



- UN Human Rights Council 47th Session
- Joint Oral Intervention
- Panel on tenth anniversary of guiding principles on business and human rights (HRC res.44/15)
- 29 June 2021

Speaker: Nada Awad

Madam President,

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we reiterate the importance of the UN database of businesses involved in Israel's settlement enterprise as an important tool to strengthen the implementation of the guiding principles in situations of conflict and occupation.

As we continue to observe systematic and widespread violations of international law against the Palestinian people, and apparent war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the crime of apartheid, Israel's illegal settlement enterprise thrives, further undermining Palestinian inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and control over Palestinian wealth and resources.

While the international community has consistently condemned the construction and expansion of Israeli colonial settlements, Israel continues to create and consolidate demographic facts on the ground. Business involvement incentivizes the creation, expansion, and maintenance of illegal settlements.

In 2016, through resolution 31/36, the HRC established the UN Database to address corporate involvement in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise. The database represents a practical and effective transparency tool to ensure that corporations do not continue to benefit from a situation of prolonged occupation and violations of human rights.

Although the resolution establishing the database clearly provides for its annual updating, it is currently the only Council mandate we know of whose fulfillment has been indefinitely delayed due to "budgetary" concerns.

Such challenges must be overcome to ensure the implementation of all mandates entrusted to OHCHR, in line with the principles of independence and impartiality.

The HRC and its Member States must ensure the independence and ability of the Office of the High Commissioner to carry out, in a timely manner, the 2021 annual update of the UN database. It is also important that the High Commissioner provides information with regards to the next steps being taken to address the budgetary challenges identified so that the mandate set out in resolution 31/36 can be fully discharged.

Thank you.

**Organizations with ECOSOC status:**

1. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
2. Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man
3. Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights
4. Habitat International Coalition
5. International Trade Union Confederation
6. Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling
7. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)
8. Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
9. Human Rights & Democratic Participation Center "SHAMS"
10. International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
11. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
12. The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy - MIFTAH

**Organizations without ECOSOC status:**

13. Mwatana for Human Rights
14. European Legal Support Center
15. Bytes For All, Pakistan
16. Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem
17. Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions – UK
18. Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
19. Association des Universitaires pour le Respect du Droit International en Palestine (AURDIP)
20. Center for Defense of Liberties & Civil Rights "Hurriyat"
21. Just Peace Advocates/Mouvement Pour Une Paix Juste
22. Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
23. Niagara Movement for Justice in Palestine-Israel (NMJPI)
24. Oakville Palestinian Rights Association
25. Viva Salud
26. American Muslims for Palestine
27. The Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy
28. Pax Christi Flanders
29. Association Switzerland-Palestine
30. 11.11.11
31. SOMO (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations)
32. Irish Congress of Trade Unions
33. CNCD-11.11.11

34. CIG (Confederación Intersindical Galega)
35. European Trade Union Network for Justice in Palestine
36. Finnish-Arab Friendship Society
37. ALTSEAN-Burma
38. ECCP - European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine
39. Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees – Fagforbundet
40. STEILAS (SINDICATO DE LA ENSEÑANZA de Euskal Herria e USKAL hERRIA),
41. Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid
42. Agriculture Development Association (PARC)
43. Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
44. Defence for Children International/ Palestine
45. Scottish Palestinian Forum
46. Palestinian Human Rights Organization
47. Who Profits Research Center
48. Palestine amputee Football Association
49. Al-Fokhari Association for Rural Development
50. Al Tawasol Forum Society
51. Remedial Education Center - REC
52. Basma Society for Culture and Arts
53. AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection
54. Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights
55. Alrowwad Cultural and Arts Society
56. Association France Palestine Solidarité
57. Union of Health Care Committees
58. Al Ataa' Charitable Society
59. Palestinian Crescent Society for Relief and Development
60. Fares Al Arab for development and charity works
61. The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem
62. Beit Lahia Youth Association
63. Association for the rights of journalists
64. Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)
65. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)