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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
MR. RAJA REZA RAJA ZAIB SHAH
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 60: PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST
JERUSALEM, AND OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED
SYRIAN GOLAN, OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES**

26 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan that was presented under this agenda item. Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative from South Africa, on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since 1967, Israel has exploited the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Authority, including East Jerusalem and other Arab territories, resulting in an increasingly detrimental impact on the socio-economic fabric of the Palestinian people.

3. The report by the Economic Social Commission for Western Asia confirms that the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as well as occupied Syrian Golan has not improved.

4. In 2014, the Palestinian civilian death toll was the highest recorded since 1967, and the level of destruction was unprecedented, owing in particular to the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force during the 50-day Gaza conflict last year.



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The deterioration in the human rights situation is attributed to the policies and practices of the occupying power, Israel. Israel continues employing practices and policies in violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

5. The construction of the West Bank Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, for example, would continue to have a negative impact on the Palestinian population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The Palestinians in that area are forced to obtain special permits from Israeli authorities to pass through to their farmland and water resources. The Apartheid Wall would also destruct important agricultural land and destabilize the delicate ecosystem of the surrounding area, with severe negative consequences for both the environment and the livelihoods of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We note with grave concern on the gross violations of children's rights, the most vulnerable group in the Occupied Territories. Palestinians students continue to suffer from practices of the Israeli military and settler attacks. Incidents involving schools almost tripled in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from 2013 to 2014, affecting nearly 25,000 Palestinian children. This fact indicates that whole generations of Palestinians have grown into adulthood knowing only occupation, repression and violence. The harsh facts of life for children living under Occupation will bear negatively not just on their future, but also for the prospect of peace in the Middle East since they represent the future.

7. We also note that the Syrian residents of the occupied Syrian Golan continue to suffer from discrimination in term of access to land, entrepreneurial activity, basic services and water allocation. Syrian farmers in the occupied Syrian Golan are at an unequal and disadvantaged position due to high levels restrictions on the use of water. Moreover, the illegal exploitation of natural resources at the occupied Syrian Golan is further aggravated by the issuance of licence for exclusive petroleum exploration by the Israeli authority.

8. We are deeply concern that poverty rates in the West Bank, Gaza and in particular East Jerusalem are alarming and unemployment continues to be at an unacceptably high level particularly those living in Gaza. The prolonged series of high unemployment and unstable working conditions will inevitably resulted in large-scale deskilling of workers as well as other social and economic related



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problems.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The reclaiming of the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinians over their natural resources is therefore key in reversing this crisis. Nevertheless, this issue cannot be approached in isolation. Malaysia therefore welcomes the Palestinian decision to accede to various international conventions and treaties earlier this year. The move is a step in the right direction towards making Palestine a responsible member of the international community, bound by the rules and norms of international law.

10. Definitely the persistent pattern of willful violations of international law and human rights abuses is not reflective of the intention and actions of a government that is supposedly sincere and committed to achieving peace with its neighbor. Israel must be made to stop its illegal actions and be accountable for the violations they perpetrated. It must be made abide by relevant international law, international human rights law and various General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We urge the United Nations system to strengthen its programmes of assistance to mitigate the sufferings faced by the Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan, through adequate resources and effective operational activities. We also call upon the international community to ensure that the relevant UN agencies, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are provided with adequate and reliable funding, and financial resources to facilitate their work in reducing the hardships and crisis caused by the infringement of the sovereignty of Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

12. To conclude, Mr. Chairman, Malaysia strongly believe and hope that the ongoing peace talks will finally pave the way for the beginning of a process of reconciliation, reconstruction, development and ultimately, flourishing of the Palestinian State and people.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.