The report of the 110th session of the Conference of Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs in Arab Host Countries

Date: 16 July 2023

A report on:

Recommendations of the Conference of Supervisors, 110th session. Final.pdf

Conference of Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs (110th session)

Palestine Liberation Organisation

Department of Refugee Affairs

Draft: Conference recommendations

"Developments"

For the year 2023

Submitted to

The Conference of Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs Session 110

Cairo - General Secretariat of the League of Arab States 16-20 July 2023

> Prepared by Department of Refugee Affairs

Palestine Liberation Organisation

Recommendations

The report of the 110th session of the Conference of Supervisors of Palestinian Affairs in Arab Host Countries

16-20 July 2023

Submitted by the Department of Refugee Affairs - Palestine Liberation Organisation

Developments during the period from 1 January to 10 July 2023

- 1. The conference strongly condemns the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip on 9 May 2023, lasting for five days and resulting in 33 martyrs, including children, women, and the elderly. Additionally, hundreds were wounded and displaced, with homes demolished. The conference also denounces the unprecedented escalation by Israeli occupation forces, involving heinous crimes, killings, and executions, particularly in Jerusalem and other Palestinian territories. The recent Jenin camp massacre on 3 July claimed 13 lives, over 100 injuries (including 20 gravely injured cases), and led to the demolition of homes, forcing residents to flee. These acts are deemed heinous crimes tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The conference urges the international community to provide protection for Palestinians and calls on the International Criminal Court to hold Israeli war criminals accountable.
- 2. The conference appreciates the immediate response from the Republic of Algeria, providing a \$30 million financial grant, and the United Arab Emirates, contributing \$15 million for the reconstruction of Jenin camp after the destructive Israeli aggression in July. It urges donor countries to offer financial support to enable UNRWA to address the emergency humanitarian situation, aid in the camp's reconstruction, and rehabilitate its damaged schools and health clinics.

- 3. The conference expresses concern about the risks arising from the Israeli government's June 2023 approval of a law accelerating West Bank settlement measures. The law shortens settlement approval from six stages to two without political-level consent, seen as a step towards implementing Israeli law on the West Bank and annexing Area C under its sovereignty. The conference calls on all Security Council member states to condemn this step, which undermines the foundations of establishing the State of Palestine, and to take practical measures to halt Israel's unilateral and unjust actions, safeguarding the opportunity for a two-state solution.
- 4. The conference urges Israel, as the occupying state, to release the bodies of the 389 martyrs held in Cemeteries of Numbers and mortuaries. Detaining these bodies is viewed as an international crime requiring follow-up and punishment under international humanitarian law. Relevant treaties and agreements mandate the immediate handover of bodies to their families, in accordance with Article 17 of the First Geneva Convention, ensuring respectful burial according to religious rituals and in permanent graves.
- 5. The conference strongly condemns the Israeli Knesset's proposal on 16 June 2023, for a draft law allowing the imposition of prison sentences on Palestinian children, particularly those from Jerusalem under the age of 12. This proposal is deemed a crime against humanity and a severe violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all international conventions. The conference urges United Nations institutions, the Red Cross, and all human rights and international law advocates to take action to prevent the implementation of such criminal laws against Palestinian children.
- 6. Furthermore, the conference warns Israel against the approval of the so-called Amit Halevy draft law, which seeks to impose temporal and spatial divisions in the revered AI-Aqsa Mosque and eliminate Jordanian custodianship over the mosque. This draft law was presented to the Knesset in June 2023. The conference calls for immediate and decisive action from Arab, Islamic, and international bodies, going beyond mere denunciation and condemnation, and imposing sanctions to prevent any alterations to the AI-Aqsa Mosque and to halt any violations of Islamic and Christian sanctities in the city.
- 7. The conference also condemns the Israeli occupation government's approval of building a new colony in June 2023 that links Jerusalem colonies to the Maale Adumim colony through the so-called 26 project. This move

undermines the two-state solution, dividing the West Bank into two separate regions, and poses dangerous consequences for security and peace in the region and the world. The conference urges the international community to discourage Israel from pursuing its colonial and expansionist plans, including the proposal to build a major industrial zone between the Ariel colony and the Green Line, encompassing the lands of the villages of Seneria, Rafat, and Al-Zawiya, with an area of about 2,700 dunams.

