A grayscale photograph of the United Nations Secretariat Building, a tall, modern skyscraper with a grid of windows. In the foreground, a row of flags on poles is visible. The image is partially obscured by a dark red overlay on the right side.

The United Nations and its Agencies: Unequal Financial Allocations, Mistreatment of Israel, and Straying from its Mandates

Ran Bar-Yoshafat



Tevet 5779 — January 2019
Policy Paper no. 44

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Executive Summary

This paper examines the United Nations' (hereinafter: the "UN") and its agencies' unequal financial allocations, mistreatment of Israel, and breach of its mandates. It covers almost 30 UN institutions: executive and judicial organs and committees. While it does not cover all misconduct at the UN, it highlights an alarming pattern in the way the UN operates. Analysis of some of the individual bodies demonstrates that the UN treats the State of Israel unfairly and unequally. Subtle bias consisting of inflammatory language in resolutions and excessive spending on certain projects constitute discriminatory practices.

Official UN websites were examined to determine the institutions' overall function, budget, sources of funding, membership selection criteria, and connection to Israel. Information, however, was often difficult to obtain. For example, accessing clear and detailed budget information proved difficult; this in itself arouses concern, because the UN is funded by taxpayers' money from various countries — most importantly the United States. For this reason, information was also obtained from reputable NGOs whose goal is to increase transparency and clarify internal proceedings at the UN.

The actions of many UN organs and subsidiaries involving Israel were individually analyzed. Aspects examined included the language and terminology used and the institution's ostensible function, membership, utilization of its financial resources, and agenda.

While problems were found at over thirty other bodies, the institutions showcased in this paper demonstrate a clear bias against Israel in the allocation of funds and breach of their mandates. The paper uses this information and analysis to formulate recommendations for making the UN more transparent, efficient, and fair.¹

Subtle bias consisting of inflammatory language in resolutions and excessive spending on certain projects constitute discriminatory practices.





Introduction

In response to the devastation and destruction in World War II, the world's nations established the UN in 1945 with the aim of preventing future military conflicts. The UN was established for five main purposes: maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, providing humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law.² Although the UN is supposed to work towards these ideals without discriminating between nations, it has not always done so. The State of Israel is a prime example of UN bias and the outstanding victim of unfair treatment. The following essay documents the UN's lack of transparency and systemic discrimination, especially towards Israel.

The UN is clearly biased against Israel. These biases ultimately impedes the international peace process and violates the mandates of both individual UN agencies and the UN as a whole. For example, the UN uses harsh terminology exclusively against Israel. In UN General Assembly (hereinafter — “UNGA”) resolutions, Israel was labeled an “occupying power”— a term not used in any other conflict. Thorough research proves that the UN employs a distinct vocabulary when referring to Israel, compared with other countries facing similar situations. In 1967-2016, UNGA resolutions referred to Israeli-held territories as “occupied” 2,342 times, compared with a total of 16 references to the following territories as “occupied”: East Timor (by Indonesia), Northern Cyprus (by Turkey), areas of Georgia (by Russia), Western Sahara (by Morocco), Cambodia (by Vietnam), areas of Azerbaijan (by Armenia), and Ukrainian Crimea (by Russia). This is only one example that illustrates the vast differences in language used by the UN when dealing with Israel, compared with other countries, which highlights the UN's bias against Israel. The UN's description of Israel as an “occupying power” does not appear in its descriptions of any of the conflicts in the territories mentioned above.³ This terminology has been adopted by many UN agencies whose function has nothing to do with Israel. By using special terminology to describe Israel, the UN distorts reality and applies a double standard that treats Israel differently from any other country.

The UN uses harsh terminology exclusively against Israel. This terminology has been adopted by many UN agencies whose function has nothing to do with Israel.

