nations Charter and of the inviolability of United Nations premises, as stated by the International Court of Justice. They are part of a pattern to destroy UNRWA in the hope of liquidating the question of Palestine refugees.

If such attacks against the United Nations and its personnel are tolerated in occupied Palestine, including occupied East Jerusalem, then we are undermining the protection of the United Nations and its personnel everywhere around the world. Such actions must not only be condemned; we must collectively fight back, stop them and not allow them to happen.

I just want to note that the Israeli Government has dedicated itself to deploying its so-called might against those who cannot fight back: bombing civilians, attacking

communities, abusing prisoners, killing United Nations and humanitarian personnel and parading around United Nations premises. International law was built to protect the most vulnerable, and the world is failing them in Palestine and failing those trying to help them, namely United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The Council has listened to Ms. Rayburn's testimony and briefing. This arrogance on the part of Israel is fuelled by a deep-seated sense of impunity, a certainty that it will not be held to account. Defeating that certainty is indispensable to putting an end to those horrific actions.

Nowhere is that impunity more glaring than in the Gaza Strip, where the killing of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians and national and international United Nations and humanitarian personnel and crimes against an entire civilian population have led to no one being held accountable. Israeli investigations and courts are designed to foster and ensure such impunity, not to deliver justice. That is clear from all the investigations launched by Israel so far.

While international humanitarian law stipulates that the occupying Power has an obligation to ensure the protection of the people under its occupation, it is evident in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, that Israel not only fails to ensure such protection but also makes the civilian population under its occupation its primary target, as part of its policy of destroying and displacing our people. The Palestinian people must be afforded international protection without delay until such time as their sovereign and independent State is able to protect them.

The Middle East is not condemned to perpetual war. Our collective policies will determine its future. Our ability to stop policies that entrench occupation and fuel war and violence and to pursue policies that allow liberty, sovereignty and peace to prevail will determine what the Middle East looks like for decades to come. We believe in a Middle East of sovereign States enjoying shared peace, shared security and shared prosperity. We must not allow anyone to deprive the peoples of our region of such a prospect. We must act resolutely now, or the horrors we have seen so far will be only a prelude to more horrors to come. A different future is possible if we act together today.

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

**Mrs. Furman** (Israel): I would like to begin by thanking today's briefers.

It has been five years since I last addressed the Security Council. I am proud to be back representing Israel at the United Nations and to address the Council today.

In one of my last speeches here, at the height of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, I gave the Council a warning. I warned that Iran was using the global attention on COVID-19 to advance its dangerous agenda. I warned about Iran's nuclear ambitions, its advanced missile production and its support for terrorist proxies throughout the Middle East: Hamas, the Houthis, Shia militias in Iraq and Hizbullah. I warned about Hizbullah's growing presence in southern Lebanon, including its terror tunnels and its 150,000 missiles and rockets aimed at Israeli civilians, the majority of which were supplied and financed by Iran. And I warned that those threats would not disappear simply because the international community chose to look elsewhere.

When I addressed the Council in 2021 (see S/PV.8782), I also warned of Hamas' military build-up in Gaza and of its deliberate strategy of hiding behind Gazan civilians while targeting Israeli civilians, embedding its military infrastructure in schools, hospitals, mosques and residential areas. Regrettably, for years, the Council could not bring itself to condemn Hamas by name — not when it fired rockets at Israeli civilians from within densely populated areas in Gaza, and not even after the atrocities of 7 October 2023. The international community ignored Hamas' terrorist activities, just as it ignores Hizbullah's. That silence did not restrain these terrorist organizations. It has emboldened them.

The civilians of Gaza are not Israel's enemy. Our conflict is with Hamas, a genocidal terrorist organization that must be disarmed. It must cease governing the people of Gaza and terrorizing Israel, as well as its own people.

Today, we have an opportunity to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. Israel is committed to United States President Donald Trump's 20-point Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, endorsed by the Council in resolution 2803 (2025). But the Plan cannot succeed while Hamas remains armed. Disarmament must come first. Hamas and its weapons must be fully dismantled, its terrorist infrastructure destroyed and its ability to rearm eliminated, as was agreed upon in the 20-point Plan. Israel is working closely with the United States and the Board of Peace to achieve this.

Earlier this month, during a meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu, Jared Kushner and Nickolay Mladenov in Jerusalem, it was agreed to establish two working groups — one to advance the prompt disarmament of Hamas and the demilitarization of Gaza to be completed before reconstruction begins, and another to address urgent public health needs, including sanitation and clean water, affecting both Gaza and Israel. That second working group reflects Israel's continued commitment to helping to facilitate the improvement of humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

Since the ceasefire began, some 600 trucks per day have carried approximately 2 million tons of food into Gaza, including an additional 200,000 tons since the Council's last monthly meeting (see S/PV.10207). These quantities significantly exceed every benchmark for humanitarian food requirements published by the World Food Programme for Gaza. In the same period, more than 21,000 tons of medical equipment have entered Gaza. Last week alone, some 2,000 tons of food supplies, 200 tons of shelter material, 200 tons of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, and 35 tons of medical equipment entered the Strip.