- 8. Additionally, the conference expresses concern about an Israeli plan to seize 70 Palestinian properties in the heart of the city of Hebron, transferring ownership to settlers and demolishing five buildings in the Old Market area. The plan also includes constructing an elevator in the Patriarchal Mosque, altering its features and contributing to the policy of ethnic cleansing and forced displacement of the city's population. The conference calls on UNESCO to fulfil its responsibilities regarding the old city, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, as such actions represent a violation of human heritage.
- 9. The conference expressed appreciation for the report presented by 21 members of the heads of European missions to Palestine on 9 June 2023. The report emphasised the peril posed by Israeli legal plans attempting to alter the existing historical situation in Jerusalem, settler terrorism, and various occupation measures, including settlement expansion in East Jerusalem, home demolitions, attacks on holy places, and restrictions on education and schools. The conference urged European Union countries to take this report seriously, acknowledging their responsibility to curb these measures and hold the occupying state accountable under international law.
- 10. The conference commended the decision of the United States of Mexico on 2 June 2023, to elevate the representation of the State of Palestine to embassy status, effectively recognising the Palestinian state. The conference called on other countries to emulate Mexico's example in the face of Israeli attempts to deny the existence of the Palestinian people, their right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of refugees to return.
- The conference valued the decisions made at the Jeddah Summit on 19 May 2023, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These decisions underscored the centrality of the Palestinian issue to the Arab nation, the commitment of

Arab countries to support Palestinian rights at various levels, and the reactivation of the Arab Peace Initiative.

- 12. The conference strongly condemned the occupation authorities' targeting of the residents of the Ain Samiya community through harassment, theft of livestock, demolition of Al-Tahadi School in the community, and confiscation of property in May. These measures, deemed terrorist and racist, aim to force the original landowners to leave their lands. The conference called on the United States and the European Union to intervene, stop the harassment of the community's residents, and prevent their eviction from their land.
- 13. The conference denounced the Israeli occupation government's approval on 7 May 2023 of a proposal to invest \$8 million in developing a settlement site adjacent to the Palestinian village of Sebastia. This plan aims to transform the archaeological area of Sebastia into a tourist settlement affiliated with the Israeli Settlements Council, targeting around a thousand dunams in Area C. The conference urged UNESCO to intervene to prevent the establishment of the project, recognising that its realisation would cause severe damage to the historical site in the village, alter its character and historical appearance, and lead to the demolition of Palestinian facilities and buildings in the targeted location.
- 14. The conference condemned the ongoing incursions of settlers into the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, organising flag marches in Jerusalem with the participation of Israeli ministers and Knesset members inside the mosque's courtyards in mid-May. The Israeli government even conducted its session from inside the tunnels of Buraq Square adjacent to the mosque. These actions represent a dangerous escalation in the religious war waged by the occupation against the city of Jerusalem. The conference called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for these crimes.
- 15. The conference raised concerns about the Israeli Prime Minister's approval in March 2023 to form a "National Guard" comprised of settler gangs, right-wing Christian organisation "La Familia," and the Hilltop Youth. The government equipped them with weapons, granted them powers, and legitimised their actions, leading to potential serious repercussions on regional stability. The conference urged the international community to promptly

declare the National Guard a terrorist organisation, branding its members as murderers of Palestinians and criminal settler extremists.

- 16. The conference held the Israeli occupation government fully accountable for settlers' crimes, including killings, burnings, and intimidation of children and women in Huwwara, Zaatara, Burin, Madama, Asira Al-Qibliya, Urif, Turmus Ayya, and other Palestinian villages in the first half of 2023. These acts amount to crimes of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The conference called on the international community to include settler organisations committing crimes on terrorist lists, secure international protection for the Palestinian people, and prosecute Israel in the International Criminal Court.
- 17. The conference condemned the statements made by Israeli Minister Smotrich in Paris on 20 March 2023, in front of a map of Israel that includes Jordan and the Palestinian territories. Smotrich denied the existence of a Palestinian people, calling it a "fictitious invention not more than 100 years old." The conference viewed these statements as a declaration of war and incitement to kill Palestinians, providing conclusive evidence of the extremist racist Zionist ideology embraced by the current Israeli government. This ideology aims to confiscate the Palestinian right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, as per international legitimacy resolutions. The conference called on the international community to curb Israeli racism.
- 18. The conference warned of the danger of the Israeli Knesset approving, in a preliminary reading in March 2023, a draft law to execute Palestinian prisoners. This racist and criminal move reflects the tendencies of the fascist occupation government to legitimise the systematic killings practiced by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people. The conference called on human rights and international institutions to condemn this law and other Israeli laws coercively and arbitrarily applied to the Palestinian people, violating basic human rights standards and laws, and showing disregard for the international system and conventions that criminalise the enactment of discriminatory and racist murder laws.
- 19. The conference considered the Israeli government's decision to legalise nine settlement sites deep in the West Bank last February as part of the measures to annex Palestinian land practiced by the extremist Israeli

