



**DIVISION FOR
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS**

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN SUPPORT OF
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE**

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 30 and 31 August 2007, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 61/22 and 61/23 of 1 December 2006.
2. The Committee was represented at the conference by a delegation comprising Ambassador Paul Badji (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee; Ambassador Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba), Vice-Chairman of the Committee; Ambassador Hamidon Ali (Malaysia); and Ambassador Riyad Mansour (Palestine).
3. The theme of the conference was “Civil Society and parliamentarians working together for peace in the Middle East”. Eighteen representatives of civil society organizations were invited to serve as members of the Steering Committee of the Conference. The members chaired the different sessions of the Conference, conferred with other participants and drafted the 2007 Plan of Action (annex I) in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. A list of participants at the Conference is contained in annex II.
4. The Conference consisted of an opening session, two plenary sessions, five workshops, and a closing session. Thirty-five experts made presentations in the plenary meetings and served as resource persons in the workshops (for a summary of the workshops, see annex III). Representative of 153 civil society organizations participated in the Conference. Representatives of 54 Governments, the Holy See, Palestine, 4 intergovernmental organizations and 12 United Nations system entities attended as observers.

II. Opening statements

5. **Ban Ki Moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a message read out on his behalf by Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, stated that the settlement of a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was one of the foremost priorities of the United Nations. The continued occupation of the Palestinian territory prolonged hardship and injustice for millions of Palestinians, yet it had also failed to ensure the security of Israeli civilians. The Arab Peace Initiative, the appointment of Tony Blair as Quartet Representative, and the decision of President Bush to convene a Middle East peace meeting, all had the potential to result in a significant breakthrough. Movement on the political front could not obscure the dire humanitarian situation on the ground. The unsustainable division of the West Bank and Gaza Strip had grave humanitarian and political implications. Conditions in the Gaza Strip had become particularly acute; they demanded the urgent reopening of border crossings for commercial and humanitarian deliveries. To alleviate this crisis, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other United Nations agencies were doing everything they could to support the affected populations. Their efforts, however, could not compensate for the effect of the closed crossings.
6. The message concluded by stressing that both parties should demonstrate a true commitment to peace through a negotiated two-State solution. Israel should cease settlement activity and

the construction of the barrier, ease Palestinian movement and implement the Agreement on Movement and Access. Palestinians, for their part, needed to make every effort to end violence by militant groups and make progress on building robust institutions. Working together, the common goal could be achieved: a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and the principle of land for peace.

7. **Edward McMillan-Scott**, Vice-President of the European Parliament, said that he chaired in 2005 and 2006 the largest-ever parliamentary observer missions, comprised of 30 Members of the European Parliament, to the Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections and he did not feel that the democratic process had been well served since then by the international community response to technically perfect elections. He also said that the European Parliament was entirely committed to contributing to the agreed establishment of a just and lasting peace agreement which would be based on the legitimate existence of the State of Israel in safe borders as well as on the existence of a Palestinian State in safe borders, those of 1967. He mentioned that the European Union was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome and more than 50 years of peace, stability, prosperity and progress for the Europeans. The European Parliament saw it as its responsibility to advocate its values outside the Union borders: the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedom was a treaty obligation. As the founder of the European Union Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, an increasing proportion of which was devoted to the Arab world, he was looking forward to the development of democracy outwards from Israel and Palestine to other countries in the region. Europeans should encourage all moves designed to build trust and the objective of a two-State solution. There had been too much suffering in the Middle East; too many opportunities had been missed. A Palestinian State with sustainable borders would bring Israeli citizens greater security and stability. The barrier that almost encircled Bethlehem and Jerusalem was not propitious for peace.
8. The Euro-Parliamentary Assembly which brought together Members of the European Parliament, the parliaments of the EU member States and the parliaments of the Mediterranean States, which did not belong to the European Union, the countries of North Africa and the Middle East - was an extraordinary forum for encouraging the intercultural dialogue which could help bring about mutual understanding. Today, violence and terror, walls and exclusion often stood in the way of the ideal of bringing societies together. He supported for 2008, the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the proposal by the EU President Hans-Gert Poettering made in the Knesset to bring young people from Israel and Palestine, the Arab States and the countries of the European Union together at the European Parliament. He also recalled Mr. Poettering's suggestion made on 3 July in Brussels for a new European Parliament approach to the Middle East, the creation of a special European Parliament structure, a working group headed by the Vice-President to work on the topic.
9. **Paul Badji**, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said the expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank continued in violation of international law. Israel had failed to fulfill its obligation to dismantle settlement outposts as required in the very first phase of the Road Map. It had further expanded the existing settlements, while constantly demanding that the Palestinian side fulfill its obligations called for by the international community as a precondition to even start negotiations. The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning the

separation wall in the occupied West Bank and around East Jerusalem had never been heeded since it was issued nearly four years ago. Moreover, for the past four decades, the occupying Power had essentially disregarded its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The human rights of the civilian population were routinely violated. The Committee strongly condemned any activities indiscriminately targeting civilians, either by the Israeli Army or by Palestinian groups firing mortars and rockets at Israeli towns. A large majority of the Palestinians, in particular in Gaza, lived in poverty with no prospect of economic recovery or development. The problem was exacerbated by the continued closure of crossing points and other forms of movement restriction, resulting in Gaza's isolation. The sealing-off of the Gaza Strip, as well as the continuing Israeli incursions into Palestinian centres and the humiliating system of checkpoints throughout the West Bank had also contributed to the polarization within the Palestinian society.

10. The Committee had called upon the parties to resume without delay the political process aimed at the establishment of a viable and contiguous Palestinian State in the territory occupied since 1967, comprising the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Ending the occupation, establishing a Palestinian State on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and enabling Palestine refugees to exercise their right of return were the very basic principles for negotiations aimed at a lasting final status settlement. The Committee aligned itself with the conclusion adopted by the Council of the European Union at its meeting on 22 July 2007, which said, "Settlements activities in and around East Jerusalem, as well as in the rest of the West Bank and the ongoing construction of the barrier on Palestinian land, which are against international law, are of particular concern. The EU would not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders than those agreed by the parties."
11. He concluded by saying that the Committee's position was that the continuing occupation of the Palestinian Territory remained the root cause of the conflict. It emphasized the urgent need for a negotiated solution that would end the occupation, ensure the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and guarantee security for the State of Israel. This settlement should be based on international law, General Assembly resolution 194 (III), Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) and other relevant United Nations resolutions, supported by the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map.
12. **Leila Shahid**, General Delegate of the Palestinian Authority to Belgium and to the European Union, read a message sent by President Mahmoud Abbas, which said that the international community had become ever more convinced, that the root of the Middle East difficulties was the Palestinian problem. The only way for this region to enjoy the blessing of security, prosperity and stability was to find a just solution to this problem on the basis of the internationally recognized resolutions relating to Palestine. Continuing to negate this question would only exacerbate the situation and keep the region mired in violence and conflict. These included repeated daily incursions into Palestinian towns and villages, accompanied by the destruction of infrastructure, lands, property and houses, the confiscation of land, the continued construction of the wall on the West Bank land, the building of more settlements and expansion of existing ones, the isolation of occupied East Jerusalem and the imposition of unjust laws designed to Judaize it. This was in addition to paralyzing economic life in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, cutting off communications, and depriving Palestinians of the most basic human rights to freedom of movement and travel by setting up more than 550 permanent and mobile checkpoints that had turned the West Bank

into a group of isolated cantons, while over 11,000 Palestinians, including elected representatives and municipal council members, languished in prison, and targeted assassinations continued.