Many UN bodies were not included in this paper because it was impossible to include every instance of UN bias against Israel, but this bias is common to all UN institutions. Comparisons show outrageous disproportion in the number of resolutions condemning Israel, the only stable democracy in the Middle East. Article 51 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter recognizes the fundamental right of individual and national self-defense, but the UNGA has continuously voted against Israel's right to self-defense, thereby contravening the UN's guiding principles.⁴ Regional membership has also been used against Israel. The UN is divided into five regional groups: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and Other States. When Israel joined the UN in 1949, it was unable to join a regional group, and was consequently disqualified from leading any UN Committee.⁵ Only in 2000 was Israel temporarily admitted into the Western Europe and Other States category and was finally given full membership in 2004.⁶ This long-standing exclusion should be taken into account when analyzing the history and implications of Israel's relationship with the UN.

The UN allocates a disproportionate amount of aid to the Palestinian Authority (hereinafter: "the PA"). This paper shows that the PA receives more money per capita than any state. Aid discrimination constitutes a clear violation of Chapter I, Article II, Section I of the UN Charter, which requires equal treatment of all member states.⁷ Furthermore, much of the aid given to the Palestinians is not used for its ostensible purpose. In many cases, the money is used to vilify Israel, or even for terrorism.



United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Function

UNGA is one of the main UN institutions — the only one in which every nation is represented equally. It convenes to discuss a variety of issues, such as international days of remembrance, development, political conditions, humanitarian aid, etc. UNGA approves the UN budget, elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council, and discusses and debates various UN issues and programs.⁸ In addition to UNGA's 193 member states, it also includes two non-member observers: the Holy See⁹ and Palestine.¹⁰ Observers can debate and speak on the floor, but cannot vote.¹¹

Connection to Israel

The majority of UNGA resolutions concern conflicts, events, or ideas, not states. UNGA customarily passes resolutions condemning countries only for egregious human rights violations, such as in Syria, Iran, or Saudi Arabia. UNGA generally does not issue condemnations in settlement and land disputes, such as Morocco-Spain, Sudan/Egypt-South Sudan, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Pakistan-India, and Turkey-Cyprus.

Israel, however, is disproportionately denounced.¹² Appendix A displays the number of resolutions condemning Israel over the past six years, compared with the rest of the world. In 2012-2017, UNGA passed 150 resolutions condemning countries for actions against a people. 124 of these resolutions, 82.67% of all condemnatory resolutions, were against Israel. This is disproportionate, considering UN and other statistics for Israel's population, democracy index rating, etc. To date, UNGA has yet to pass any resolution calling for reform in the PA¹³ or Hamas.¹⁴ Attempts in June and December 2018 to pass a resolution against Hamas have failed. This lack of condemnation for an entity whose charter clearly violates human rights constitutes egregiously unfair treatment.

In 2012-2017, UNGA passed 150 resolutions condemning countries for actions against a people. 124 of these resolutions, 82.67% of all condemnatory resolutions, were against Israel. This is disproportionate, considering UN and other statistics for Israel's population, democracy index rating, etc. To date, UNGA has yet to pass any resolution calling for reform in the PA or Hamas.

The disproportionate number¹⁵ of resolutions condemning Israel in the past six years is not only unfair, but also potentially dangerous. There were 3,135 casualties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2012-2017,¹⁶ but the numbers alone do not accurately depict the situation. Many of these fatalities attributed to Israel are actually victims of Hamas' aggression. Hamas caused the death of at least 160 Palestinian children by forcing them to dig its tunnels.¹⁷ In comparison, casualties reported in the Syrian civil war in 2016 reached 470,000, with thousands of fatalities each year.¹⁸ 5,295 is a low estimate of civilian fatalities in Saudi Arabian military offenses in Yemen.¹⁹ The death toll attributed to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is lower than in numerous other world conflicts, all of which all aroused far less international outcry. This dangerous double standard potentially deprives innocent people of necessary resources in coping with more lethal conflicts.