occupation government. The conference called for real international and American action, putting pressure on the Israeli government to halt its illegal unilateralism. This action undermines the opportunity to implement the principle of the "two-state solution" and warrants sanctions, as it contradicts United Nations resolutions and the policies of the United States and Europe opposing settlement and calling for its cessation.

- 20. The conference expressed gratitude to the sisterly Arab countries that responded to Jerusalem's call through their participation in the special conference titled "Jerusalem: Resilience and Development," held at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo on 2 February 2023. The conference was attended by President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi, and King Abdullah II of Jordan, along with representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Non-Aligned Organisation, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The conference aimed to mobilise support for the Palestinian cause and the occupied city of Jerusalem, facing oppression, violation of Islamic and Christian sanctities, and the ethnic cleansing of its population. The international conference called on the sisterly League of Arab States and the organisations of Islamic and Gulf Cooperation to provide aid and assistance to the people of Jerusalem, addressing the challenges of population displacement and confronting repeated aggression in the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- 21. The conference strongly condemned the significant increase in the demolition of facilities in the Area C during the first six months of 2023, reaching a staggering 134 percent compared to the same period in 2022. It urged European Union countries providing assistance to residents in that area to activate the compensation claim mechanism. The conference is seriously considering imposing sanctions on the occupation authorities due to their continuous violation of international law and humanitarian law.
- 22. The conference issued a warning about the perilous consequences of the occupation's plans to revive the decision to demolish and displace the residents of Khan Al-Ahmar village. The intention is to encircle Jerusalem with settlements, isolating it from its geographical and demographic surroundings. Urgent intervention is sought to prevent the demolition of Khan Al-Ahmar, still pending in the corridors of the Israeli occupation government despite its

postponement. Necessary measures are called for to ensure the prevention of this racist expansionist project and to halt all unilateral actions by Israel, violating signed agreements, international legitimacy, and international law.

- 23. The conference expressed grave concern over the Israeli Knesset's approval, in the first reading on 10 January 2023, to extend the application of emergency regulations to settlements in the occupied West Bank, seen as an attempt to legislate the gradual annexation of the West Bank. Also alarming is the final approval in February 2023 of the draft law withdrawing citizenship and residency from Palestinian prisoners from within the Green Line and occupied Jerusalem, deporting them immediately after serving their sentences to areas under the Palestinian Authority. The conference called on the United Nations, the United States, and the European Union to exert pressure on Israel to revoke this resolution, as it constitutes a crime of ethnic cleansing and a dangerous escalation pushing the situation towards a comprehensive explosion.
- 24. The conference welcomed the United States' announcement on 26 June 2023 to cease funding scientific research with Israeli academic institutions in the West Bank. This decision expresses disapproval of the Israeli government's steps regarding settlement expansion and final approvals to build 818 settlement units on the lands occupied in 1967. The General Assembly and the Security Council consider these actions illegal and in violation of international law. The conference sees the US decision as a step in the right direction to contain Israeli settlements undermining the two-state solution. It calls on the Security Council member states to work towards elevating Resolution 2334 from a report to an implementation status.
- 25. The conference condemned the draft law presented by the racist Israeli member of the Knesset from the Jewish Power Party in June 2023. This law grants the extremist Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, the authority to issue administrative detention orders against Palestinians in the West Bank and territories. The conference warned of the repercussions of this decision, foreseeing practices of torture and the imposition of administrative detention orders without legal justification, conviction files, or fair trials against Palestinians. It urged the United Nations and international human rights organisations to take serious action to halt racist and retaliatory laws targeting Palestinians.

- 26. The conference strongly cautioned against the racist Israeli government's plan to construct 4,000 new settlement units in the occupied West Bank, approved in June 2023. It emphasises the illegality and illegitimacy of building or expanding settlements, labeling it as condemned and a unilateral action that violates international law. Such actions undermine the foundations of peace and obstruct efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just resolution to the conflict, posing a threat to the prospects of a two-state solution based on resolutions of international legitimacy. The conference called on the international community to fulfil its responsibilities by exerting pressure on Israel to cease its settlement policy.
- 27. The conference condemned the Israeli government's endorsement on 2 July of establishing a new settlement in the Galilee within the 48 territories, intended to accommodate 500 Jewish families. This move is part of the broader plan to intensify Judaisation and settlement projects in the Galilee and the Negev, marking the fourth settlement established since the formation of the current Israeli government. The conference urged the international community to steadfastly oppose all Israeli expansionist settlement plans seeking to impose a policy of fait accompli, challenging international conventions, laws, and norms without facing any form of accountability.
- 28. The conference strongly denounced the Israeli Knesset's decision to repeal the "Disengagement from four settlements in the northern occupied West Bank" law in March 2023, with the occupying army minister initiating its implementation in May. This decision is perceived as an additional colonial step falling within the framework of annexation processes, inundating the West Bank with extensive settlements that link to the Israeli heartland, transforming Palestinian areas into isolated and disjointed islands without geographical continuity.

Palestinian refugees and the International Relief Agency (UNRWA)

29. The conference strongly condemned a draft law presented by 14 members of the US Senate on 15 February 2023 to the US Congress seeking to halt the United States' contributions to UNRWA. The objective is to undermine the status, function, and role of the International Relief Agency (UNRWA) and annul Resolution 194 issued in 1949, paragraph 11. The comprehensive plan, binding all American administrations to legal controls, aims to remove the Palestinian issue from the United Nations framework. This involves redefining the definition of Palestinian refugees and altering the role of UNRWA, ultimately leading to the revocation of refugee status for descendants of Palestinian refugees. The conference affirms that these attempts are unequivocally rejected and amount to a denial of the Nakba crime, historical injustice, and the suffering inflicted on the Palestinian people since 1948.

- 30. The conference welcomed the decision of President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, on 8 May 2023, to criminalise the denial of the Nakba or questioning its occurrence. Perpetrators will face imprisonment, and legal actions will be taken against them inside and outside Palestine. The conference calls on the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, through its unifying mission, to collaborate with the United Nations and coordinate with the Arab organisation. They should work towards supporting the resolution by presenting a draft resolution to the General Assembly criminalising Nakba denial, deeming it a violation of international law. Such an act would be reflected in the internal laws of countries, some of which have started preventing Nakba commemoration based on allegations of incitement against Israel and considering its revival a form of anti-Semitism.
- 31. The conference emphasises that achieving financial stability for UNRWA's budget necessitates securing a stable and sufficient funding commitment from donor countries. This addresses the chronic funding shortages and allows UNRWA to move away from volatile voluntary funding, preventing recurring crises. The conference urges donor countries to enter into multi-year funding agreements with UNRWA to provide continuous support to its budget.
- 32. The conference expressed appreciation for the positions of countries participating in the UNRWA donor conference on 2 June 2023. While the financial pledges announced at the conference bridged the funding gap to some extent, the conference believes that

they did not compensate for the reduction in contributions from some donor countries. It sees the conference as a new starting point for UNRWA and host countries to intensify efforts to mobilise resources.

- 33. The conference calls on member states of the United Nations General Assembly to translate their overwhelming political support, expressed through voting to renew UNRWA's mandate for three years from 30 June 2023, into tangible financial support. It emphasises the importance of linking both political and financial support, as required by the international community.
- 34. The conference urges the UNRWA administration to diligently prepare for the ministerial-level pledging conference scheduled in New York during the 78th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in the last quarter of September. This involves enhanced communication with the General Assembly's ad hoc committee for announcing pledges, engaging with relevant parties, stakeholders, member states, organisations, regional forums, multilateral platforms, the private sector, civil society, media, think tanks, opinion makers, and refugee communities. The goal is to ensure the conference's success in covering the \$295.2 million financial deficit in UNRWA's budget.
- 35. The conference calls on donor countries to provide flexible, unallocated funding to facilitate UNRWA in allocating funds according to need and priority. This approach aids in managing financial crises and ensures the continuity of services, promoting UNRWA's transition towards a "one budget model."
- 36. The conference urges UNRWA to establish new national associations (national committees) in donor capitals, whether they are traditional donors or emerging donors, in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and in North African countries. This is aimed at enhancing communication and mobilising resources to support UNRWA's budget. The conference also supports the advocacy campaigns led by UNRWA to uphold the rights of Palestinian refugees, recognised by international legitimacy, ensuring their right to live in dignity until they can return to their homes, as stipulated in Article 66 of Resolution 194.