13. **Pierre Galand**, Chairman of the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine, and Representative of the International Coordinating Network on Palestine said Palestinian current leaders carried the responsibility of having failed to save the unity of the people and having diverted the fight for self-determination and recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people into a fratricide struggle. The consequences were catastrophic for the people of Palestine and their future prospects. The Israeli leaders confined in a sort of autism, torpedoed and emptied of their contents all the propositions and peace initiatives, those of the United Nations, as well as the Oslo agreements or the Quartet proposals. In fact, what was happening in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was a result of a policy of territorial conquest and confinement of Palestinians, based on what was denounced recently again by Avraham Burg, former speaker of the Knesset and former President of the Jewish Agency, as a Zionist, paranoiac and xenophobe conception. The great project of two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side, with Jerusalem as a bridge, was seriously compromised and the consequences were tragic, firstly for the Palestinians, then for the Israelis, but also for peace, security and cooperation in the whole region. Regarding the international community, the inactivity of the United Nations, the lack of vision of the United States, the absence of political courage from the Europeans, the weakness of the Arab voice, these were the many ingredients that led to a political and human impasse.
14. He highlighted the importance of the report “After Gaza” published early August by the International Crisis Group, which insisted on the necessity of a Hamas-Fatah agreement and on the support of Europeans; the end-of-mission report of former Personal Representative of the Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto regarding the initiatives to be taken out of the current impasse; and the reports of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs describing in detail how Israel locked in the Palestinians, with walls and a whole system of check-points and road-blocks, as well as with so-called “strategic roads” reserved for the settlers. This system, deemed for security, had dehumanized the life of Palestinians. A serious matter was that these reports were not even passed to the Security Council. Another serious concern was the same auto-censorship practiced by the European Union, which refused the distribution of an alarming report sent to the EU and to the Council, in October 2005, by the Heads of Mission of the EU member countries in Jerusalem and Ramallah, on the occupation and the wall around East Jerusalem.
15. He concluded his presentation quoting a report of Amnesty International where it said “The level of despair, poverty and food insecurity in the Occupied Territory has reached a level never reached before”. The restrictions imposed were disproportionate and discriminatory, and imposed on the Palestinians to the exclusive benefit of the settlers. He also quoted the report entrusted by French President Chirac to author Régis Debray in 2007, the summary of which had been published by “Le Monde” under the title “Palestine: A Policy of Deliberate Blindness – How the world backed itself into a corner”, where it is said “What is taking shape is not the Palestinian State announced and desired by all: it is an as yet unperceived Israeli territory enclosing three self-governing Palestinian enclaves. ... Is this situation tenable to the end of the century? It seems doubtful, given Israel’s obsession with security, which makes it less secure, and its disregard for the demographic and religious trends in the

region. Could not at least one European Government convey to our Israeli friends that we are not all taken in by the deception, and that those who deceive may not be its first victims – but will certainly be its last?”

III. Plenary sessions

A. Plenary I

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and civil society response

16. **Wassim Khazmo**, Communications Advisor, Negotiation Affairs Department, Palestine Liberation Organization, said that Israel was entrenching its control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The settler population, between 1993 and 1999, nearly doubled from 200,000 settlers in 1993 to 400,000 in 1999. For the Palestinians, the Oslo process resembled Israel's strategy of taking the land and the resources that were needed for the establishment of a viable Palestinian State. The same strategy went for the wall. Israel, under international law, had no claim on Palestinian land. After World War II, acquisition of land by force was totally inadmissible. About 80 per cent of the wall ran inside Palestinian land. Upon completion the length of the wall would be as twice the length of the 1967 boundary, and the wall was not taking small parts of land, but went deep inside Palestinian land. For example, in the north, the wall went 22 kilometers inside the West Bank, the wall around Jerusalem went as deep as 14 to 15 kilometers, and the wall around the Bethlehem area went 8 kilometers inside the West Bank. It was not a question of the quantity of land but the quality of land. The wall in the north part of the West Bank went inside to incorporate the settlement of Ariel which sat on the most valuable aquifer of the West Bank. The wall around East Jerusalem totally severed the city from the rest of the West Bank. In addition, the wall around Bethlehem took away its water resources and agricultural land, and it totally isolated 260,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem from other areas in the West Bank, cutting 300,000 Palestinians from the urban land and also denied access for people to go to their jobs, schools and normal social services. The wall itself would take around 9 per cent of the West Bank and this per centage alone meant that any future Palestinian State would be unviable because of the lack of resources and the severance of Jerusalem. But the wall was only one layer of this entire process, the second layer were those settlements on the other side of the wall, the Palestinian side of the wall which controlled an additional 8 per cent of the West Bank and these settlements were continuing to expand.
17. The third layer was the Jordan Valley which constituted 28.5 per cent of the West Bank, most of the Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert repeatedly said that it would remain under Israel's control no matter the agreements with the Palestinians would be. All along, Palestinians would be left with 54.5 per cent of the West Bank to establish a Palestinian State that was discontinuous and totally unviable.
18. He concluded his presentation speaking of the importance of Jerusalem for the Palestinians. Ramallah, Bethlehem and East Jerusalem constituted metropolitan East Jerusalem, interdependent on each other. Most importantly, this metropolitan unit had contributed 35 per cent of the Palestinian Gross Domestic Product in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For the realization of any future viable economic Palestinian State, this metropolitan unit had to be accessible, but that was not what was really happening on the ground. Israel was enacting a

policy of totally severing East Jerusalem from other areas by building three human rings around the city. The first ring was the settlements in the Old City and around it; the second was what the Israelis defined as “Jerusalem municipal borders”; and the third ring, the settlements in the outskirts of Jerusalem. Additionally, Israel was building more settlements to insure that Jerusalem and the metropolitan Jerusalem would be totally discontinuous. For example, the E1 Plan near the settlement of “Maale Adumin” was meant to connect around 400,000 settlers with West Jerusalem on the expense of 200,000 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem. There were new plans to build new settlements in East Jerusalem for another 100,000 settlers. Israel always claimed that the wall was a temporary measure for security reasons but the terminals built all around Jerusalem showed how permanent those physical structures were. In addition, road networks built all around the West Bank further cut the Palestinian Territory into smaller areas and these roads had their own walls cutting the Palestinian areas into more cantons.

19. **Danny Rubinstein**, Member of the Editorial Board, Haaretz, said that even if the wall had been erected within the 1967 borders, although there was no justification for the wall, a cooperation was needed like between neighbours. There was a need to have a sort of separation because the principle of two States for two peoples sets the base for the relationship. There was no other alternative. The only other alternative was one State for two peoples, a bi-national State, but it was not a real bi-national State it was an apartheid state because the two peoples did not share the same equal rights. On the ground, there were four different Palestinian communities with four different status, one in Gaza, the second in the West Bank, the third in East Jerusalem, and the fourth was inside Israel, Palestinian citizens of Israel, with whom Israelis pretended they shared the same rights. The heavy populated Palestinian areas would be Palestine, and the rest would be the State of Israel.
20. He stressed that Israel had red lines. Israel could survive without some of the settlements, without East Jerusalem, but Israel could not give the Palestinians the right of return. If the Palestinians would exercise practically the right of return, it would be the end of the State of Israel. The red line for the Palestinians was that there would be no Palestinian State without East Jerusalem. The Palestinians would not agree to establish their capital anywhere else but in Jerusalem. It was not because the Palestinians had some pretension or could not live without Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a big symbol for the whole Arab, the whole Muslim world. Mr. Rubinstein mentioned that he had been to Camp David in 2000 and he remembered the proposal given by President Clinton about the Temple Mount which was the core issue then. Ehud Barak demanded a synagogue underneath the Temple Mount. Late President Yasser Arafat told President Clinton that if one of the Arab leaders would agree to that demand he would sign immediately. President Clinton called the Arab leaders, proposed that Israel demand and saw their reaction. Palestinians could not make concessions on Jerusalem. Jerusalem belonged to 300 million Arab Muslims. The only agreement that could be reached would be between those two red lines: Israel should go back to the 1967 borders with some concessions and Palestinians would give up the right of return. Mr. Rubinstein concluded his presentation saying that Hamas did wrong when they took over Gaza but they had won an election and one that should not be ignored.
21. **Clare Short**, Member of the British Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood, said that she had visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in June 2007 and on a number of other occasions in the 80s and 90s, and followed the developments in the Middle East over the years. She was shocked by Israel’s blatant, brutal, systematic annexation of land, demolition of Palestinian