We are also working with the international community, the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF to prepare for the coming winter. This means improving the water and sanitation situation, expanding sewage treatment, addressing waste accumulation and facilitating the entry of additional shelter material.

We thank Germany for donating two truck scanners. Each is capable of screening more than 100 trucks per day. One has already been installed at the Erez crossing, enabling it to open as an additional entry point for goods in September, alongside the Kerem Shalom crossing. This will significantly expand humanitarian aid capacity. Nearly a year into the ceasefire, the humanitarian trajectory is improving, and Israel will continue to work with its partners to improve conditions further.

Humanitarian assistance is important, but it cannot deliver security or a sustainable future for Gaza. Aid alone is no substitute for what must ultimately be done. Hamas and other terrorist organizations must be disarmed, so that Gazans can rebuild their lives and have a future free from its control.

We should not be fooled by Hamas's words. Hamas must be judged by its actions. While it claims to be willing to disarm, the reality on the ground tells a different story. Since the ceasefire began, Hamas has violated the 20-point Plan hundreds of times and continued to rebuild its terrorist capacities. Hamas is tightening its grip on Gaza. In early August, Israel dismantled five Hamas weapons facilities in Gaza containing rifles, explosives, anti-tank launchers and other military equipment, including one near a hospital in Dayr al-Balah.

Just this past Sunday, another weapons manufacturing site was found near an aid distribution centre, and two weapons storage facilities were found inside mosques, further evidence of Hamas embedding its terrorist infrastructure among civilians, as it

has done before and after 7 October 2023. Now, we have new evidence that Hamas is turning against its own people. Israeli intelligence confirmed that Hamas is using Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis for interrogations, torture and extortion, exploiting a place meant to heal Gazans to instead intimidate them. This is Hamas in action, rebuilding its capabilities, exploiting civilian infrastructure and using fear to maintain control. That is why Hamas' disarmament cannot rest on promises. It must be complete, verifiable and irreversible.

Israel knows what happens when disarmament exists only on paper. We have learned the lesson in Lebanon. Resolution 1701 (2006) was supposed to ensure the disarmament of Hizbullah and prevent another war. Instead, Hizbullah rearmed. It built an extensive military and tunnel infrastructure, including within civilian areas along Israel's border. With Iranian weapons, funding and training, Hizbullah grew into an even greater threat.

Israel has no territorial ambition in Lebanon. We want a secure border and a Lebanon governed by its own institutions, not dominated by an Iranian proxy terrorist organization. Far more unites Israel and Lebanon than divides us. With United States facilitation, Israel has engaged directly with the Lebanese Government, culminating in a framework agreement signed in Washington, D.C., in June 2026. This dialogue offers a real opportunity to turn the page and open a new chapter of stability. But that opportunity requires Hizbullah to be dismantled, and Iran's grip on Lebanon to be broken.

Israel remains committed to the ceasefire arrangement, but we will defend our citizens and act against imminent threats. Any further steps must be based on performance on the ground, ensuring that areas from which Israel withdraws remain free of Hizbullah and its military infrastructure. Hizbullah is the only force standing in the way of peace and prosperity in Lebanon.

We heard many speakers today refer to Kafr Aqab, which speakers here refer to as the Kalandia Training Centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), including false claims that Israel is acting against the United Nations. Having been personally involved in this issue for several years now, I would like to clarify the facts.

Kafr Aqab is a densely populated Arab neighbourhood in Jerusalem facing a severe shortage of land for much-needed local educational facilities. Currently, approximately 2,000 local Arab students, including children with special needs, must commute long distances to reach schools elsewhere in the city. For decades, UNRWA has walled off approximately 90 dunams of land in that neighbourhood, despite holding no property rights over it. Lawfully owned by the Jewish National Fund since 1937, the property was allocated to the Jerusalem municipality for educational facilities serving the Arab children of Kafr Aqab. In 2022 and 2023, I personally participated in meetings with the former UNRWA Commissioner-General to seek an arrangement that would allow a school to be built on this site, and I will be happy to share more information later with interested colleagues. Regrettably, UNRWA rejected the request amid political pressure from local employees opposed to cooperation with Israel. Sadly, this is not surprising. The 7 October massacre exposed Hamas' infiltration within UNRWA, including the involvement of UNRWA's employees in the attacks. Yesterday, after trying to find a solution for years, the municipality took possession of the compound to open a school for the coming academic year, providing local children access to quality education closer to home. Ultimately, the core issue is this: children who need schools and education. It is shameful that the United Nations put political considerations ahead of the educational and humanitarian needs of Kafr Aqab's children.

