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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/30 on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the matter at its fifty-second session.

* The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect the most recent information.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/30, in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Security Council decided, *inter alia*, that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision.

2. In paragraph 2 of resolution 49/30, the Human Rights Council deplored the continuing settlement policies and practices in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the holding of the Israeli cabinet in the occupied Syrian Golan to announce new plans to establish and expand illegal settlements and to double the numbers of the settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan within five years, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement-related plans and activities in the occupied Syrian Golan.

3. In resolution 49/30, the Human Rights Council also requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it as widely as possible and to report on this matter to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second session. In addition, it decided to continue its consideration of the human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Golan at its fifty-second session.

II. Implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 49/30

4. On 13 December 2022, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on behalf of the Secretary-General, addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel referring to Human Rights Council resolution 49/30 and requesting information on the steps taken or envisaged concerning the implementation of the resolution. At the time of writing, no reply had been received.

5. Also on 13 December 2022, on behalf of the Secretary-General, OHCHR addressed a note verbale to all permanent missions in Geneva to draw their attention to Human Rights Council resolution 49/30 and requested that they provide information on any steps taken or envisaged concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. The Permanent Missions of Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic responded to this request.

6. On the same day, on behalf of the Secretary-General and pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/30, OHCHR addressed a note verbale to the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, and international humanitarian organizations to bring the resolution to their attention and to request information on its implementation.

7. On 19 December 2022, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed a note verbale to OHCHR stressing that Human Rights Council resolution 49/30, like all previous relevant Council resolutions, remained unimplemented in the light of the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, since 1967 of its practices that systematically violated the human rights of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that those practices constituted violations of international resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council in relation to the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, including Security Council resolutions 237 (1967), 242 (1967), 497 (1981) and all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions adopted since 2006, as well as decisions of the Human Rights Committee. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic noted that the actions of Israel constituted a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva

Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.

8. The Syrian Arab Republic described an increase in the frequency of human rights violations against the Syrian population perpetrated by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan since the illegal declaration by the United States of America recognizing the annexation by Israel of the occupied Syrian Golan, which the United States Administration had not revoked. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed that this announcement blatantly violated the principles and provisions of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council considered the decision by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan null and void with no international legal effect. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the declaration was also in violation of Human Rights Council resolutions relevant to the occupied Syrian Golan, including resolution 49/30.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that following the illegal declaration by the United States Administration, in the outcome document issued at the Baku Summit held in October 2019, States members of the Non-Aligned Movement renewed their principled position concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and the protection of the rights of its Syrian citizens. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the Non-Aligned Movement had also condemned the recognition by the United States of the annexation by Israel of the occupied Syrian Golan and called on the international community and the Security Council to assume their responsibilities in that context, as the declaration constituted a violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

10. The Syrian Arab Republic further recalled the condemnation of 26 March 2019 by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) of the recognition by the former President of the United States of the “sovereignty of Israel” over the occupied Syrian Golan and called upon the international community and the Security Council to assume their responsibilities in that context. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that in its statement, OIC had emphasized that the declaration by the United States constituted a clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, especially Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 497 (1981). The Syrian Arab Republic noted that OIC had affirmed that the decision of the United States did not change the legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that the General Secretariat of OIC had urged States across the world to respect internationally recognized resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan and not to recognize any measure inconsistent with those resolutions.

11. The Syrian Arab Republic referred to the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, in which he reaffirmed the validity of Security Council resolution 497 (1981).¹ The Syrian Arab Republic noted that the above-mentioned note confirmed previous conclusions that had indicated that the long-term Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land and the occupied Syrian Golan continued to have a harmful impact on the living conditions of the Palestinian and Syrian populations, as well as on the social and economic development in the occupied territories, especially in the light of the multi-layered nature of Israeli practices and their cumulative effect on the future of the occupied territories.

12. With regard to the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Syrian Arab Republic noted that the note by the Secretary-General shed light on the continuation of the policies of successive Governments of Israel aimed at significantly increasing the number of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan, especially in conjunction with discriminatory policies and practices in favour of settlers in several areas, including access to land and water. It also noted that such policies benefited Israeli settlers who already enjoyed incentives, such as tax subsidies. The Syrian Arab Republic highlighted the description in the note by the Secretary-General of the dangers of the discriminatory restrictions imposed on the Syrian population in

¹ [A/77/90-E/2022/66](#).

the occupied Syrian Golan in the field of construction, which led to pressure on the basic infrastructure, overpopulation and urban overcrowding.