One of these resolutions, dated December 23, 2016, is a prime example of this targeting. UN Security Council Resolution 2334 repeatedly labels Israel as "the occupying power" and refers to Israel's policies in the West Bank as "measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory," a subtle way of accusing Israel of ethnic cleansing.²⁰ A resolution on the Syrian civil war passed two days earlier (when the Syrian government finished the brutal conquest of Aleppo) both expressed concern regarding the humanitarian crisis in Syria and lauded the Assad regime for its progress in combating ISIS and other radical groups.²¹ A mere 10 days later, the UN Security Council passed another resolution defending the importance and integrity of Syria's political process as the ultimate means to resolving the civil war.²² Only days after finishing a military offensive that killed more than 1,000 civilians,²³ the Assad regime's internal political process was described as the only way to end the Syrian civil war, while Israel was told that its political process needed UN supervision. According to the Security Council, Israel has less political integrity than a regime that has killed over 500,000 civilians in the past eight years.²⁴

Another example of this unbalanced treatment is the UNGA protocol entitled “Uniting for Peace,” which gives UNGA power to intervene in a conflict deeply damaging to world peace in instances when the Security Council has failed to do so.²⁵ This protocol was adopted in 1950 when UNGA Resolution 377a was passed. Its original purpose was to bypass a Soviet Security Council veto in order to provide security to South Korea at the onset of the Korean war. Since its inception, “Uniting for Peace” has been invoked 10 times, two of which were directed against Israel.²⁶ The most notable of these was in 1997, when Qatar called for a special session on Israeli policy towards the Palestinians. This session has been periodically resumed since 1997, most recently in June 2018.²⁷ The fact that 20% of the “Uniting for Peace” sessions concerned Israeli policy demonstrates a disproportionate level of interest by the international community in comparison with other major international conflicts. In addition, the recent 10th session has continued for 21 years, showing a desire to stir up conflict with Israel, not to achieve peace.²⁸ Although the most recent meeting concerned the US moving its embassy to Jerusalem, the UN condemned Israel instead.





United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Function

The Human Rights Council is a UN body responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. UNHRC also analyzes potential human rights violations and makes suggestions on how to resolve them. It meets at the UN Office in Geneva.²⁹

Budget

UNHRC is funded by the UNGA. The organization was allocated \$201,600,000 in 2018-2019, 3.7% of the total UN budget. The rest of UNHRC's budget is obtained through independent fundraising. UNHRC raised \$142,800,000 through independent donations from member states in 2017, including \$20,160,912 from the United States.³⁰

Membership

UNHRC is composed of 47 member states elected by a majority vote in UNGA. UNHRC's website states that UNGA is supposed to take each state's contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights into account when voting on members, as well as its voluntary pledges and commitments to human rights. This, however, does not appear to be the case. Seats are distributed geographically as follows: Asia-Pacific states — 13 seats, Latin American and Caribbean states — eight seats, Western European and other states — seven seats and Eastern European states — six seats. Member states serve three-year terms and can serve only two consecutive terms, followed by a waiting period, before again seeking election.³¹

Israel is the only country with a permanent and specific agenda item at every meeting.

Connection to Israel

UNHRC condemned Israel 61 times in 2006-2015, compared with 56 for the rest of the world combined.

UNHRC holds emergency sessions to address severe crises. In 2006-2015 UNHRC held 17 emergency sessions, seven of which targeted Israel.³² Every agenda meeting of the UNHRC cites Article 7 in criticizing Israel. Article 7 is a permanent item on the agenda that specifically looks at Israel's human rights violations. Israel is the only country with a permanent and specific agenda item at every meeting.³³

UNHRC has a special representative of the Palestinian territories whose role is to research Israeli human rights abuses in the occupied territories. The representative has no mandate or responsibility to also report and investigate PA and Hamas human rights violations.³⁴

John Dugard, the special rapporteur in 2001-2008, was clearly biased. He consistently accused Israel of practicing apartheid against the Palestinians.³⁵ Richard Falk, who succeeded Dugard in 2009, has a history of negative and demonizing comments on Israel. He claimed that Israel was working towards a Palestinian holocaust³⁶ and committing state-sponsored terrorism.³⁷ Falk is a supporter of the BDS Movement (Boycott, Divest, Sanction),³⁸ and has compared Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.³⁹

UNHRC's anti-Israel bias has begun to cause international controversy. Most notably, the United States revoked its membership in the UNHRC, citing systematic anti-Israel bias and the membership of notorious human rights abusers.⁴⁰

The United Kingdom has also threatened a response if UNHRC does not cease its efforts to undermine Israel.⁴¹ The UK representative said that his country would vote against any future resolutions condemning Israel's practices in the occupied territories unless UNHRC institutes reforms.