Five years ago, I warned the Council about Iran, Hizbullah and Hamas. We have all seen the consequences of allowing those threats to grow unchecked. Israel will not

allow this to happen again. Today, we have an opportunity to choose a different path. In Gaza, that means the complete and verifiable disarmament of Hamas. In Lebanon, it means dismantling Hizbullah's military capability and restoring the authority of the Lebanese State. Across the region, it means confronting Iran's efforts to arm, finance and direct its terrorist proxies. Israel seeks a different future — one in which the people of Gaza can rebuild their lives, Lebanon can reclaim sovereignty over areas long-controlled by Hizbullah and Israelis can live without the constant threat of rockets, tunnels and terrorism. The choice before us is clear: repeat the mistakes of the past or ensure they are never repeated. Israel has made a choice. We choose security, we choose peace, and we are ready to work with those who choose the same.

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

**Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by thanking you, Madam President, for convening this meeting to continue the Council's consideration of this important item. We would also like to thank the briefers.

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Arab Group.

The Arab Group reaffirms that the Palestinian question remains critical to peace in the Middle East and that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace cannot be achieved without ending the Israeli occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate and inalienable rights, foremost among them their right to self-determination and to an independent, sovereign State within the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. In this regard, the Group welcomes the growing international recognition of the State of Palestine, reiterates its appreciation of the importance of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and welcomes the efforts of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

The Arab Group condemns Israel's ongoing grave violations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the targeting of civilians, settlement expansion, land confiscation, the demolition of homes, forced displacement and settler terrorism, and categorically rejects all measures aimed at entrenching the occupation and at imposing Israeli sovereignty over any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. These measures are null and void, have no legal effect whatsoever and constitute a flagrant violation of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016).

With regard to the situation in the Gaza Strip, the Arab Group condemns Israel's declared rejection of the road map aimed at implementing United States President Donald J. Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Conflict in Gaza, which was endorsed in resolution 2803 (2025), and Israel's rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian State. These positions constitute a direct rejection of the Comprehensive Plan, jeopardize its implementation and gravely undermine collective efforts for a just and lasting peace. The road map, which was accepted by the Palestinian factions, is the culmination of intensive efforts on the part of the mediators, namely the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Türkiye, the United States of America, the High Representative for Gaza and the Board of Peace, and represents a milestone of the utmost importance for the control of arms, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the deployment of the International Stabilization Force, the transfer of administrative authority to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and the reconstruction of Gaza, as set out in the Comprehensive Plan. The Arab Group reiterates the urgent need for the full and immediate implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, which will contribute to addressing the dire humanitarian situation, to fostering security and stability for all in Gaza, to paving the way for reconstruction and recovery, to enabling the immediate, safe, sustainable and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid

throughout the Gaza Strip and to advancing towards a just and lasting peace based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination,

The Arab Group condemns the dangerous escalation in the occupied West Bank, including the escalation of settler violence against Palestinian civilians, which this year has resulted in an unprecedented number of casualties among innocent Palestinian civilians, including children. We call on the international community to compel Israel to cease these unlawful practices and hold those responsible to account. The Arab Group condemns Israel's unlawful expansionist policies and expresses its complete rejection of the E1 settlement plan and the associated settlement activities in occupied East Jerusalem, which constitute a violation of international law, resolution 2334 (2016) and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The Arab Group calls upon the international community to uphold its responsibilities, enforce international law and the relevant resolutions and put an end to these unprecedented violations. The Group reaffirms that the Occupied Palestinian Territory constitutes an indivisible political and geographic unit, underscores the pivotal role of the Palestinian Authority and condemns the measures that weaken it, including the withholding of clearance revenues and the undermining of the Palestinian banking sector.

The Arab Group also condemns Israeli measures aimed at altering the Arab, Islamic and Christian identity of occupied Jerusalem and its legal and demographic status, in violation of international law and Israel's obligations as the occupying Power. In this context, the Group refers to the outcomes of the ministerial meeting convened in support of Jerusalem and its holy sites in Jordan earlier this month and the joint positions adopted, which reaffirm the centrality of Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause and condemn Israeli violations at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and attempts to alter its historical and legal status quo. The Group further affirms its support for the historic Hashemite custodianship of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and calls for joint action to mobilize effective international support so as to end these escalatory and unlawful Israeli practices, measures and policies.

The Arab Group also emphasizes the indispensable role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and calls on the international community to afford it the necessary support so that it can fulfil its United Nations mandate. The Group condemns all Israeli violations against the Agency, the latest of which was the storming and evacuation yesterday of the Agency's Kalandia Training Centre, in flagrant violation of international law, the immunities and privileges of the United Nations and its agencies and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

**The President**: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*