homes, and deliberate creation of an apartheid system by which Palestinians had been enclosed in four Bantustans, surrounded by a wall, with massive checkpoints that controlled all Palestinian movements in and out of the ghettos. Israelis were clearly and systematically attempting to take the maximum amount of land with a minimum number of Palestinians. As things stood, Israel had taken about 85 per cent of historical Palestine, leaving the remaining 15 per cent for Palestinian ghettos.

22. During her recent visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in June 2007, with a delegation organized by “War on Want” she took a tour of East Jerusalem with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. The Committee showed her and the delegation how the combination of formal and informal settlements, and systematic home demolitions, was encircling East Jerusalem. At the occasion, the delegation had witnessed a house demolition of a Palestinian home that was built on their own land which belonged to the Palestinians under international law. Houses were being demolished because Palestinians did not have permits to build on their own land. When Palestinian families expanded, they had to live somewhere else. Israel would not issue a permit because of its determination to drive Palestinians out of East Jerusalem.
23. The delegation also visited the Jordan Valley, where all fertile land near the river had been confiscated by Israel. There were acres of green houses that were worked by settlers and which were strategically located over water sources, where they grew agricultural produce for the European market. Impoverished Palestinians had to buy water from the settlers. She also visited farming families whose relatives had lived on the land in the Jordan Valley for generations. They were being threatened by new settlements.
24. She concluded by saying that the project of a two-State solution was being destroyed and instead a new apartheid regime was being created with the Palestinians being confined into ghettos. The Hamas takeover in Gaza was not the cause of the problem, but the consequence of it. The arming of Fatah by US and Israel forces to enable it to fight Hamas in Gaza made the takeover inevitable. It was in the interests of the people in Israel, the Palestinians and the wider Middle East that there should be a two-State solution to bring an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But Israel was determined to expand its borders in total breach of international law. The United Kingdom and the United States were colluding in that, and the consequences were causing terrible suffering, and endangering the future.
25. **Nadia Hilou**, Member of the Knesset (Labour Meimad) said the appointment of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as the Peace Envoy on behalf of the Quartet, symbolized the commitment and involvement of the European Union, the United States and the United Nations, as well as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
26. The Israeli population in general was less optimistic than in the past about peace because of the results of the unilateral Israeli withdrawals from southern Lebanon and from the Gaza Strip. These withdrawals were viewed as an indication of Israeli good will and its willingness to give up territory for peace. However, both withdrawals resulted in a worsening of the security situation along Israel’s northern and southern borders.
27. Civil society in Israel had not given up, and continued to struggle, though in less visible forms than in the past. She pointed to the constant demonstrations along the wall and the work of organizations like Machsom Watch, composed of Israeli women who stood at

checkpoints to observe the conduct of Israeli soldiers. There also were those who struggled against the inequalities and injustices suffered by Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, who were residents of Israel, bearing blue identity cards, and even Israeli citizenship, but suffered inequalities in terms of infrastructure, service and basic human and civil rights. She had been approached and had intervened with the authorities on such issues as the injustices and inconveniences caused by the wall, and the unbearable conditions in the public education system in East Jerusalem. She was also actively involved in assisting Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, who were caught in the Erez checkpoint after the takeover of Hamas in Gaza.

28. **Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Delegation for Relations between the European Parliament and the Palestinian Legislative Council, said that a delegation of the Parliament paid a visit to the Council in early May 2007. He recalled that Hamas had won the legislative elections in January 2006. Its government had been boycotted leading to an intra-Palestinian dialogue. A Government of National Unity was formed in March of 2007. This Government had to face very specific problems, a financial crisis which was brought about by the international community and by the Israelis who were within holding Palestinian revenues. There were also problems created by the imprisonment of BBC correspondent Alan Johnston, the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, the 11,000 Palestinian prisoners amongst them forty elected representatives, including the speaker of the House of Representatives. The EU delegation met Government officials and representatives of Non Government Organizations and heard complaints about simple and serious things like the injustice that Palestinians had to buy water from their occupied land; the problems of the unpaid salaries to the security forces that led to the degradation of the security situation and the creation of mafias and family clans like the one who had kidnapped Alan Johnston; the new refugees, some 43,000 young Palestinians who left the Occupied Palestinian Territory; the problem the wall posed to agriculture, 25 per cent of the West Bank had been cut off by the wall isolating 63 localities; and Gaza became an open air prison for 1.5 million inhabitants. These violations of international law should be dealt with by the International Court of Justice.
29. When the members of the delegation came back from the visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the delegation informed EU officials about their findings, including European Parliament President Poettering; Marc Otte, Special Representative to the Middle East; and Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner. However, the Foreign Minister of Germany, who was then presiding the EU declined to receive the delegation. Mr. Triantaphyllides accused the international community, the United Nations, and the European Union for having missed the only window of opportunity to promote peace in the region. Had they done this at the time perhaps what followed could have been avoided.
30. **Raymond Dolphin**, Consultant on access issues for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OCHA) said that OCHA's reports focused particularly on the impact of closures on the humanitarian situation counting the number of physical obstacles that were presently in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It was not just checkpoints but a whole combination of different obstacles, roadblocks, earth mounds, road barriers, road gates, trenches and the wall itself. The reason for the closures was the settlements and their infrastructure in the West Bank. Settlements were a subject that the international community had been very reluctant to talk about or reproach, it had been like the elephant in the room everybody ignored. OCHA had just posted

on its web site a major report on the impact of settlements and other infrastructures on Palestinians in the West Bank.

31. Mr. Dolphin made a Power Point presentation showing the link between the closures and settlements. Going back to 1995, during the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was divided in areas A, B, and C - areas A and B were under Palestinian civil control, and area C remained under Israeli military control. About 40 per cent of the West Bank was under the authority of the Palestinian Authority. This was meant to be an interim agreement and the idea was that area C would become B, and almost all land would be handed over to the Palestinian Authority. He showed a map with the location of settlements and outposts distributed everywhere in the West Bank, particularly in the Jordan Valley; the settlers' roads that crisscrossed the West Bank horizontally and vertically; the location of 96 outposts, which were supposed to be removed under the first phase of the Road Map, but very few of them had been removed, and in fact quite a number of them had been retroactively legalized by the Israeli Government, even though they had started off as illegal. However, the settlements and outposts were not the full extent of the Israeli infrastructure in the West Bank. In addition, the Israeli military closed areas and military bases and land reserves, where Palestinians were not authorized to practice any kind of economic activity in the area. OCHA estimated that about 10.2 per cent of Palestinian land of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, would be on the Israeli side of the wall. This estimate was according to latest official Israeli maps. OCHA estimated that with the new route of the wall, about 16 per cent of the West Bank would be behind the wall.