Security Council

Peacekeeping Operations and Political Missions

Function

UN Peacekeepers are military forces deployed for peacekeeping and peace-building missions. The Security Council or UNGA⁴² can authorize their deployment. There are 14 peacekeeping missions around the world.⁴³ Peacekeepers enforce the rule of law in the area under its responsibility in order to enhance future peace-building attempts⁴⁴ and ensure that human rights are protected⁴⁵ and women empowered.⁴⁶

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is responsible for the political and executive aspects of peacekeeper forces. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has four main offices: the Office of Operations; the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions; the Office of Military Affairs; and the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division.⁴⁷ The Under-Secretary-General is Jean Pierre Lacroix.⁴⁸

Budget

All UN members contribute funds to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Each nation's contribution is calculated using a formula that "takes into account, among other things, the relative economic wealth of the Member State. The five permanent members of the Security Council are required to pay a larger share because of their special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security." The peacekeeping budget for 2017-2018 is \$6,800,000,000. The UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) are financed through the UN regular budget.⁴⁹ In 2015, the United States contributed almost half of the peacekeeping budget.⁵⁰

All three peacekeeping operations are highly inefficient at fulfilling their functions. Israel has risked the lives of its own soldiers to rescue UNDOF personnel. UNTSO has no clear purpose anymore whilst based at its current location in Jerusalem. Other allegations against UNTSO include illegal building in Jerusalem.

Membership

The Security Council, which has five permanent members (United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia) and 10 non-permanent members, decides on peacekeeping operations.⁵¹ The non-permanent members include five from African and Asian states, one from Eastern European states, two from Latin American states, and two from Western European and other states. Countries cannot be nominated to the Security Council; voting is by secret ballot and a country needs a majority vote to become a Security Council member.⁵²

Connection to Israel

Two of the 14 peacekeeping missions⁵³ in the world are located in Israel and one on Israel's borders.⁵⁴ The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), created in 1974 in response to the Israel-Syria conflict and disengagement that followed, has been stationed in the Golan Heights to maintain the ceasefire and disengagement ever since. In 2017, the conflict in Syria violated the ceasefire and the mandate for UNDOF was renewed. UNDOF is funded through an account approved by UNGA. Its budget for 2017 was \$57,653,700.⁵⁵

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was originally created in 1978 to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and to ensure the transition of the government back into power. After 2006, the mandate was expanded to monitor and alleviate the conflict in Lebanon and ensure civilians' access to humanitarian aid.⁵⁶

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was created in 1948 as the first peacekeeping operation. Still in existence today, UNTSO monitors ceasefires, supervises armistice agreements, prevents isolated incidents from escalating and assists other UN peacekeeping operations in the Middle East. It has a budget of \$68,949,400.⁵⁷

All three peacekeeping operations are highly inefficient at fulfilling their functions.

There have been allegations of a direct link between UNIFIL and the Hezbollah terrorist⁵⁸ organization.⁵⁹ This links a UN body with a multi-million-dollar budget to a terror and militant group that calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. UNIFIL, which has a relatively large force numbering thousands of soldiers, seem unable to fulfill its own mandate, which includes the disarming of paramilitary organizations such as Hezbollah. UNIFIL, which is subject to attacks by Hezbollah, has no proper response to them.⁶⁰

In addition, Israel has risked the lives of its own soldiers to rescue UNDOF personnel. For example, IDF soldiers saved the lives of Irish UNDOF soldiers attacked in the Golan Heights by Syrian jihadists.⁶¹ Furthermore, in 2018, Israel was asked to enter Syria and rescue hundreds of members of the White Helmets organization.⁶² It appears that UNDOF is unable to fulfill its mandate alone; in all probability, the situation would be better if the force was removed and the funds put to better use.

