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**STATEMENT
BY
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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**BEFORE
THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE**

**67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND
OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES”**

**NEW YORK
12 NOVEMBER 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me once again thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to address the Committee on this important agenda item. My delegation wishes also to thank the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for the comprehensive report tabled before this Committee.

Similarly, I thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ivan Simonovic for the statement he delivered on 9 November 2012, through which he introduced five reports under agenda item 53. While my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Khazaei, the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the NAM, allow me also to make additional comments on behalf of my country Namibia.

Mr Chairman,

Once again this year, my delegation has taken note with concern, of the failure by the Israeli government to respond to numerous requests by the *Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories*.

The report which was presented to this Committee highlights a number of disturbing practices by Israel, the

occupying Power, such as: the mass imprisonment of Palestinians, including children, the confiscation of land, demolition of houses, illegal expansion of settlements, construction of the Apartheid wall, exploitation of natural resources and restrictions on freedom of movement as well as the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, to mention, but a few.

Namibia deplores these abhorring practices by the Israeli government that are affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian people. The practices by the Israeli government contradict the noble pledge in the United Nations Charter to reaffirm *faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women.*

Mr Chairman,

Namibia believes that the expansion and construction of illegal settlements and erection of walls of annexation are meant to change the facts on the ground. The Israeli government has been perpetuating these settlement activities in total disregard for international public opinion and in contempt of international law.

The illegal expansion and construction of Israeli settlements in and around East Jerusalem are nothing but, an attempt to alter the legal status of the city and its physical, demographic and cultural character. Namibia,

therefore, calls on Israel, as the occupying Power, to stop these inhuman activities which are illegal in terms of international law.

We underline our total rejection of these illegal actions and remind the occupying power of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, a fundamental principle that Israel is gravely breaching. Israel's deplorable blockade of Gaza Strip is a clear and collective punishment of the entire civilian population. Israel must be obliged to cease immediately this gross collective punishment of the Palestinian people. The hardship and misery being imposed on Gaza is morally unjustifiable and unacceptable by any human standard.

To that effect, we once again, call on the international community to demonstrate its resolve and compel Israel to end its occupation of the Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and abide by its legal obligations including those under the 4th Geneva Convention and in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The international humanitarian law cannot be applied selectively.

Mr Chairman,

Namibia believes that every country is duly entitled to adequate security, however, in the pursuit of its security; Israel should not and must not violate the human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories.

In 2011 Namibia welcomed UNESCO's admission of Palestine as a member; however, for us the ultimate aim is the admission of Palestine as a full member state of the United Nations. We look forward to the day when this committee will no longer have to consider this item on its programme of work, because a lasting solution to this problem has been found.

I thank you.