

Item 2: General Debate



Settlement Construction, Grave Violation of International Law

Mr. President,

Settlement of the occupying power migrants in the occupied territories was confirmed as a “grave breach” in the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention. While in the OPT, the occupation power uses the settling of migrants for strengthening its permanent presence, controlling the territories, disrupting the Palestinians' access to their lands and violation of the right to self-determination as the cornerstone of the UN Charter and the two International Covenants. The illegality of settlement construction has been confirmed by the ICC, UN General Assembly, the UN HC, the HRC, the EU, ICRC, the signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention and nongovernmental organizations. The Security Council has reiterated at least 11 times that in accordance with the UN Charter, grabbing lands through war and force is unacceptable. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, deems Israel’s policy of settlement construction a “war crime” according to international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute.

Mr. President,

ODVV presents the Council with a question:

When Israel overlooks hundreds of UN General Assembly and HRC Resolutions, ICC Advisory Opinion, dozens of OPT special Rapporteur reports and even the recently established CoIOPT, while pursuing the continuous breach of human rights, what should be done with the occupying power?