UNTSO has no clear purpose anymore whilst based at its current location in Jerusalem. UNTSO peacekeepers are sent to various areas such as Syria, Lebanon, and Sinai, indicating that they are not needed in Jerusalem, an area controlled by a sovereign state.⁶³ Other allegations against UNTSO include illegal building in Jerusalem.⁶⁴





Security Council: Peacekeeping Operations

United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)

Function

UNSCO works directly under the Secretary-General and leads all efforts related to the peace process, specifically in Israel and Palestine. UNSCO is also responsible for all humanitarian efforts and relief to support the Palestinian territories.

UNSCO was established immediately after the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 to support the Palestinian people. The initial goal of UNSCO was to increase involvement in the peace process. In 1999, UNSCO was enlarged and became the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, as well as the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)⁶⁵ and the PA. Moreover, in 2006, a Deputy Special Coordinator, Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator was appointed to lead the UN country team, 21 UN organizations providing humanitarian and development assistance to Palestinians. The country team for Palestine works to promote inter-agency coordination and decision making at the country-level.⁶⁶

Today, UNSCO operates as a field office under the Department of Political Affairs.⁶⁷ UNSCO has offices in Jerusalem, Gaza, and Ramallah, as well as regional rovers. The office oversees all issues related to the humanitarian situation and development challenges facing the Palestinians. Additionally, the office is organized into a Regional Affairs Unit, a Coordination Unit, a Media Unit, and a Mission Support Unit.⁶⁸

In May of 2017, UNSCO funded the construction of a Palestinian Center honoring Palestinian Dalal Mughrabi, who died while carrying out a terrorist attack in which 37 civilians were murdered.

Connection to Israel

UNSCO⁶⁹ automatically supports the Palestinians, acts as a spokesman for Palestinian state-building efforts, and condemns Israeli settlement expansion. According to UNSCO, Israel bears sole responsibility for the crises in the West Bank and Gaza. Moreover, UNSCO has been instrumental in passing anti-Israel UN resolutions, such as UN Security Council Resolution 2334⁷⁰ calling for the end of settlements and recognizing the 1949 Armistice Agreements as the only legitimate borders of Israel.⁷¹ In the Security Council briefing of May 30, 2018, the Special Coordinator stated, "It is high time that we intensify our calls on Israelis and Palestinians to undertake concrete steps that will advance the goal of a just and sustainable peace. Such actions must encompass the overarching political objectives: the unification of Gaza and the West Bank under a single, democratic and legitimate PA; an end to the occupation; and a resolution of the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of a two-state solution and in line with previous agreements and relevant UN resolutions."⁷²

In May of 2017, UNSCO funded the construction of a Palestinian Center honoring Palestinian Dalal Mughrabi, who died while carrying out a terrorist attack in which 37 civilians were murdered. The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded an explanation regarding the mysterious funding and also condemned the UN for honoring and glorifying a terrorist.⁷³ This is the only example of a known terrorist being recognized and praised openly by an international organization.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Function

ECLAC was established in 1948 as one of five regional economic commissions. It was founded with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties among Latin American countries and between them and other nations of the world. Promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives.⁷⁴

Budget

Total resources available for the 2016-2017 biennium amounted to \$112,076,000.⁷⁵ The budget is funded by the Member States, via the regular UN budget and voluntary extra-budgetary funds. Generally, these funds are earmarked for specific projects agreed upon by the donor and ECLAC.⁷⁶

Membership

There are 46 total Member States of ECLAC, including 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries and several Asian, European, and North American nations with historical, economic, and cultural ties to the region. There are also 14 non-independent territories in the Caribbean who are Associate Members.

The Commission is responsible for economic affairs regarding Latin America and the Caribbean, yet, the office has exceeded its mandate by criticizing Israel. The conference was organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, with the goal of analyzing ways Latin American and Caribbean states could work to aid the Palestinians. Concern about this conference results from the fact that it is not in ECLAC's mandate, and that its decisions will set an unjust precedent for future discourse regarding the conflict and abet the criticism against Israel. In addition, Israel was not even given a platform to respond.

Connection to Israel

The Commission is responsible for economic affairs regarding Latin America and the Caribbean, yet, the office has exceeded its mandate by criticizing Israel. In 2008, ECLAC held a conference at their headquarters in Santiago in order to discuss and debate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Commission called upon Israel to “cease settlement expansion in the West Bank, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle the separation wall in keeping with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, and lift the siege of the Gaza Strip.” The conference was organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, with the goal of analyzing ways Latin American and Caribbean states could work to aid the Palestinians.⁷⁷ Concern about this conference results from the fact that it is not in ECLAC's mandate, and that its decisions will set an unjust precedent for future discourse regarding the conflict and abet the criticism against Israel. In addition, Israel was not even given a platform to respond.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Function

The Commission, established in 1973 and renamed in 1985, has its headquarters in Beirut. Its main purpose is to support economic and social development in its member countries and to provide a framework and platform for policies.⁷⁸

Budget

ESCWA has received \$7,129,936 in voluntary contributions since 2014. The money is used to address regional problems relating to water, environment, statistics, technology, gender, and social and economic development. The Commission has partnerships with 22 donors including governments, UN agencies, private foundations, and others. A large portion of the funding comes from Sweden, Germany, Norway, the World Bank, UNDP, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).⁷⁹

Membership

ESCWA is composed of 18 Arab countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the “State of Palestine”, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen.⁸⁰

Connection to Israel

The exclusion of Israel from this organization, despite Israel's location in Western Asia and its economic relations with these countries, is discriminatory and hurts the region as a whole.

This condemnation and concern over Israel's actions is not a part of ESCWA's charter and serves no purpose in fulfilling its mission.

ESCWA closely monitors what it refers to as “Israeli occupation” even though this has no connection to the function it purports to fulfill. The ESCWA report on “Working for a Just and Prosperous Arab World” condemns Israel and presents a one-sided narrative.⁸¹ The report discusses the dire situation in Palestine, which it says features underdevelopment and lack of economic opportunity. The report fails to condemn, or even mention, the effect that Palestinian leadership in Gaza and the West Bank has had on the distress that Palestinians face, and condemns only Israel for problems in the region.⁸² This condemnation and concern over Israel's actions is not a part of ESCWA's charter and serves no purpose in fulfilling its mission. In addition, excluding Israel, 20% of whose population is Arab, is a political statement, not a reasonable course of action.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Function

UNCTAD was established in 1964 with the goal of furthering globalization of the world economy. UNCTAD supports developing countries' access to the global economy and deals with the effects of greater integration into it. UNCTAD, which is under the leadership of the Secretary-General, has five specialized divisions dealing with different topics. The most important decisions are made at UNCTAD quadrennial conference, at which member states discuss current trade issues and responses, decide upon the budget, and set the organization's priorities.⁸³

Budget

UNCTAD's regular budget for 2016 was \$40,082,000. Together with partners, UNCTAD invested \$39,000,000 in 232 projects in 145 countries in 2016.⁸⁴ UNCTAD is mostly funded by member states, UN system organizations, other international organizations, and other donors from private and public sectors.⁸⁵

Membership

UNCTAD has 193 members.

Connection to Israel

UNCTAD has published extensive research and reports on the trade and economic situation in Gaza and the West Bank. In 1985, UNCTAD drafted a mandate, the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit (APPU), to research the social and economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza. The APPU works with the PA and other Palestinian organizations to lay the foundations for an

The problem is that UNCTAD condemns Israel instead of furthering the development of the “occupied Palestinian territories,” thereby disregarding its mandate in pursuit of its political agenda.

economically secure future Palestinian state.⁸⁶ The APPU reported that the economic instability in the West Bank and Gaza are a result of Israeli occupation and called on Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza. In accordance with UNGA and Security Council rhetoric, the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem are referred to as “occupied Palestinian territory.”

