

European Union

EOV (L.5) – **Follow-up OPT** (“Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Follow-up to HRC resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1”)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the European Union.

We are deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the OPT, and in particular the recent escalation of violence in Gaza. We have repeatedly expressed our concerns to all parties and remind them of their responsibility to exercise restraint and to protect civilian lives and the work of international organisations. The EU reiterates its call on the parties to renounce all acts of violence and all activities which are contrary to international law. The safety of civilians must remain a priority and the EU condemns all attacks resulting in the killings of civilians on both sides.

The EU was not in a position to support resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 which mandated the fact-finding missions, as they were unbalanced, did not reflect all relevant aspects of the situation and failed to call upon both parties to cease violence. However, we agree that it is of vital importance that all states fully co-operate with the mechanisms of the HRC. Only then can the HRC effectively carry out its duty to ensure the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights. For this reason, as already expressed in the interactive dialogue with Archbishop Tutu, we hope that he can bring his mission to completion.

In light of the above, the EU Members of the Council ^{were} ~~are~~ willing to accept this text without a vote.