Plenary II

Civil Society support for a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

32. **Mustafa Barghouti**, President, Palestinian National Initiative and Member, Palestinian Legislative Council, said that the first step towards ending the occupation was to understand the facts on the ground, including a recognition of the occupation complete transformation into fully fledged apartheid, whether people liked that reality or not. He gave the example of the water production. A total of 936 million cubic meters of water were produced in the West Bank - Israel took away 800 million of them. On average, a Palestinian citizen was allowed no more than 50 cubic meters of water per capita per year while Israeli settlers were allowed to use 2,400 – 48 times more than Palestinians. More than that, on average, when Palestinians bought water from Israel – their own water from Israel – they had to pay five shekels per unit while Israelis paid 2.4. Palestinians paid 13 shekels per unit for electricity while Israelis paid 6.4. The main reason why the wall went like a snake inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory was not just the settlement annexation, whether in Ariel, Salfeit area or Jordan Valley or north in the Qalqilya region.
33. The Israeli GDP per capita was US\$ 24,500; the Palestinian GDP was per capita was between US\$ 800 and US\$1,000. That meant that Israel made 25 times more than Palestinians, but the Palestinians were obliged by the Paris Agreement and by Israeli orders to have unified market and unified tax laws. Also, Palestinians were obliged to buy products at Israeli market price when they had a GDP that was 25 times more than the Palestinian GDP. The segregation of roads and the wall was destroying Palestinian contiguity of the land. The wall was built for about 90 per cent inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, separating Palestinians from Palestinians not Palestinians from Israelis. In addition to the

wall, the Israelis had invented a more sophisticated system of segregation of roads. The major main roads inside the West Bank were now practically confiscated, surrounded by a wall on both sides, only accessible to Israelis and settlers. That situation had to be called it apartheid no other term could be used.

34. Mr. Barghouti emphasized that there was no real peace process. Israel was trying to gain time to continue building its wall and annexing more Palestinian land. In addition, the Defense Minister Ehud Barak was carrying out “settlement laundry” to give legal standing to Israeli illegal settlements. There were also attempts to abuse Palestinian internal division by trying to demonstrate that the main conflict was not between Israelis and Palestinians but between Palestinian moderates and extremists, a strategy reflected not only in the United States policy, but also in that of the international community at large. The Palestinian problem was portrayed as a need to rebuild the same institutions that had been repeatedly rebuilt and destroyed, including with American money. Palestinians had managed to build a democratic model that was the best in the Arab world. Nothing could justify the fact that the world community, especially the United States and Europe, mobilized by Israel, to strangled the Palestinian Authority – the first democratic experience when Palestinians had a national unity government which represented 96 per cent of the Palestinian people and which provide a very good opportunity for sustaining democracy.
35. He concluded by saying that insisting on interim borders was an attempt to buy time for the creation of new facts on the ground. The aims of the recently proposed peace conference was to reproduce another piece of paper like Oslo, but the question was why another framework was needed when Israel had failed to implement the first. The whole idea of peace had been substituted with the peace process, which in turn had been frozen.
36. **Jennifer Lowenstein**, Member of the Board, Israeli Committee Against House Demolition and Associate Director, Middle East Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, recalled that on 26 January 1976 the United Nations Security Council debated a draft resolution, introduced by Jordan, the Syria Arab Republic and Egypt, that included all the crucial wording of Security Council resolution 242 (1967). It accepted the right of all states in the region to exist within secure and recognized borders while re-emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This resolution added for the first time, however, what was missing in resolution 242 (1967): recognition of Palestinian national rights. Israel was invited to attend the session by refused to participate, and the United States vetoed the resolution. As a result, such a draft had vanished from historical record despite its significance in marking for the first time a Security Council document that explicitly recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. In the debate leading up to the vote on this resolution, one the of participants remarked that “We are sorry that Israel stayed away from the debate and has instead been wreaking havoc all over and hurling defiance against the alleged bias ... of the United Nations. In truth it was Israel which is maintaining, by use of force, and wished to be left alone to continue, its occupation of the territories of its Arab neighbors”. Persistence in this policy of tone and diktat could only breed more violence, engender further bitterness, and make ever more remote the prospect of peace and cooperation which the Israeli Government professes to be seeking and which all peoples of the Middle East desire and need”. She also recalled that on 7 December 1987, the General Assembly passed resolution 42/159 which, among other things, authorized peoples living under occupation regimes the right to resist.

37. Ms. Lowenstein concluded by noting three pre-conditions that would be necessary to begin a process leading a just settlement. The first would be to demand an end to Israeli crimes, which included the siege of Gaza, an end to Israeli actions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and continued territorial expansion. The second, would be the recognition of the right of Palestinians to have free elections – meaning, in this case, the recognition of Hamas and the establishment of dialogue with it and all other political factions, the release of Palestinian Parliamentarians and the release of thousands of prisoners and illegal detainees. The third pre-condition would be that the Quartet would publicly acknowledge the international consensus as it existed since 26 January 1976 and was broadened by 2002 Arab League Summit in Beirut to include full normalization of relations, in return for Israel's compliance with international law, which had been systematically rejected by Israel and the US.
38. **Michel Warschawski**, Founder and Director, Alternative Information Center, said that Palestinians, after their expulsion from Palestine, had to struggle to reaffirm their existence as people and to struggle to be recognized by the Israeli public opinion. Late President Yasser Arafat and the Fatah had the great merit to impose themselves to the whole world and, at Oslo, to the Israeli Government. The Palestinian legitimacy also imposed itself, thanks to the process of decolonization, as an international phenomenon when after the war in 1967 the Palestinians imposed the legitimacy of their struggle for self-determination and the recognition of the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine. American and Israeli neo-conservative had worked during the second half of the 80s putting into place a global strategy of reconquest of the world, what was called “the shock of civilizations”, identifying an enemy, terrorism, which became the Islamist terrorism and Islam, as well as the strategy of a global, preventive and endless war, against an undefined threat. When Yasser Arafat and Yitshak Rabin negotiated the decolonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the world entered in the era of recolonization. At Camp David, the neo-conservatives announced that international law was over, all United Nations resolutions were irrelevant and the Geneva Convention obsolete. Fifty years after the victory over Hitler, the neo-conservatives wanted to close the chapter of international law and human rights, in other words, impose the law of the jungle.

IV. Closing statements

39. **Na'eem Jeenah**, Co-Chair, International Coordinating Network on Palestine, Spokesperson of the Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa and President of the Muslim Youth Movement, read out a draft call to action by which civil society would strengthen its global campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) as non-violent effort against Israeli occupation and oppression, and commit itself to a campaign opposing Israeli policies as violations of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Under a related provision of the draft, civil society would call on the European Union to organize a fact-finding mission to investigate Israeli violations of the International Convention and other international laws in its treatment of the Palestinian living inside Israel, as well as its violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention in Israel's isolation campaign against the 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip. According to the proposed document, civil society would also, with the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine and others in global civil society, the United Nations, parliaments and parliamentarians and others, join efforts to demand that Governments work to meet obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and under other relevant aspects of

international law. In the document civil society would call on the international community to respect the results of Palestinian democracy and reject the claim that at a time of internal Palestinian division and crisis, the international community and global civil society must simply stand aside.