This is problematic because many UNCTAD publications blame Israel alone for the problems in areas governed autonomously by either Hamas or the PA.⁸⁷ The problem is that UNCTAD condemns Israel instead of furthering the development of the “occupied Palestinian territories,” thereby disregarding its mandate in pursuit of its political agenda.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Function

UNDP is the UN's global development network. UNDP focuses on alleviating poverty, advancing democratic ideas, implementing climate change solutions and rectifying economic inequality.⁸⁸

Budget

In 2018, UNDP had a budget of \$5,441,270,000.⁸⁹ The top source of contributions is Japan, which contributes \$255,681,148. The United States, the third highest contributor, contributed \$249,267,424 to UNDP.⁹⁰

Membership

The members of the UNDP executive board are elected by the Economic and Social Council to three-year terms. The president and vice-presidents are elected by the members at the first session of each year.⁹¹ UNDP has 36 member states; Israel is not a member.⁹² UNDP is headed by the vice chair of the UN Development Group. UNDP has an executive board with rotating membership from its constituent countries. States without a current representative on the board may still attend meetings.

Connection to Israel

The "Program for Palestinian People" has 51 projects and receives \$97,140,000 from UNDP's international resources.⁹³ Gaza resident Waheed Al Bursh, who worked as an engineer for UNDP from 2003, confessed in 2014 he is a member of Hamas, a recognized Islamist terrorist group. Bursh funneled UNDP resources to build

Gaza resident Waheed

Al Bursh, an engineer

for the UNDP, funneled

UNDP resources to build a

maritime jetty for Hamas.

Furthermore, he did not

accurately report tunnels and

weapons within the houses

reconstructed by UNDP.

UNDP lacks necessary transparency, and spending shows that Palestinians receive an excessive amount of money according to the UN criteria of the Human Development Index. It is also suspected that much of this money is being used to fund terrorism, instead of creating productive jobs and/or gender equality, as stated in UNDP's agenda.

a maritime jetty for Hamas and put the money for reconstructing homes in Gaza into Hamas districts. Bursh was also convicted of a crime and sent to prison.⁹⁴ Furthermore, he did not accurately report tunnels and weapons within the houses reconstructed by UNDP.⁹⁵ In 2013, the former head of the UN in Sudan blew the whistle on how UN agencies handle their resources. He revealed that some UNDP projects never closed down and continued to receive money, enabling the employees to keep the cars and other allocated vehicles.⁹⁶ UNDP lacks necessary transparency, and spending shows that Palestinians receive an excessive amount of money according to the UN criteria of the Human Development Index.⁹⁷ It is also suspected that much of this money is being used to fund terrorism, instead of creating productive jobs and/or gender equality, as stated in UNDP's agenda.⁹⁸



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Function

UNEP was created with the mission of promoting environmental sustainability. Its goal is to educate people and assist nations in caring for natural resources and the environment. There are seven divisions within the management team, all with different purposes and focuses.⁹⁹ Most decisions are made at the UN Environment Assembly, attended by all member states, where the agenda for the programme is discussed.¹⁰⁰

Budget

UNEP's total planned budget in 2016 was \$339,000,000 and its total income was \$465,000,000.¹⁰¹ Funding for UNEP includes the regular budget from the UN, an environment fund from member states, and earmarked funds that include donations from organizations and member states. Most of the UNEP's funding goes for projects.¹⁰²

Connection to Israel

In 2002, UNEP carried out a desk study on the state of the environment in what it referred to as “occupied Palestinian territories.” The goal of the report was to determine the environmental problems in the area requiring urgent attention. The report focused on Palestinian access to water, pollution, disposal of wastewater, solid waste, and toxic waste.¹⁰³

UNEP stated that it was unable to visit any Israeli towns beyond the green line due to security constraints, it had no problem, however, visiting Arab towns in the same location — the only difference being the people living in the towns. This “inability” to visit the Israeli towns labels the Jews living there as violent and dangerous.

UNEP stated that it was unable to visit any Israeli towns beyond the green line due to security constraints, it had no problem, however, visiting Arab towns in the same location — the only difference being the people living in the towns. Since only Arab towns were visited, little information was provided on treatment of wastewater from the Israeli towns beyond the green line.