- 37. The conference firmly rejects the pressure exerted by some donor countries on UNRWA to make reductions in its services as a response to its financial crisis. It calls on UNRWA to rescind the decision to allocate 95 percent of its regular budget requirements by reducing five percent (\$44 million) as one of the management measures to address its financial crisis.
- 38. The conference reiterates its rejection of political requirements for humanitarian funding provided to UNRWA by some donor countries. It opposes any political restrictions on the work of UNRWA, its employees, or the refugees benefiting from its services. The conference calls on donor countries that reduced their funding for 2023, and those expressing an intention to reduce funding in 2024, to reconsider their decision to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe against Palestinian refugees. This reconsideration is crucial given the deterioration of living conditions, food insecurity, and widespread poverty inside the camps.
- 39. The conference expresses concern about the rise in illegal immigration from Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria during the first half of 2023. Dozens of migrations occurred via perilous boats, resulting in numerous deaths. The most recent tragedy was a boat sinking off the coast of Lesbos Island on 14 June, claiming the lives of about seven Palestinians from Syria, mostly from Daraa camp, along with dozens of Syrians, out of a total of 750 passengers. The conference acknowledges that protecting these refugees from immigration is impossible, emphasising the need for legitimacy to support UNRWA's budget. This support will enable UNRWA to overcome its financial crisis, fulfil its humanitarian duties to the refugee community, and ensure a decent standard of living.
- 40. The conference issues a warning regarding the potential dangers of UNRWA reducing the value of cash assistance provided to Palestinian refugees in Syria for 2023 by approximately 40 percent. Additionally, reducing the number of food distribution cycles from three rounds to two rounds is a consequence of the weak donor response to the Syria emergency appeal, which only covered 17 percent of the required \$436.7 million. The conference calls on

UNRWA to reverse its decision to align its services with available funding and to actively seek funding sources that meet the needs of Palestinian refugees.

- 41. The conference commends UNRWA's successful rehabilitation of its facilities in Palestinian camps in Syria, particularly in the Yarmouk, Ain Al-Tal, and Daraa camps. It acknowledges the resumption of its educational, health, relief, social, and protection services for returning families. The conference supports the reconstruction of homes for returnees to these camps, employing a self-help approach to encourage refugees to return. It calls on donor countries to expedite support for camp reconstruction in Syria and the completion of the Nahr Al-Bared camp reconstruction in Lebanon. The conference expresses gratitude for the facilities provided by the Syrian government, enabling the return of refugees to their camps.
- 42. The conference urges UNRWA to increase the budgets for the Syria and Lebanon regions in the 2024 budget. This increase aims to enhance services for Palestinian refugees, ensuring food security and addressing the rampant poverty and unemployment that has exceeded 90 percent.
- 43. The conference expresses solidarity with Syria after the earthquake in February, which claimed thousands of lives, injured tens of thousands, and displaced Palestinian refugees. It calls on UNRWA to provide all possible assistance to alleviate the effects of the earthquake. The conference particularly emphasises the plight of 20 Palestinian refugees who lost their lives and the 2,355 displaced from Al-Nayrab, Ain Al-Tal, and Latakia (Al-Raml) camps, with 173 still residing in emergency shelters.
- 44. The conference supports UNRWA's strategy for resource mobilisation and communication for 2023-2025. It sees this as a crucial step towards ensuring financial stability in UNRWA's budget. The conference calls on UNRWA management to launch the "Priceless Dignity Campaign," involving stakeholders to support UNRWA and refugees together. This includes the active participation of donor countries, political parties, civil society, think tanks, academia, and public figures.