40. Civil society would also build a campaign of education and mobilization to mark 2008 as a year to commemorate Palestinian dispossession and expulsion, and a year committed to reversing those 60-year-old losses. In particular, the United Nations, the European Union and the Non-Aligned Movement would be called upon to mark 29 November 2007 as an international day to commemorate the 1947 partition resolution and its consequences. Finally, global civil society would be called upon to join Palestinian communities inside Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in mobilizing for a year of educational work beginning on 29 November 2007. That year would include 15 May 2008, as a day of global action to commemorate the Nakba, and the continuing dispossession and denial of Palestinian rights.
41. **Luisa Morgantini**, Vice-President of the European Union, said it was a sign of weakness that a conference on international legality had undergone such pressure against convening the event. That meant that the international community and the European Union were not implementing international legality. The core of the problem remained the violations of international legality, the violations of human rights, the fact that the international community and the EU were not doing what they should be doing and claimed they were for, to implement international legality. The EU should not only speak about human rights, but also implement them. For example, to make Israel accountable for the violations of human rights, and to make the EU accountable for the agreement it signed. The EU should have the courage to suspend the Association Agreement with Israel. Ms. Morgantini called for the creation of a network of members of Parliament, to build a unity among Parliaments, and to inform about Parliamentarians' actions. In South Africa, 200 members of the South African Parliament demonstrated to ask for the end of the Israeli occupation. She ended by saying that the suffering and the destruction in Gaza, Jenin and Nablus could not be ignored, and that work should be done to release Palestinian political prisoners.
42. **Riyad Mansour**, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, said that brave Palestinian people who had survived almost 60 years after the Nakba and 40 years of occupation were still resisting in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. That resistance brought all the participants to express their solidarity. He said that the convening of the conference had a special meaning, adding that it had two objectives: to stress the importance of Europe, because of its genuine friendship with the Palestinian People and because Palestinians wanted parliamentarians to work in support of their cause. The notion that international actors had failed was wrong. The struggle was an ongoing process in which all had a role to play, especially Governments representatives at the United Nations. The Palestinian people were a mature population and deserved to have their wishes respected. It was them who had made a decision to resist the occupation and their decision should be respected.
43. **Paul Badji**, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, aligned the Committee with an important resolution, adopted by the European Parliament on 12 July 2007, calling on Israel and the Palestinians to implement specific steps towards confidence-building and the resumption of a meaningful dialogue.

The Committee also joined the European Union in calling on the Israeli Government to immediately stop the military operations against the Palestinian people; to remove the roadblocks installed since September 2000; to stop the extension of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the building of the wall beyond the 1967 borders; to immediately release all imprisoned former Palestinian Ministers, legislators and mayors, and many others, including minors; and to release the withheld Palestinian tax money and customs revenues. The Committee also joined the Parliament in condemning the killing of innocent people by either side and in denouncing rocket attacks against Israel, and called for a cessation of those activities by Palestinian militants.

44. The Conference had highlighted the fact that the occupying Power continued to disrespect its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. That had serious implications for the whole international community, far beyond the context of the conflict, by eroding the credibility of the international legal system. Europe, the main contributor to the framing of the Geneva Conventions, should take the lead in ensuring respect for the Conventions and thus preserving a central instrument of the international order. The Committee attached great importance to the role of civil society organizations in demanding that the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention live up to their obligations to act against violations of it.
45. The Committee called on parliamentarians to mobilize their constituencies and fellow parliamentarians with a view to impress on them the need for concerted actions by their respective bodies to uphold international law. Their role in monitoring Government's compliance with their obligations under the Convention was of paramount importance.

Annex I

CALL TO ACTION

Realizing the inalienable rights of Palestinian people

We, in civil society, meet at a moment of acute and rising crisis in the Middle East, with grave humanitarian, political, economic and social consequences. In response, we make the following commitments:

1. We demand a complete end to the 40-year occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.
2. We call for an immediate end to the isolation of Gaza.
3. We call for the immediate release of Palestinian parliamentarians and Cabinet ministers illegally kidnapped by Israeli occupation forces.
4. We call on Palestinians to renew their political unity within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for immediate international recognition of such a reunified Palestinian polity.
5. We support our Palestinian civil society counterparts, and we remain very concerned about the threat to democracy posed by the recent banning of 103 Non Government Organizations.
6. We are strengthening our global campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions as a non-violent effort to compel Israel to abide by all international laws and conventions, as stipulated in the 2005 call by the Palestinian civil society. We especially call for an end to arms trade with Israel.
7. We demand that governments meet their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and under other relevant aspects of international law regarding Israeli policies. All signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention have special obligations to implement the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. We call on the European Union to organize a fact-finding mission to investigate Israeli violations of international law and conventions, both inside Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
8. We mark 2008 as a year to commemorate Palestinian dispossession and expulsion, and a year committed to reversing those 60-year-old losses, with particular attention to the unrealized rights of Palestinian refugees. We call on the United Nations, the European Union and the Non-Aligned Movement to mark November 29, 2007 as an international day to commemorate the 1947 partition resolution and its consequences.
9. Finally, we call on global civil society, to join us with Palestinian communities in exile, inside Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in mobilizing for a year of education and campaigning beginning on November 29, 2007. That year will include May 15, 2008, as a day of global mobilization to commemorate the Nakba, and the continuing dispossession and denial of Palestinian rights.

Annex III

List of participants

Speakers

Abdullah Abdullah
Member, Palestinian Legislative Council
Ramallah

Abdelaziz Aboughosh
Ambassador of Palestine to Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur

Andreas van Agt
Professor and former Prime Minister of The Netherlands
Amsterdam

Bassam Al-Salhi
General Secretary, Palestinian People's Party
Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
Jerusalem

Mustafa Barghouti
President, Palestinian National Initiative
Member, Palestinian Legislative Council
Ramallah

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Betty Hunter
Director, Palestine Solidarity Campaign
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Muhammad Jaradat
Coordinator, Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
Bethlehem

Na'eem Jeenah
Spokesperson, Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa
President, Muslim Youth Movement
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Jamal Juma
Coordinator, Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign

Mohammed Khatib
Principal organizer of the village of Bil'in
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Wassim Khazmo
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Richard Kuper
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Member, Machsom Watch
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Luisa Morgantini
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Jordi Pedret
Member of the Spanish Parliament
Barcelona

Danny Rubinstein
Member of the Editorial Board, *Ha'aretz*
Tel Aviv

Sayyeda Salam
Coordinator, One Voice Movement
London

Tobias Schnebli
Member, *Collectif Urgence Palestine*
Geneva

Clare Short
Member of the British Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood

London

Kyriacos Triantaphyllides
Member of the European Parliament
Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council
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Michel Warschawski
Founder and Director, Alternative Information Center
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Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees
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Ramallah

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

Paul Badji
Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations
Chairman of the Committee

Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Vice-Chairman of the Committee

Hamidon Ali
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations

Riyad Mansour
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations
Member

Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Angela Kane
Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Governments

Argentina	Luis Azpiazu, Counsellor Embassy to the European Union
Bahrain	Hashim Hassan Albash, Ambassador to Belgium (non-resident), Embassy of Bahrain in Belgium
Bangladesh	Ashud Ahmed, Counsellor Embassy of Bangladesh in Brussels
Belgium	Hendrik van De Velve, First Secretary Middle East and Africa Division Michel Versailles, First Secretary Katelijne de Nijs, Attaché United Nations Division Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

