



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NEVILLE
GERTZE ON INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN THE OPT, THIRD COMMITTEE**

26 OCTOBER 2017

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes Mr. Mark, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967, and commend him on the great work under tough circumstances, leading to the compilation of the report presented before the Committee. Regrettably, my delegation is disappointed that the report is compiled with the information provided by people living outside the Occupied Territory, as permission for his visit to the occupied territory was once again not granted by the Israeli authorities, the predicament faced by his predecessors. We strongly believe it would have been better if the Israeli authority could allow access to the SR, to gather first hand information and assessment of the situation on ground, and produce a comprehensive report based on factual observation of the situation. The continuous non-cooperation of the Israeli Authority to the SR is strongly regrettable by my delegation.

My delegation is strongly concerned by the declining health care at hospitals and medical facilities in Gaza, which is accelerated by continuous electricity outage. We are further alarmed by the increased demolition of Palestine structures leaving hundreds of inhabitants displaced in heart-wrenching conditions, and by the continued expansion of settlements in West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The status-quo of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is a clear indication of the persistent failure of the occupying power in complying with its international legal obligations, and the perpetuating violation of the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Over 60 years down the line, and the adoption of so many resolution by United Nations General Assembly, Security Council and the Human Right Council, the Question of Palestine remains unresolved, and there are no effective actions taken to bring Israel in line with its international obligations. Namibia believes the international community should consider shifting the paradigm in dealing with the question of Palestine, by tapping from other practical examples of similar or related situations that yielded successful results, in particular the Namibian case alluded to in the SR report. Namibia therefore, wishes to find out from the SR whether there is a possibility of seeking the advisory opinion on the Palestinian Question from International Court of Justice, to determine the legality of ongoing occupation of the Palestinian Territory.