

Réunion : Comité pour l'exercice des droits inaliénables du peuple palestinien

Date : 25 novembre 2013

Durée : 7'50'' (125 mots/minute)

Orateur : L'observateur permanent de l'État de Palestine auprès des Nations Unies

Difficulté : **

Éléments à fournir :

L'orateur parle de la Commission des questions politiques spéciales et de la décolonisation (4^{ème} Commission).

Oslo Accords	Accords d'Oslo
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	OCHA Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires
UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	UNRWA Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient

I want to begin, Mr Chairman, by thanking you for your briefing and thanking the Bureau and the Committee for their efforts over the past month, and also to take this opportunity to again welcome the new members of the Bureau as this is their first meeting of the Committee since their election to the Bureau and to renew Palestine's congratulations to Nicaragua, to Indonesia, and to Namibia and to the distinguished ambassadors leading their delegations here at the United Nations. We are certain that the Bureau's work is going to be further enhanced by their inclusion.

With reference to the briefing that you delivered, Mr Chairman, we do wish to thank the Chair for participating in the Security Council open debate that was held last month on The Question of Palestine and The Situation in the Middle-East. We find the Committee's statement to be an important contribution in those quarterly debates in the Security Council, reflecting the concerns of the Members and observers of the Committee regarding the situation on the ground. And also, to convey our appreciation for the statement that was issued by the Bureau on the 7th of November regarding ongoing Israeli settlement activities in occupied Palestine which continue in grave breach of international humanitarian law and UN resolutions and which continue to have a very deleterious impact both on the ground and in terms of the newly resumed political process.

So in that regard, I wish to give just an overview of the situation on the ground since the Committee last met. Unfortunately, I cannot give a positive overview of the situation as developments have been negative in the past period.

Of course, as I just referred to, the issue of settlement activities, and as the Chair refereed to, has been ongoing and it has really intensified tensions and mistrust between the parties and is seen as a reflexion of bad faith on the part of Israel the occupying power, in the context of the resumed negotiations.

We are grateful for the support given by the international community for the negotiations process, for the political process as a whole, but we are also aware that we have entered these negotiations, and the support of the international community has been forthcoming, on the basis of the longstanding parameters of the negotiations process and the longstanding terms

of reference. And that is how we have gone into those negotiations. The Palestinian leadership has gone in fully committed and in good faith on that basis, and unfortunately the developments of the past just a little over three months since the negotiations process began have not borne out that commitment on the Israeli side.

The recent provocative declarations made by the Israeli government and Israeli officials regarding their intention to proceed with thousands of new settlement units, the construction of new settlements for the expansion of existing settlements, was met with the resignation of Palestine's negotiating team. And a statement was issued by our Negotiations Affairs Department in this regard, explaining the inability for the team to proceed in the political process under such conditions. So, in essence, the conditions on the ground are difficult, as are the conditions in the political process.

At the same time, as you mentioned Mr Chair, there was a release of prisoners at the end of October. Another group of long term prisoners held for over two decades by the occupying power. This release was welcomed by the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people. It is the fulfillment of an agreement long ago reached between the parties in the context of the signing of the Oslo Accords and the implementation of that agreement in the context of this resumed political process was an important development. However it was also undermined by the announcement of further illegal settlement activity as well as by the fact that the occupying power continues the daily arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians throughout the entire period prior to and since the resumption of the political process, including the detention of children some younger than 12 years old.

At the same time, the humanitarian crisis persists in Gaza. The blockade continues and despite certain developments in past months regarding the entry of construction materials and others, this has now been suspended and the situation in the Gaza Strip in terms of socioeconomic conditions of the population and in terms of the humanitarian situation is of grave concern.

The Palestinian civilian population in Gaza is not only facing a situation in which essential goods and medicines are lacking, there are power outages due to the fuel shortages and the

inability of the infrastructure which is very dilapidated and in which there is no capacity to repair it. These power outages are obviously affecting families at the most basic level but also affecting institutions including the running of hospitals and health centers which some days are experiencing up to 16 hours of power outages. At the same time the water situation is also critical. All off these issues have been reported on extensively by OCHA, by UNRWA and by other UN agencies and I would draw the Committee's attention to the report Gaza 2020 regarding the likelihood that if this situation is not reversed, that Gaza will be uninhabitable by the year 2020. That report, I think, summarizes and highlights the concerns of the UN system vis-a-vis Gaza and what should be among our priority concerns here in the Committee.

Moving on to the issues here at the United Nations for the State of Palestine, including the consideration of draft resolutions during the 68th Session.

Several resolutions were recommended last week by the 4th Committee, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, to the General Assembly. I wanted to renew Palestine's gratitude for the overwhelming support given by Member States including Members and observers of the Committee for the 8 resolutions concerning UNRWA, the Palestine refugees, and addressing Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people.