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AS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENS ANNUAL DEBATE ON SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM,

DELEGATIONS PLEDGE TO KEEP PUSHING FOR EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO END YEARS-LONG DEADLOCK

Assembly President Says Reform Model Should Address Views of All States, Developing Country Envoys Say Proposal for Interim Measure Postpones Real Action

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Background

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The Assembly also had before it a Report of the Security Council ([A/64/2](#)), covering the period between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009. In Part I, activities relating to all questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security are covered. These include resolutions adopted by the Council, statements made or issued by the Council President, and reports of Security Council missions.

In Part II, the questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security are reviewed. These include items relating to the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question; the situation in Somalia, Afghanistan, and other geographic areas around the world; United Nations peacekeeping operations, the protection of civilians in armed conflicts; threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts; and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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Statement by the General Assembly President

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It was further encouraged that the Council expand its practice of holding open meetings and briefings, he said, adding that the recent practice of consulting non-Council members in the preparation of the annual report should be broadened. The Council's report outlined the wide range of issues on its agenda and, given the crucial nature of its work, scrutiny of its performance was intense. The Council had been questioned for not being able to fully shoulder its responsibility in dealing with some of the most pressing peace and security issues, including the Middle East and the Palestinian question.

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Introduction of Report of the Security Council

Introducing the Security Council's annual report in his capacity as the current President of 15-member body, THOMAS MAYR-HARTING ([Austria](#)) said that again this year, the Council had faced a challenging and complex set of situations and issues throughout the world. ...

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... The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, had received close attention and, he said, the Council adopted two resolutions, one focusing on support to the overall peace process, and the parties' agreed principle of bilateral negotiations, and the other calling for a ceasefire leading to the full withdraw of Israeli forces from Gaza.

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Statements

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TAMFEEQ AHMED ALMANSOOR ([Bahrain](#)) ...

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While noting that the Council had dealt successfully with many issues, such as situations in Africa, it had failed to tackle other highly important questions, such as the Question of Palestine, which was still on agenda. More efforts were needed to have the Council's work and ensure that it was more transparent in order to dissipate the ambiguity around its work, he said.

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MOURAD BENMEHIDI ([Algeria](#)), citing the Council's annual report, said that during the year, the Council had adopted more than 130 texts and held more than 200 meetings. However, the report did not include the cases in which the Council had failed to reach a decision on a specific issue. Nor did it explain why the Council was unable to react to Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip. The Assembly's adoption of resolution 64/10 (2008) requested Secretary-General to transmit the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission to the Council. Doing so would allow the Council to face up to its duties. The Council had to address violations of international humanitarian law and human rights outlined in that report. ...

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GHAZI JOMAA ([Tunisia](#)), ...

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The report showed the Council had acted with determination to resolve conflicts around the world, he said, which enhanced its authority, but efforts had fallen far below what could have been hoped for in the Middle East, notably on the Palestinian question. Much had to be done to improve transparency and access to information. ...

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SUSAN WAFFA-OGOO ([Gambia](#)) ...

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... Moving on to issues of the Middle East and the Palestinian question, she expressed worry that the issue had received attention for decades but defied solution. For the Palestinians, the unending settlement and land-grabbing activity was the greatest threat to a two-state solution. "What is worrying here is the Council's failure to insist on respect for its numerous resolutions on the situation. We urge the Council to see to the implementation of its long-standing resolutions on the Palestinian question," she said.

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