Benin	Saturnin Tonoukouin, Second Counsellor Embassy of Benin in Brussels
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Brazil Counsellor	André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Minister- Bernard de Garcia Klingl, Counsellor Mission of Brazil to the European Communities
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Djibouti	Ali Bourhan, First Counsellor Embassy of Belgium in Belgium
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Jordan	Amjad Al-Mbdeen, Third Secretary Mission of Jordan to the European Communities
Kuwait	Nabeela Al-Mulla, Ambassador to Belgium Mubarak Al-Hajri, Third Secretary Embassy of Kuwait in Belgium
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Thongphachanh Sonnasinh, Ambassador Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Belgium
Lebanon	Adnan Mansour, Chargé d'affaires Rayan Saïd, Secretary Mission of Lebanon to the European Communities
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mohamed Ghellai, Counsellor Embassy of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Belgium
Madagascar	Jeannot Rakotomalala, Ambassador to Belgium Norbert Richard Ibrahim, First Secretary Embassy of Madagascar to Belgium
Malaysia	Hamidon Ali, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, New York and Head of Delegation Mohammad KIamal Yan Yahaya Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Communities

Nur Ashikin Mohd Taib
Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor
Embassy of Malaysia and Mission to the
European Communities

Malta	Stephen Borg, Counsellor (Political) Ian Causon, First Secretary Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU
Mauritius	Parasram Gopaul, Counsellor Embassy of Mauritius in Brussels
Morocco	Alem Menduar Ambassador to the European Union
Myanmar	Ye Htut, First Secretary Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Brussels
Namibia	Egidius Hakwenye, Chargé d'affaires Elina Ndadi, First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Namibia in Belgium
Oman	Ghazi said Al Rawas, Ambassador to Belgium Dhikrayat Al Zakwani, First Secretary Nisreen Barakat, Translator Embassy of Oman in Belgium
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Pakistan	Saadia Altaf Qazi, Second Secretary Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels
Philippines	Cristina G. Ortega, Ambassador to Belgium Ma. Angelina Sta. Catalina, Minister Deena Joy Amatong, Second Secretary Ma. Chona S. Idul, Information Officer Embassy of the Philippines in Belgium
Qatar	Abdulla Falah Abdulla Al Dosari Ambassador to Belgium Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brussels
Republic of Korea	Keum Chang-rok, First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Belgium

Russian Federation	Sergey Koslov Head, Middle East Peace Process Division Middle East and North Africa Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grigory Orlov, Second Secretary Embassy of the Russian Federation to Belgium
Senegal	Talla Fall, Chargé d'affaires Embassy of Senegal in Brussels
Singapore	Joseph Teo, Deputy Chief of Mission Mission of Singapore in Brussels
Slovenia	Majar Borović, First Secretary Embassy of Slovenia in Brussels
Sudan	Najeib El Kheir Abdelwanab Ambassador to Brussels Hamdi H. Osman, Counsellor Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in Brussels
Switzerland	Pascale Baeriswyl Sarah Bernasconi Swiss Mission to the European Union
Syrian Arab Republic	Mhd Ayman Soussan, Ambassador to the European Community Manal Ain Melk, Attaché Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Brussels
Thailand	Piyapak Sricharoen, Counsellor Royal Thai Embassy in Brussels
Tunisia	Nada Meslamani, Counsellor Embassy of Tunisia in Brussels
Turkey	Hakan Karacay, Second Secretary Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU
Ukraine	Vsevolod Sobko Embassy of Ukraine in Brussels
Uruguay	Cristina Gonzalez, Second Secretary Embassy of Uruguay in Brussels
Venezuela	Miguel Sayago, Second Secretary Embassy of the Republic Bolivarian of Venezuela in Belgium

Viet Nam	Nguyen Manh Cuong Embassy of Viet Nam in Brussels
Yemen	Sultan Azazy, Minister Plenipotentiary Embassy of Yemen in Brussels
Zimbabwe	Martin Tavenyika, First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Brussels

Parliamentarians

Belgian Parliament	Fouad Lahssaini
Belgian Senate	Anne-Marie Lizin, Senator
European Parliament	Zairbre de Brún Gabriel Zimmer Triago Dal-Toe Mari Nishimura
Knesset	Walid Sadik Haj Yahia, former Knesset member
NATO Parliamentary Assembly	André Kahlmeyer Fellow for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf Region

International organizations

Eastern Caribbean States	Arnold Thomas, Minister Counsellor
European Commission	Gwanda Jeffreys-Jones, Desk Officer for the Middle East Peace Process Jaromir Levicek, Desk Officer for the occupied Palestinian territory
Movement of Non-Aligned Countries	Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Organization of the Islamic Conference	Shaher Awawdeh

Non-member States having a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters

Holy See	P. Johann H. Vocking
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Louie J. Dujardin

Entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters

Palestine	Leila Shahid, General Delegate of Palestine to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Fathi Al-Mohor, Deputy General Delegate Soumaya Barghouti, General Delegate of Palestine to the Netherlands, The Hague Chawki Armali, former General Delegate to Belgium and the European Union Mohammed Rabee, General Delegation of Palestine, Italy
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United Nations organs, agencies and bodies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	J. M. Pederson, Director Anna Thaysen André Matton FAO Liaison Office with the EU and Belgium
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Darka Topali, Human Rights Officer Middle East and North Africa Unit Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch
United Nations Environment Programme	Sylvie Motard, Senior Liaison Officer
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Radhouane Nouicer, Director Middle East and North Africa Bureau UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Paul Taylor, Director
United Nations Office Brussels	Antonio Vigilante, Director
United Nations Population Fund	D. Hermans
United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe	Afsané Bassir-Pour, Director Jean-Luc Onckelinx, Information Officer EU and Benelux Desk Åsa Dahlvik, Public Information Assistant Linda Norsby
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Matthias Burchard, Head Representative Office, Geneva Nelly Comon, External Relations

and Liaison Officer
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World Bank

Florian Kitt, Consultant

World Food Programme

Gemmo Lodesani, Director

World Health Organization

Frank George, External Relations Officer
EU Affairs

Civil society organizations

A Different Jewish Voice

Max Wieselmann
Alfred Feberwee

Action for Peace – Italy

Roberto Giudici
Bruna Orlandi

Acsur Las Segovias

Magaly Thill

Actieplatform Palestina

Wim Leysens

Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity
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Alternative Information Center

Michael Warschawski

Alternatives

Catherine Pappas

Amnesty International

François Schwan – AI Belgique francophone
Thyr Buelins – AI Vlaanderen
Pieter Stockmans – AI Flanders
Petra Schöning – AI German Section

