

**50<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
**Item 9 - Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial**  
**discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**  
**Joint Oral Intervention<sup>i</sup>**  
**Speaker: Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man**  
**NGO in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council**  
**Date: 5 July 2022**  
**Israeli Settler-Colonialism, Apartheid and Occupation as the Root Causes Impeding Palestinian**  
**Development**

Mr. President, Ms. Special Rapporteur,

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's reference to Israel's institutionalized discrimination against the Palestinian people as entailing systemic violation of their right to self-determination, which is integral to peruse their right to development. Since 1948, this institutionalized discrimination has been practiced through Israeli laws, policies and practices to oppress and dominate the Palestinian people as a whole, i.e., Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line and refugees and exiles, thus amounting to the crime of apartheid.

Amidst the mounting recognition of Israeli apartheid, sustainable development and racial discrimination against the Palestinian people must be analyzed in the context of Israel's Zionist settler-colonialism and system of apartheid, annexation and occupation. These are the [root causes](#) denying the realization of Palestinians' right to self-determination, permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, and return, maintained through their strategic fragmentation, which continues to obstruct all means of their economic, social, cultural and political development.

Israel's apartheid and settler colonial practices have forced Palestinians into structural economic dependency furthering their de-development, including through a discriminatory planning and zoning system, appropriation and destruction of their property, displacement of the Palestinian people, expansion of the settlement enterprise, pillage and exploitation of natural resources, and control over Palestinian movement, trade, customs, and borders.

We support the Special Rapporteur's finding concerning the urgent need for a radical transformation of the overall international development paradigm, which is built on a neoliberal development paradigm that prioritizes individual interests and resources over collective ones, disconnected from structural regime of racial discrimination and colonial domination. The result is prioritizing the economy as the marker for development; achieving small and short-term improvements in terms of aid delivery, and perpetuating the cycle of subjugation, dependency and fragmentation.

We strongly support the SR's calls to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms that states have a responsibility to condemn and prevent the crime of apartheid wherever and whenever it occurs.

It is impossible to develop under the control of colonialism and apartheid. Therefore, we call on the SR to conduct a field visit in colonized Palestine, to analyze the entangled relationship between Israeli settler colonialism, neoliberal development, and anti-colonial struggle, and provide recommendations on an anti-colonial development paradigm to realize Palestinians' right

to self-determination. We further urge UN member states to reconstitute the UN Special Committee against Apartheid and the UN Centre against Apartheid to monitor the implementation of the Apartheid Convention and mobilize to end Israeli apartheid.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Joining organizations: Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, Defense for Children International – Palestine, Aldameer Association for Human Rights, Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies, Hurryyat - Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights, The Independent Commission for Human Rights (Ombudsman Office), Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights.