

Brazil

Item 7 – General Debate

IBSA Statement

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the IBSA countries, namely India, Brazil and South Africa.

First and foremost, we wish thank Mr. Richard Falk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Like his predecessor, Mr. Falk has managed to shed light on the grave violations on international Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The IBSA countries fully support the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur until the end of occupation. The new mandate holder, like his predecessors, must be sensitive to the imperative need for the realization of the rights to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

We also thank the UNSG and the High Commissioner for their reports.

The facts presented here today are distressing. The settlement activities and the expansion thereof in the OPTs must be stopped immediately. Settlements must be dismantled. The deliberate destruction of Palestinian resources denies their right to quality of life and improved livelihood. This illegal form of occupation must be reversed. This is not a concession to be made in the course of negotiations, but rather an obligation as per International law and various resolutions of the HRC and the Security Council.

The economic and social condition of the population of Gaza is also a matter of great concern. India, Brazil and South Africa call upon Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza and, pending such measure, further facilitate the movement of persons and goods to and from Gaza.

Mr. President,

Occupation remains as the main cause of human rights violations in Palestine. Existing conflicts cannot be solved by force by any side.

We condemn all forms of violence between Israel and Palestine, deeply regret the loss of lives and express deep concern with the disproportionate use of force and the destruction of infrastructure.

We reiterate our commitment to increase dialogue and understanding, both here and in other fora, with a view to ensure the enjoyment of human rights in Palestine and Israel.

The granting of Observer State status to Palestine by the General Assembly with overwhelming support, made it clear that there is no alternative to the two-state solution in the quest for peace in the Middle East.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate that India, Brazil and South Africa remains committed to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We hope negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians will lead to the realization of the two-State solution, based on the 1967 borders. We commend the efforts undertaken so far and encourage further dialogue in order to pave the way for a comprehensive peace agreement.

Thank you.