



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Pakistan at the 72nd Executive Session of the Trade and Development Board

Geneva, 18 October 2022

Agenda Item 3: Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of G77 and China and the Asia and the Pacific Group.

My delegation commends UNCTAD for its professional and well-written report as well as for its support activities under its programme of assistance to the Palestinian people.

I also thank H.E. Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine and Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD for their remarks.

We note with deep concern the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. The report findings on the rise in poverty and unemployment, shortage of electricity and water, deep structural deformation of its economy through de-agriculturalization, deindustrialization and de-development, continuous expansion of illegal settlement, complete blockage of Gaza and one of the deepest fiscal crises in Palestinian history are extremely troubling.

The report rightly underscores that the persistent economic and fiscal crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory predate the pandemic and are indeed rooted in occupation. We also agree that the complex, multilayered restrictions implemented under occupation stifle economic activity and suppress potential revenue-enhancing GDP gains, thereby entrenching fiscal malaise.

The situation is extremely alarming amid decline in foreign aid and the leakage of Palestinian fiscal resources.

My delegation echoes UNCTAD's call on a) reversing the trend of declining donor aid, b) lifting of all economic sanctions, and c) a comprehensive end to the leakage of Palestinian fiscal resources.

We urge UNCTAD to continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the form of advisory services, research and policy papers, technical cooperation projects and capacity-building and training for Palestinian professionals from the public and private sector.

Mr. President,

The international community should assume its responsibility in ending the occupation and illegal settlements that are in violation of Security Council resolutions and have entailed devastating social and economic consequences for the Palestinian people. The establishment of an independent State of Palestine is the only viable route for prosperity and lasting peace in the Middle East and beyond.

I thank you.