Arabs Against Discrimination

Emad Gad Badras

Artistes contre le Mur

Margaretha Van Den Bempt

Asociación Europea de Cooperación
con Palestina

Raquel Donaira Mula

Association belgo-palestinienne

Daniel Dekkers
Joseph Graindorge

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Edward Wuilquot

	Ruth Van Roosmaelen	Monique Munting
	Pol Charles	Marc Clausse
	Nada Dajjani	Yasminah Hamlaoui
	Camille Herremans	Eric Detilleux
	Lucien Belvaux	Stephanie Cachapa
	Dominique Vercheval	Nadia Farkh
	Ludwig Zielinski	François Jadoul
	Marianne Blue	Caroline Ledant
	Vincent Eggerickx-Busschaert	
Association France Palestine Solidari	Sylviane de Wangen	
	Robert Kissous	
Association Médecins du Monde France	Marie-Ange Silicani	
Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe	Kirsten Hjørnholm Sorensen	
Association pour Jérusalem	Danielle Bidard	
	Lucien Champenois	
Association pour un Liban Laïque	Ralph Coeckelberghs	
Association Repères	Karim Amezian Fondateur	
Associazione Giuristi Democratici	Marcell Fahil	
Associazione per la Pace	Laura Cappelli	
ASBL Citoyenneté Active	Mounia Moursni	
Avocats Sans Frontières	Anne-Sophie Oger	
BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights	Muhammad Jaradat	
	Rania Al-Madi	
Bar Association of Liege	Therer MeEric	
Belgian interuniversity cooperation with universities in Palestine (BICUP)	Paul Jacobs	
Bethlehem Society for Rehabilitation and Specialist Surgery	Sonia Robbins	
Broederlijk Delen	Brigitte Herremans	
Centre culturel arabe en Pays de Liège	Nagi Sabbagh	

Centre de droit international	François Dubuisson
Centre des cultures de Bruxelles	Tatiana De Barelli
Centrum voor Ontwikkeling Documentatie en Informatie Palestijnen	Myriam Vandecan
CIMADE Service oecuménique d'entraide	Alain Bosc
Cités Unies France	Simona Giovetti
Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers	Martin Nagler
Collectif Urgence Palestine	Tobias Schnebli
Comité de solidarité avec le peuple palestinien	Odette Snoy Philippe de Henau Bruno Sauvage
Comité de soutien au peuple palestinien	Dominique Waroquiez
Comité pour une paix juste au Proche-Orient	Francesco Perroni Lucien Legrand
Communaute urbaine de Dunkerque	Rose-Anne Bisiaux
Composantes de la communauté Arabe de Belgique	Fadi Benaddi
Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro	Gian Franco Benzi
Confédération générale du Travail	Jean-François Courbe
Conseil de la jeunesse d'expression française/ Comité pour les relations internacionales	Aicha Tarfi
Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries	Monica Bianchi
Coordinationale nationale d'action pour la paix et la Démocratie	Ghys Arnaud
Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding	Christopher Doyle
Culture Trois	Charik Mustapha

Cyprus Solidarity Committee	Vera Polycarpou
Danish Palestinian Friendship Association	Fathi El-Abed
Démocratie ou barbarie	Claire Pahaut
Ecolo	Ahmed Mouhssin
ECI	Sussana Kokkonen
Elijah Trust	Linda Jack
European Jews for a Just Peace	Richard Kuper
European Left	Tatiana Calari
Euro-Med Movement	Joe Mifsud
Europeans throughout the World	Simon-Pierre Nothomb
Fédération générale du Travail de Belgique	Daniel Van Daele Thierry Aerts Lieven Vanhoutte
Federazione Impiegati Operai Metallurgici –Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro	Alessandra Mecozzi Roberto Giudici
Franciscan Center for Development and Mission	Christof Hoyler Louis Bohte
Fraternité Association	Imad Bayane Houssin Benammi
French NGO Platform for Palestine	Florence Giard Maylis Labusquiere
Friends of Al-Aqsa	Ismail Patel
Forum Nord-Sud	Christine Massemin
Génération Palestine	Anaïs Antreasyan Caroline Ledant
German Palestine Society	Christa Clamer Ellen Rohlfs
GISHA - Center for the Legal Protection	Sari Bashi

of Freedom of Movement

Giuristi Democratici

Micól Savia

Groupement des retraités éducateurs
sans frontières

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Legarde Huguette

Groupe citoyen de Nivelles
pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient

Anne Mottart

Groupe Palestinien Santé

Olivette Mikolajczak

Groupe pour une paix Juste
au Proche-Orient de Ittre

Geneviève Freres

Groupe pour une Suisse sans armée

Tobias Schnebli

Humanistic Peace Council

An Polak

Human Rights March

Brita Bastogi

Human Rights Watch

Claire Ivers

Institute for Arab Culture

Arlene Elizabeth Clemesha

INTAL

Mathy Léa

Integratives Forum E.V. – I.F. Hannover

Rolf Gösling
Hildegard Gösling
Eberhard Wolckenhaar
Monika Wolckenhaar

International Forum for Justice and Peace

Andreas A.M. van Agt
Berend Smoes

In Cité Mondy ASBL

Alain De Clerck

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Sarah Douik

Israeli Committee Against House
Demolitions – UK

Angela Godfrey-Goldstein
Jennifer Loewenstein
Linda Ramsden

Jews for Justice for Palestinians

Irene Bruegel
Arthur Goodman

Kinder USA

Dalell Diane Mohamed

La Pensée libre de la Néthen

Christiane Schomblond

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Le Centre démocrate humaniste	Dominique Weerts
Ligue française pour la défense des droits de l’homme et du citoyen	Maryse Artiguelong
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MCPalestine	Betul Kurtoglu
Medical Aid for Palestinians	Maria Mouskou Darrin Walker
Ministry for Peace	Ahlam Akram
Missionszentrale der Franziskaner	Margarethe Mehren
Mouvement Citoyen pour la Palestine	Nordine Saïdi Nathalie Preudhomme
Mouvement de Femmes	Fotoula Ioannidis
Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (France)	Renée Le Mignot
Movimiento por la Paz (MPDL)	Francisco Segovia Francisca Sauquillo
Movimondo	Giulia Franchi Luca Tommasini
Netherlands Palestine Committee	Win Lankamp Sonja Zimmermann Kees Wagtendonk
Neturei Karta International	Moshe Cohen (US) Eleazer Hochhausser (UK) Alter Hochhausser (UK) Paul Simon Hirsch
Olof Palme International Foundation	Anna Balletbò Svjetlana Duric
One Voice Movement (EUROPE)	Sayyeda Salam (UK)

Organisation Mondial Contre la Torture (OMCT)	Laétitia Sedou
Organization of Solidarity among the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America	Alfonso Fraga Perez
Oxfam GB – Middle East, Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States Regional Centre	Richard Stanforth
Oxfam Novib	Suying Lai
Oxfam Solidarité	Hilt Teuwen
Oxfam - Wereldwinkels vzw	Eline Demey
Paix juste au Proche-Orient	Lilian Catelin Christiane Schubert
Paläsinensische Gemeinde Duesseldorf e.V.	Wael Al Saad
Palestine Solidarity Campaign	Elizabeth Mary Hunter Jennifer Najar
Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa	Na'eem Jeenah
Palestinian Grassroot Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign	Jamal Juma
Palestinian NGO Network	Allam Jarrar
Parti de la gauche européenne	Gregorio Liberté Tatiana Calori
Pax Christi International	Paul Lansu Marcel De Prins (Vlaanderen) Giovanni de Weerd (Vlaanderen) Ferdinando Capovilla (Italia)
Portsmouth Network for a Just Settlement of the Arab-Israeli Conflict	Angus Geddes
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Victor Makari