- 45. The conference underscores the importance of coordination between Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees and UNRWA administration. This collaboration aims to prioritise the needs of Palestinian refugees and update essential documents related to the workforce, including wage policy. These updates are to be included in the 2025 budget and presented as proposals for the required increase in United Nations contributions, subject to approval by the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres.
- 46. The conference addresses the repercussions of the workers' union strike in the West Bank and Jerusalem from 23 January to 9 February 2023, and resuming on 4 March 2023. This strike disrupted UNRWA institutions in 19 camps, suspended services to about 900,000 refugees, closed 96 schools, and deprived over 9,000 students of their education. After mediation between the union and UNRWA, the strike was frozen for three months, starting from 16 June 2023. The conference supports the paper submitted by host Arab countries to develop a wage payment policy for UNRWA workers until the next advisory committee meeting in mid-November, aiming to avoid future strikes in UNRWA's areas of operation.
- Advocate for the modernisation and development of UNRWA's wage policy for local workers, transitioning it into a contemporary, flexible system that considers the host country's cost of living and aligns with the wage policies of other international organisations. The goal is to ensure equitable and decent salaries for all UNRWA workers across its five areas of operation.
- Propose the establishment of a specialised working group within the subcommittee (comprising donors and host countries) to provide guidance to UNRWA. This group would assist in formulating a wage policy linked to the host country's cost of living index and a unified salary scale for all five regions. This approach would eliminate the need for future surveys, with the working group presenting its findings to the Advisory Committee at its upcoming November meeting for approval. Seeking the assistance of internationally recognised experts agreeable to all parties is encouraged.

Request the inclusion of the working group's outcomes, covering the wage policy and an updated salary scale, in UNRWA's budget for the year 2025. These proposals should be deliberated with the Fifth Committee (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs) at the United Nations. Specifically, the working group aims to secure additional financial allocations, leveraging the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that gradually increases the Agency's allocations in the regular budget. This increase should not only cover the salaries of international staff, per Resolution 3331 B, but also address operational costs related to the Agency's core tasks and programs. It is crucial to emphasise that the fiscal deficit should not be cited as a reason to halt or delay the development of the wage policy.

Developments:

- 47. The conference applauds the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' July 2023 update of the database containing commercial companies engaged in activities associated with settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. The halt of operations by 15 companies within the settlements is seen as a reinforcement of the multilateral international system grounded in international law, aiming to eliminate sources contributing to the colonial system, particularly illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. The conference urges the High Commissioner to monitor the committee overseeing foreign companies operating in settlements and encourages it to exert pressure on companies still active in settlements established in the occupied Palestinian territories in 1967, compelling them to cease operations immediately.
- 48. The conference condemns the decision of the Israeli Minister of Internal Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, on 20 March 2023, to shut down the office of the company providing media and production services to the official Palestinian media and recall its working crews. This action is viewed as part of a systematic, racist policy aimed at suppressing freedoms and concealing crimes committed by the occupation forces. The conference calls on the International Federation of Journalists

and all international human rights organisations to denounce these measures and exert pressure on the occupation authorities to reverse them.

- 49. The conference welcomes the decision of the South African Parliament on 3/8/2023 to decrease diplomatic representation in Israel due to ongoing Israeli attacks, violations against Palestinians, and the apartheid crimes it perpetrates. This decision aligns with South Africa's historical stance in support of the Palestinian people, their cause, and their just and legitimate national rights. The conference urges other countries and parliaments to take similar stances, seeking justice for the Palestinian people and holding the occupying state accountable.
- 50. The conference condemns the continued acts of piracy by the Israeli occupation government, particularly its February 2023 decision to renew old deductions and impose new ones by subtracting an additional amount of 52 million shekels per month (bringing the total to 276 million shekels per month), purportedly for paying the salaries of prisoners and martyrs. The annual sum is estimated at 2.4 billion shekels. These measures are viewed as a new assault on the Palestinian people, their capabilities, and their finances, hindering the development process in Palestine. The conference urges the international community to pressure the occupation government to cease fund piracy and return the Palestinian funds and dues being unlawfully withheld, with the aim of undermining the institutions and ministries of the State of Palestine. It also calls on Arab countries to implement decisions from Arab summits related to activating the financial safety net and resuming aid to the State of Palestine, enabling it to confront these harsh measures.