

Statement 1 (2025)

Statement on the Catastrophic Humanitarian Crisis in Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, meeting in Geneva at its 115th session from 22 April to 09 May 2025,

Acting under its follow-up procedure on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Conciliation Commission in its report¹ on the inter-State communication submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel under Article 11 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Acting also under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure, recalling its Decision 2 (2024)² of 12 December 2024 which raises serious concerns regarding the obligations of Israel and other State parties to prevent war crimes, and crimes against humanity and genocide,

Alarmed by the intensification of military operations by Israeli forces across the Gaza Strip since early March 2025, including indiscriminate bombardment and expanded ground incursions, which have dramatically worsened the humanitarian crisis and severely endangered the civilian population and critical humanitarian infrastructures,

Concerned by the rapid deterioration of the situation across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where patterns of destruction, mass displacement, and settler violence increasingly mirror those witnessed in Gaza, by the continuing blockade imposed by Israeli authorities, the banning of UNRWA, as well as the systematic obstruction of life-saving humanitarian aid, particularly food and medicines,

Deeply alarmed that, as of 25 April 2025, the World Food Programme has exhausted its food reserves in Gaza, and that most of the water and electricity infrastructures are destroyed or severely damaged³, placing the civilian population—especially vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—at imminent risk of famine, disease, and death,

Reaffirming the Secretary-General's remarks to the Security Council's open debate⁴ on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, stressing the need for the access of humanitarian assistance to be restored immediately, the safety of UN personnel and humanitarian partners be guaranteed, and UN agencies be allowed to work 'in full respect of humanitarian principles',

¹ [CERD/C/113/3](#), Report of the Ad Hoc Conciliation Commission on the inter-State communication submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel under article 11 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 August 2024.

² [INT CERD EWU 10086 E](#), Early Warning and Urgent Action Decision on Israel and the State of Palestine, 12 December 2024.

³ [WFP runs out of food stocks in Gaza as border crossings remain closed](#), WFP Press Release, 25 April 2025, [Gaza: UN aid teams reject Israel's 'deliberate attempt to weaponize aid'](#), UN News, 6 May 2025.

⁴ [SG/SM/22631](#), 'Take Irreversible Action towards Implementing Two-State Solution', Secretary-General Tells Member States at Security Council Debate, United Nations Press Release, 29 April 2025.

Reaffirming also the resolution⁵ adopted by the Human Rights Council in its fifty-fifth session, demanding that Israel immediately lift its blockade on the Gaza Strip and all other forms of collective punishment, calling for an immediate ceasefire,

Reiterating the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Conciliation Commission on the inter-State communication submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel,

Stresses the urgent need for an immediate and lasting ceasefire and establishment of safe humanitarian corridors;

Urges the State of Israel to lift all barriers to humanitarian access, allow the immediate and unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid, and cease all actions obstructing the provision of essential services to the civilian population in Gaza;

Urges all State parties to the Convention to fulfill their obligations by taking all appropriate measures, individually and collectively, to prevent further escalation of hostilities and ensure the protection of civilians;

Urges all State parties to fully respect their international obligations, in particular, those arising from the Convention, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and common article 1 of the four Geneva Conventions, to cooperate to bring an end to the violations that are taking place and to prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, including by ceasing any military assistance if there is a clear risk that such assistance could be used in violation of international law.

9 May 2025

⁵ [A/HRC/RES/55/28](#), Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council, 5 April 2024.