13. The Syrian Arab Republic pointed out that the note by the Secretary-General confirmed that all settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan were illegal under international law. Moreover, their expansion and the related commercial activity by the occupying Power had negative effects on the health of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan, on the environment in which they lived and on the agricultural activities they carried out. In the note, the Secretary-General had also presented some of the effects of the discriminatory practices used by Israel against the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, including with regard to obtaining land, building permits and Israeli water, among other issues. The Syrian Arab Republic also noted that the note pointed out the continuing measures to implement the “wind farms” project by an Israeli energy company on agricultural lands in the occupied Syrian villages, which would harm the livelihoods of the Syrian population and expose them to health and environmental risks.

14. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that the attempts of the occupying Power to legitimize its occupation and apply its laws to the occupied Syrian Golan had continued through attempts to organize local council elections, but the population of the Golan had categorically rejected these attempts and boycotted the elections, which had led to their failure. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that since its occupation of the Syrian Golan, the occupying Power had continuously attempted to impose Israeli identity and civil documents on the Syrian population, in order to maintain the occupation, and continued to prevent Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan from visiting the Syrian Arab Republic and communicating with their families there.

15. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that on 16 October 2021, Israeli occupation forces shot and killed a Syrian prisoner, Medhat al-Saleh, while he was returning to his home in Ain al-Tineh, close to the occupied town of Majdal Shams. In the note verbale, the Syrian Arab Republic categorized this as a terrorist crime, which, in its view, confirmed the insistence of the occupation forces on continuing their crimes within the occupied Syrian Golan and beyond. It noted that the occupation forces continued to engage in acts of aggression and terrorism, disregarding relevant Security Council resolutions and international norms. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that Mr. Al-Saleh had been an active defender of the rights of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan.

16. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that the Israeli occupation continued to implement a number of practices aimed at maintaining the occupation of the Syrian Golan, including through building and expanding settlements and confiscating agricultural lands, in addition to expanding the scope of settlement-related commercial activities. Those practices included an acceleration in the pace of implementation of a wind turbine project, despite the Human Rights Council in resolution 49/30 deploring the approval by the Israeli authorities to commence construction, its harmful impact on a wide range of human rights of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, and its call upon Israel to stop immediately all action on the project. The acceleration was evident through the increase in the number of giant fans installed and the expansion of confiscated and seized lands allocated for its establishment, which covered an area of more than 6,000 dunams.

17. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, the wind turbine project was being implemented in three phases: the first phase included the installation of turbines on large areas of the lands of the villages of Ain Al-Hajl, Al-Mansoura and Al-Thulajiat, where approximately 42 120-metre-high turbines had been erected. The second phase targeted the Tal al-Faras area. The third phase targeted the villages of Majdal Shams, Masada, Buqata and Ain Qiniya, and included the seizure of more than 4,000 dunums of agricultural land, on which approximately 41 large turbines would be installed.

18. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that, given the size of the turbines, their location and the area on which they would be built, it could be said that they would be the largest and most dangerous in the world, as they would be built on an area estimated at 6,000 dunams, which would result in significant health and environmental damage. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that it was forbidden for a single turbine to be installed nearer than 10 km away from centres of population, as they led to many diseases for the population, the most

important of which were related to magnetic frequencies, a lack of focus due to the waves they emitted and ringing in the ears.

19. The Syrian Arab Republic also noted that the establishment of the wind turbine project in locations close to or in the middle of orchards would exacerbate the housing crisis in the occupied villages and would hit the economic nerve centre of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan by eliminating the agricultural sector, which would mean forcibly displacing people from their lands and homes during the coming years and violating a wide range of human rights, including the rights to health, housing and development. The Syrian Arab Republic further noted that despite the opposition of the people of the occupied Syrian Golan to the establishment of the turbines by Israel, the occupying Power still insisted on installing approximately 42 turbines in the Tal al-Faras area and 30 turbines in the occupied areas of Tal Sahel and Mansoura.

20. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that since the planning stage of the wind turbine project, it had repeatedly warned of its health and environmental risks to the people of the occupied Syrian Golan and of the related grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It concluded that proceeding with implementation of the project clearly reflected the intransigence of the Israeli occupation in implementing a systematic, uncompromising, discriminatory settlement policy in the occupied Syrian Golan and against its people, in violation of all relevant United Nations resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council, including Human Rights Council resolution 49/30.

21. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that the illegal actions involved in the project, including the confiscation and appropriation of land, the intention to cause permanent environmental and health damage and the intention to displace the inhabitants of the targeted areas, constituted a flagrant violation of the rules and principles of international law related to the duties of an occupying Power not to use the lands under occupation for its own benefit and in a way that harmed the interests of the occupied population, especially when such damage was permanent and irreparable.

22. The Syrian Arab Republic further stressed that moving forward with the implementation of the project, despite its disastrous consequences and the Israeli occupation authorities resorting to repression and intimidation to achieve it, proved once again the policies of the occupying Power to create facts on the ground with the aim of consolidating its occupation of the Syrian Golan, establishing the illegal annexation policy, changing the character of the occupied lands and causing irreparable damage. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that this destroyed any future opportunities for establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on ending the occupation and the complete withdrawal of Israel from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the Syrian Golan occupied since 1967, in the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), by which the Security Council decided that the declaration by Israel that it would impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and had no international legal effect.

23. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that, in its concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Israel, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had expressed concern about reports that Israel had given licences to Israeli and multinational companies for oil and gas extraction and renewable energy projects in the occupied Syrian Golan without consulting the affected communities and while prohibiting Syrians from accessing, controlling and developing their natural resources.² The Syrian Arab Republic also noted that the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Arab Territories had repeatedly expressed its deep concern over the effects of that project on the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan.

24. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that Israel had approved a multi-year plan to develop and strengthen agriculture in the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan. It described

² E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, para. 14.

how this plan aimed to encourage the entry of Israeli youth into the agricultural sector by providing strong and systematic support and assistance to settler farmers in the fields of agriculture and poultry farming through discriminatory and racial practices. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that the occupying Power considered agriculture as the pillar of the Israeli settlement project in the occupied Syrian Golan.

25. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that in an escalatory step, and following a meeting the Israeli occupation had held in the occupied Syrian Golan at the end of 2021, a number of settlement plans were announced, aimed at doubling the number of Israeli settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan over the following five years.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that in April 2019, Israel had announced plans to expand settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, including through building 30,000 housing units, constructing new cities and moving 250,000 Israeli settlers into the occupied Syrian Golan. The Syrian Arab Republic described this action as aimed at changing the demographic composition of the region. It also noted that in June 2019, Israel had started a new settlement project bearing the name of the former President of the United States. The Syrian Arab Republic asserted that these expansion plans were closely aligned with Israeli policies, including inhibiting access to livelihoods for the Syrian population, confiscation of land, prohibition of construction and development in Syrian villages, prevention of natural growth and uprooting of the Syrian population from their villages. The Syrian Arab Republic noted additional policies detrimental to the Syrian population, including the plundering of natural resources, environmental damage and limitations on movement aimed at restricting access to their lands, which would then be confiscated to change the demographic composition of the area and serve the settlement policies of Israel.

27. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that the so-called Regional Council of Israeli Settlements continued to announce in its weekly bulletin a number of settlement expansion projects in the light of the increase in the number of settlers, for example in the settlements of Metzger, Odm and Anneam and the new settlement of Trump Heights. Construction of settlement service facilities also continued in Katzrin, Kadmat Zvi, Nouf, Knaf or Kanaf, Neve Ativ and Yonatan.

28. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that on 11 October 2021, in the context of seeking to expand settlement projects in the occupied Syrian Golan, a conference on the theme of strategic economic regional Israeli development in the occupied Syrian Golan was convened in the settlement established in what was previously Khasfeen village. A number of corporations working on settlement projects in the occupied Syrian Golan participated in the conference. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, one of the objectives of the conference was the expansion of settlement projects in the occupied Syrian Golan, with the aim of installing 500,000 settlers by 2048.

29. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that these expansionist settlement plans were accompanied by Israeli colonialist policies, the foremost of which was preventing the Syrian population from earning a living, the confiscation of their land, preventing them from building on their land, besieging the population in their villages and cities, preventing their natural growth, stealing natural resources, destroying the environment and restricting their movements in order to force them to leave their lands and forcibly displace them under various pretexts, through projects such as those referred to above, which aimed to create geographical and demographic realities that served the Israeli settlement policy.

30. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed that the Israeli occupation continued to put pressure on the residents of the villages in the occupied Syrian Golan to accept ownership deeds issued by the Israeli Land and Registration Bureau instead of those registered by the Syrian Arab Republic, through threats to confiscate their lands. The Syrian Arab Republic also referred to demands by the Israeli occupation for the submission of land ownership certificates by the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan, especially in Majdal Shams, which had exacerbated an urban crisis in three villages from the north of Majdal Shams to the village of Ain Qiniya, through implementing the Hermon Nature Reserve project. It also referred to the continued Israeli refusal to expand the structural map of the village of Majdal Shams, which would have alleviated the urban expansion in that village.

31. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that in its resolution 2022/22, the Economic and Social Council had expressed grave concern about the accelerated construction of settlements and the implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressed that such illegal measures were the main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies.

32. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that policies of appropriation and exploitation of natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan by the occupying Power and for the benefit of its settlers was continuing and Israeli companies and multinational companies were playing a vital role in the implementation of those policies. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that Israeli exploitation of the occupied territories in the Syrian Golan, particularly agricultural land, had been associated with water theft and exploitation. It further noted that in resolution 2022/22, the Economic and Social Council had affirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all natural and economic resources and called upon the occupying Power not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources.

33. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that Israel had employed numerous methods to confiscate natural resources, in violation of the rights of the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan, including the expropriation of land owned by Syrian residents who had been displaced, which was then declared State land under the pretext of the owners' absence, and the confiscation of communal lands, for example in the village of Masada; the expropriation of land in close proximity to the ceasefire line and the planting of landmines; the confiscation of land for military purposes, including for the establishment of military camps and installations, in addition to paving roads for these purposes, including in areas far from the ceasefire line; the expropriation of land for the building of settlements and agricultural and industrial facilities; the fencing-off of areas (reportedly approximately 100,000 dunums) under the pretext of placing them at the disposal of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority; and the expropriation of land indirectly through the *meshkenta* process, which involved giving an agricultural loan against a mortgage to an Israeli bank and confiscating the property if the loan was not paid in full within a specified time period.

34. The Syrian Arab Republic also noted that among the discriminatory practices used by Israel was the seizing of potable water, leaving only some sources of non-potable water to the population in the occupied Syrian Golan and preventing them from digging wells, stockpiling irrigation water and giving Syrian farmers only small quantities of water at double the prices paid by settlers.

35. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that Syrian workers and employers in the occupied Syrian Golan continue to suffer from arbitrary and discriminatory practices, which had wide-ranging effects, particularly those related to the agricultural sector in terms of access to water sources and the marketing of agricultural crops, the exploitation of workers in the more unattractive sectors of work at low wages and the discriminatory imposition of various fees and taxes on refrigerators for the preservation of agricultural products and the marketing of crops. Various taxes were imposed on Syrian workers in general and on agricultural workers in particular, including on daily or permanent labour output, ranging from 15 to 35 per cent, and a 30 per cent tax on refrigerators for apples, which was likely to increase.

36. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that the report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization on the situation of Arab workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the occupied Syrian Golan, issued in May 2022, confirmed the continuation of discriminatory Israeli practices against Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan in the field of labour.³

37. The Syrian Arab Republic warned that the occupying Power continued to attempt to exploit health needs in order to put pressure on the Syrian population, for example by including the statistical data of Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan in Israeli data, obliging Syrian citizens to contract with the health system of the occupying Power and pay

³ ILC.110/DG/AAP.

exorbitant health insurance contributions deducted from the salaries of workers and employees. Furthermore, the occupying Power continued to ignore repeated demands to provide the Syrian population with integrated health centres in each of the occupied villages and to build a 30-bed hospital with the capacity to perform minor surgery. Syrian doctors in the occupied Syrian Golan, 95 per cent of whom had completed their education in Syrian universities, suffered from their inability to participate in seminars held outside the occupied Syrian Golan, as a result of restrictions on movement and travel to the Syrian Arab Republic. Children in the occupied Syrian Golan suffered from the psychological consequences of the ongoing occupation and its discriminatory practices, including those related to the imposition of educational curricula and the severing of social ties with relatives in the motherland.

38. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that discriminatory practices were evident during the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, starting with a reduction in the medical supplies provided in medical clinics in the occupied villages. It further stressed that despite the tireless work of the medical staff in clinics in the occupied villages, the shortage of medical supplies and equipment had exacerbated the suffering of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan and doubled the number of COVID-19 infections. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that in the context of the response to the pandemic, the occupying Power had also refrained from providing detailed statistical data on the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan in order to obscure indicators measuring the response to their needs. The Syrian Arab Republic further noted that the World Health Assembly annually adopted a decision calling on the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide support to the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan through health-related technical assistance, and that because the policies of the Israeli occupation prevented WHO teams from reaching the occupied Syrian Golan to conduct a field assessment of the health situation there, WHO was still unable to implement this part of its mandate.

39. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasized that Israel was attempting to obliterate Arab culture by imposing the Israeli curriculum in schools in the occupied Syrian Golan and conducting education in Hebrew instead of Arabic. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that these policies undermined the rights of the Syrian students of the occupied Syrian Golan and aimed to sever any links that the students might have with their Arab culture and their religion and, ultimately, to undermine their identity. The Syrian Arab Republic described how Israel deliberately appointed unqualified teachers to ensure control of the education process. Syrian students in the occupied Syrian Golan were also denied the right to complete their university education, including in Syrian universities, in particular because of the restrictions on freedom of movement. The Syrian Arab Republic further explained that there was pressure on Syrian students who had studied in Europe to accept Israeli citizenship and that the occupying Power had threatened to issue travel bans for those students who refused to do so.

40. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirmed that the policies and practices of Israel constituted clear violations of the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan. It noted that the specific rights violated included the rights to work, to education, to own property, to freedom of movement, to preserve cultural and historical heritage, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed that the discriminatory practices of Israel and the restrictions placed on the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan posed a serious threat to their future existence, growth and development.

41. The Syrian Arab Republic called on the international community to break the silence about the practices and systematic violations of Israel aimed at perpetuating the occupation of the Syrian Golan, including through changing the demographic, geographic, cultural, security and political characteristics of the occupied Syrian Golan.

42. The Syrian Arab Republic renewed its call upon the United Nations and States who sought to promote international law to pressure Israel to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and not to recognize any legal status arising from violations of peremptory norms of international law by Israel. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed in particular the need to refrain from assisting Israel in any activities, especially in relation to business and tourism, that would perpetuate the occupation of the Syrian Golan. It also called for condemnation of the human rights violations of the Syrian inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan, with

particular reference to the support of Israel for the continued construction and expansion of new and existing settlements.

43. The Syrian Arab Republic called upon the Secretary-General and OHCHR to develop a database of all companies and businesses engaged in activities that had enabled or would enable, directly or indirectly, the construction and growth of settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to include all those who had facilitated or benefited from such activities in violation of international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 497 (1981), and report on its progress. The Syrian Arab Republic referred to the recommendation contained in paragraph 63 (h) of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.⁴ It urged OHCHR to take the steps necessary to update on an annual basis the database of business enterprises involved in settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to make it available to the public, as mandated in Human Rights Council resolution 31/36.

44. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic pointed to the recommendation contained in paragraph 63 (i) of the report of the Special Committee requesting that corporations respect human rights and cease to fund or enter into commercial transactions with organizations and bodies involved in settlements or the exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan.⁵

45. The Syrian Arab Republic called for the population in the occupied Syrian Golan to be allowed to visit their homeland and relatives by opening the Quneitra crossing, which is the only crossing linking them with the Syrian Arab Republic, for family visits and the transfer of crops to be allowed and for students to be allowed to pursue their studies in Syrian universities; to do otherwise would represent a violation of their fundamental rights.

46. The Syrian Arab Republic further called upon the international community and international organizations to monitor flagrant violations of international law by Israel and to oblige Israel to stop illegal settlement practices and repressive measures against the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

47. The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea replied to the note verbale from OHCHR on 23 December 2022. It expressed deep concern at the systematic and continuous violations of the human rights of the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly with regard to housing, work, cultural rights and the right to education, which it characterized as crimes against humanity and infringements of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

48. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea rejected the establishment and expansion of colonial settlements by the occupying Power in the context of a systematic policy prohibited under international law, including new settlement plans aimed at doubling the number of settlers within five years and the ongoing depletion and plundering of natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan.

49. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea stressed that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel such as the illegal decision of 14 December 1981, which purported to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure and the measures taken by Israel to apply its jurisdiction and administration to the territory, were null and void and had no legal effect.

50. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea affirmed its unwavering support for and solidarity with the right of the Syrian Arab Republic to restore full sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan. It reiterated that the colonial policies and practices of the Israeli occupation constituted violations of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan.

⁴ A/77/501.

⁵ Ibid.

51. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea called upon Israel to comply with all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967. It demanded that Israel cease changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan. It urged Israel to stop all illegal measures and actions, including the construction of settlements and expansion activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967, and to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit families and relatives in the Syrian Arab Republic.

52. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea called upon the Secretary-General and OHCHR to continue to monitor the flagrant violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by the Israeli occupation and to oblige the occupying Power to put an end to the illegal settlement policies and the discriminatory measures taken against the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

53. The Islamic Republic of Iran replied to the note verbale from OHCHR on 26 December 2022 and emphasized that the occupied Syrian Golan was an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and that the continuation of the Israeli occupation had resulted in flagrant, widespread and systematic human rights violations of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 had not changed its historic and legal status.

54. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the establishment of settlements was a grave violation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, which had consistently demanded that the occupying Power end its occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and refrain from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the territory and, in particular, refrain from establishing settlements. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that these resolutions had stressed the illegality of the construction of settlements and other activities of Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan.

55. The Islamic Republic of Iran set out the following positions and measures with regard to the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 49/30:

(a) It condemned the policies and practices of Israel in extending its jurisdiction and laws to the occupied Syrian Golan;

(b) It condemned the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan and actions forcing the Syrian population to leave their lands, as part of a policy by Israel to change the demographic nature of the territory;

(c) It strongly condemned the repeated military acts of aggression by Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan against the Syrian Arab Republic, using the Golan airspace to increase the range of illegal missile and air attacks against civilian targets and civilian infrastructures located in Syrian territory, with serious negative implications for the right to development, which was a clear violation of international law and regulations and against peace and security;

(d) It expressed support for the right of all refugees to return to their homeland in the occupied Syrian Golan;

(e) It condemned Israel for its imposition of Israeli citizenship on the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

(f) It objected to any recognition of the Israeli occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan;

(g) It emphasized the need to preserve the civilian nature of the occupied Syrian Golan and the need to ban any military activity by Israel;

(h) It highlighted the need to define a timetable and practical steps to end the Israeli occupation;

(i) It called for the appointment of a special representative to address the human rights situation, including the health, education and welfare situation of the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

(j) It demanded that the establishment of oil and gas exploration facilities by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan be stopped;

(k) It demanded that the construction of wind turbines by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan be stopped;

(l) It demanded that Israeli air, sea and ground-based military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic from the occupied Syrian Golan be stopped;

(m) It called upon the United Nations to address the recent violations by Israel of the rights of the Druze minority in the occupied Syrian Golan in order to create instability and tension in the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly in the south;

(n) It rejected any policy or practice that would be conducive to violations of the human rights of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the rights to self-determination, health, sanitation, adequate housing, freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of expression.

56. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized its position on the return of the occupied Syrian Golan to the Syrian Arab Republic and invited all States and international organizations to seriously deplore any policy that perpetuated the occupation and the continued human rights violations by Israel, including the rights to self-determination, health, sanitation and safe drinking water, housing, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

57. The Permanent Mission of Cuba replied to the note verbale from OHCHR on 11 January 2023. It noted that the illegal Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan since 14 December 1981 was unacceptable, as demonstrated by the sustained demand of the international community for an end to the de facto imposition of Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration over that territory. Cuba further noted that the acquisition of territory by force was not acceptable under international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

58. Cuba stressed that the international community had reiterated its grave concern about the suffering of Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, owing to the systematic and continuing violations of their human rights by the Israeli occupation since 1967, and that the international community had also demanded an end to the occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan.

59. Cuba rejected Israeli practices and conduct aimed at controlling and seizing the resources of the occupied Syrian Golan, flagrantly contravening General Assembly and Security Council resolutions concerning the permanent sovereignty of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan over its natural resources.

60. Cuba reiterated that all actions, measures or legislative or administrative provisions adopted by Israel, or that Israel might undertake in the future, that sought to modify the legal condition, physical character, demographic composition or institutional structure of the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as measures to implement Israeli jurisdiction and administration, were illegal.

61. Cuba called upon Israel to immediately withdraw from the whole territory of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and renounce its intention to annex the territory of the Golan. Cuba noted that the continuation of the illegal occupation by Israel of the Syrian Golan and its attempts at de facto annexation constituted an obstacle to the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

62. Cuba emphasized that foreign occupation, policies of expansion and aggression, racial discrimination, the creation of settlements, the policy of “fait accompli” and the forcible annexation of foreign territories, such as the Syrian Golan, were practices that violated international law and norms and had a negative impact on the human rights of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

63. Cuba condemned the violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Israeli occupation against Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan and reiterated its concern about the continuation of these practices and the inhumane conditions in Israeli prisons.

64. Cuba reiterated its strong condemnation of the declaration of the United States Administration recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the territory of the occupied Syrian Golan. it stressed that this constituted a grave violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, in particular resolution 497 (1981).