Présence et action culturelles	Dominique Surleau	
Progetto Sviluppo CGIL	Sergio Bassoli	
Quaker Council for European Affairs	Martina Weitsch	
Rabbis for Human Rights	Chaim A. Cohen	
Réseau euro-méditerranéen des droits de l'homme	Sandrine Grenier	
Rete Ebrei Contro l'Occupazione (ECO)	Ester Fano	
Service Civil International (Belgium)	Stephanie Lambrecht Valerie Mouton	Malika Dragh Anaele Hermans
Simon Wiesenthal Centre	Stanley Trevor Samuels	
Society for Austro-Arab Relations	Fritz Edlinger	
Solidar	Conny Reuter	
Solidarité socialiste	Gladys Cifuentes Michelle Warriner	
Studiedienst	Kathelijnn de Decker	
Trócaire (CARITAS)	Eoin Murray	
Union des Progressistes Juifs de Belgique	Henri Wajnblum Thérèse Frankfort-Liebmann Adi Raz	
Union juive française pour la paix	Viviane Cohen Mireille Mendes France Georges Gumpel Liliana Cordova Kaczerginsky	
UNISON	Nick Sigler	
Vlaams Palestina Komitee	Ria Cabus Johan Bosman	
Vrede vzw	Soetkin van Muylem Ludo De Brabander	
War on Want	Ruth Tanner	
Women in Black	Amalia Sangiorgi (Turin)	

Agnese Manca (Turin)
Margherita Granero(Turin)
Daniele Giulia (Turin)
Simona Ricciardelli (Napoli)
Lily van den Bergh (The Netherlands)
Edith Rubenstein (Belgium)
Maria Rita Fontanella

Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom

Sancia Gaetani

World Council of Churches

Michel Nseir

Public

Jennifer Dixon, independent volunteer/supporter/researcher within the civil society network

Piere Urbain - Catholic University of Louvain

Ziyad Abualrob - Catholic University of Louvain

Stefan Deconinck - Katholieke Universiteit van Brussel (KUB)

Hocine Ouazraf - Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis - Centres d'études sociologiques

Hildegard De Vuyst - Royal Flemish Theatre (KVS)

Michel Vincineau, Professor Emeritus

Maria Boffito

Anne-Catherine Calonne

Nicole Urfels

Stéphanie Gomin

Eisa Salloum

Sirio Conte

Rima Othman

Daniel G. Slatopolsky

Marinelli Sanvito

Virginie Cossoul

Manuela Carrera

Guillaume Defosse

Elisa Claessens

Yvette van Hauwe

Barbara Antonelli

Andreana Verdelocco

Paola Pigafetta

Claudia Ogianni

Romano Petronilla

Francesca Citarelli

Ornella Clementi

Emilie Van Laer

Monjia Tanazefi

Elbousaksaki Sabah

Serge Palotai

Colle Gauthier

Shadjareh Hasseoud

María Rosa Martínez Méndez

Media

Sally Fitzharris, freelance journalist

Veronique Vercheval, photographer

Richard Donk, Reformatorisch Dagblad

Jan Sliva, *Associated Press*

Paul Taylor, European Affairs Editor, *Reuters*

Mark John, Senior Correspondent EU and NATO, *Reuters*

Daniel Schwammenthal - *The Wall Street Journal Europe*

Kjell Karlsson Kihiberg, freelance correspondent

Christian Van Rompaey - En Marche

Karin Kirste, Producer, Austrian Broadcasting Corporation/Radio and Television

Matthys Nieuwenhuis, *Radio Netherlands*

Annex III

Summaries of workshops

1. The representatives of civil society organizations in the workshop “Fortieth anniversary of the occupation: Building on action taken by civil society and moving forward; connecting with worldwide peace and social movements and initiatives to uphold international law” recalled that in 2005 in Durban, the Palestinian civil society organizations made a statement with one position and one message: the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions (BDS) campaign. It was very important to supporters of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to continue to call for unity. The ANC in South Africa had a very clear four-part strategy: to mobilize the local population for a symbolic arms struggle; a diplomatic strategy; mobilization of global civil society; and a very defined, clear and direct leadership about how each of those parts fitted together. So, when there was a call for divestment, civil society responded, not because all the details were spelled out, but because the broad framework of divestment was part of the strategy put forward globally to build a non-racial South Africa. In some countries boycott was not feasible, but divestment was, and in some places sanctions were possible. BDS as a whole was a unifying strategy. The principle to rely on was the principle of equality, whether it was one state, two states, no state or three states. Civil society should turn to parliamentarians to ask for the establishment of a Committee to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention and to meet as quickly as possible.
2. The workshop on the theme “Engaging parliaments and parliamentarians, mainstreams parties and movements, elected local officials and trade unionists”, stressed the importance of building networks in trade unions and to improve the capacity of civil society to apply more effective pressure on parliamentarians to deepen their interventions. The need was also stressed to apply international humanitarian law to violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. It was therefore important to stress the consequences of not implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention namely of growing insecurity and instability with its effects felt well beyond the Middle East region. Interventions needed to be focused, needed to understand the context and discourse of parliamentary discussion and not simply abstract demands. The need to increase coordination and build a network of parliamentarians across Europe was emphasized.
3. The workshop on the theme “Enhancing European contribution to international peace efforts – The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008”, stressed the need to take positive action to reframe the conflict while holding Israel accountable for its responsibilities under international law, and to take up the issue of war crimes. The Arab Peace Initiative should be supported. The need for dialogue with all parties was highlighted as recognized by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the United Kingdom House of Commons in mid-August when it argued that the decision of not speaking with Hamas in 2007 following the Mecca Agreement was counterproductive. Policies of isolating political groups produced an environment even more conducive to extremism. The EU should take immediate steps to bring its own aid policy in line with its declared foreign policy objectives of furthering human rights and facilitating Palestinian self-determination. It should include the following

elements: (a) donors should not allow aid to facilitate Israel's strategy of maximum control with minimum responsibility; (b) donors should focus on the duty to protect civilians; (c) the EU should develop a more coherent strategy towards Palestinian civil society to assist in the process of developing a democratic and secular Palestinian State. An international campaign should be started to open Gaza, otherwise its future would be horrific. Finally, it was more important to focus on the occupation than intercultural exchange.

4. Participants in the workshop "Strengthening campaigns to end the occupation and to realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People" stressed that there were policies important to a global strategy to apply the international Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. That did not mean to make a comparison between South Africa and the reality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. There were ways to identify trends and methods of control of the bantustanization, which were reminders of the apartheid system. Bil'in was a symbol on how a struggle with little resources could be used for maximum efficiency. On the level of strategy, there was a general agreement among speakers and participants about the centrality of the issue of unity of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. Centrality of international law was a main tool in advocacy and struggle to legitimize Palestinian rights. On the level of objectives and priorities, Gaza was chosen first as an urgent topic for international mobilization; second, to continue to emphasize the general slogan of "Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions", and to identify specific targets; third, the education task should continue, specially in the framework of the so-called clash of civilizations, by deconstructing false images of the Arab world and the Palestinians.
5. Participants in the workshop "Empowering women and women's organizations to play a decisive role in promoting Israel-Palestinian peace", focused on the dual oppression of Palestinian women: facing a patriarchal society and as any occupied people facing Israeli oppression, as well as Palestinian and Israeli women as activists. The impact of checkpoints on women was discussed, as well as the breakdown of Palestinian families as a result of Israeli policy, when families in the West Bank and Jerusalem could not live together or visit each other and their children were not allowed to visit their father. It was noted that there was an increase of early marriages among Palestinian girls, an increasing number of Palestinian girls dropping out of school, and an increase of domestic violence against Palestinian women by Palestinian men as a result of frustration and as a direct consequence of the occupation, as well as an increase in honour killings. Three concrete proposals were presented: first, one activity that was already taking place, a tribunal on Israel and international law with a focus on Palestinian women and children in Israel, that took place on 26 and 27 January in Denmark; a call for an International Women's Conference to discuss the situation of Palestinian women and the occupation; and thirdly, to declare every 8 March a global day of solidarity with Palestinian women.