Since only Arab towns were visited, little information was provided on treatment of wastewater from the Israeli towns beyond the green line. UNEP could not publish an unbiased and accurate report without visiting all of the towns— both Arab and Israeli.

Palestinian sources reported that Israeli settlements in Gaza¹⁰⁴ were discharging large quantities of untreated wastewater directly onto Palestinian land or into coastal waters. Israeli sources refuted this, claiming that local compact wastewater treatment facilities were used and that an effluent recycling system had been installed in one area. The report deviated from its ostensible goal of non-political environmental research in order to further the allegation that Israeli occupation is causing violence and degradation of the Palestinian quality of life, most notably by parroting the accusation that Israeli towns beyond the green line were too dangerous to visit, and that these towns were intentionally dumping wastewater onto Palestinian land. However, the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 1995 lists the water rights of all parties, and Israel has continuously upheld its side of the deal.¹⁰⁵



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Function

The UN's program for sustainable towns and cities, known as the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), works in nearly 70 countries throughout the world. It is made up of three main bodies: A Governing Council (GC), a Secretariat, and a Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The GC has 58 member states, who decide its strategy and policy directions and approve the budget. The Secretariat executes the programs and decisions by the GC and serves as the principle body for all urban and human settlement matters in the UN. The CPR, composed of foreign ambassadors, supervises the Secretariat and ensures that it follows the framework set up by the GC. Their joint mission is to create safe and livable cities and settlements.¹⁰⁶

Budget

UN-HABITAT received \$149,431,778 in contributions during 2017 from national governments and other organizations. The funds are used to run hundreds of projects concerning urban development. Most of its work is done in the Southern Hemisphere. UN-HABITAT's top government donors in 2017 were the EU, which gave \$20,700,000; Germany (\$18,600,000); Japan (\$15,400,000), Sweden (\$12,000,000); and Denmark (\$11,900,000). The United States gave \$3,336,493, UNDP \$12,400,000, and UNICEF \$2,900,000.¹⁰⁷

UN-HABITAT adopts a position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in favor of the Palestinians. It criticized Israel while ignoring any violence and human rights violations on the Palestinian side. It conspicuously ignores the fact that Hamas uses its funds to build terror tunnels and rockets, and that the PA uses its money to pay terrorists instead of funding public services and aiding its citizens.

Membership

The Governing Council, which controls UN-HABITAT, is composed of 58 members appointed to four-year terms by the Economic and Social Council. Membership is distributed by geographic location, with each region being allotted a set number of seats. Africa currently has 16 seats, Asia-Pacific 13 seats, Eastern Europe six seats, Latin America and the Caribbean 10 seats, and Western Europe and other states 13 seats. Israel is a member under Western European and other States.¹⁰⁸

Connection to Israel

UN-HABITAT adopts a position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in favor of the Palestinians, as demonstrated by its 23rd Governing Council. In 2011, a resolution was adopted to focus on improving the Palestinians conditions and building a Palestinian state. It criticized Israel while ignoring any violence and human rights violations on the Palestinian side.¹⁰⁹ It conspicuously ignores the fact that Hamas uses its funds to build terror tunnels and rockets, and that the PA uses its money to pay terrorists instead of funding public services and aiding its citizens. While Palestinians do indeed face major problems, the issue is by no means one-sided.

Despite the fact that the UN reported that Hamas stored weaponry in schools and then unlocked the gate “to allow children access to the schoolyard,” UN-HABITAT is still putting its funds into restoring “all of the 78 hospitals, clinics and the 252 schools”¹¹⁰ — the same schools and hospitals used to store weapons and endanger children.¹¹¹ By simultaneously condemning Israel’s security and ignoring Palestinian wrongdoing, UN-HABITAT is working against its true mission of sustainable urbanization. It is operating outside of its mandate and abusing its power.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Function

UNICEF aids children and mothers in need around the world. It specializes in education, health services, gender discrimination, violence, and other areas where children are affected. UNICEF has programs in 192 countries and seven regional offices worldwide.

Budget

UNICEF reported a total revenue of \$6,576,743,603 for 2017. It is common that organizations and foundations frequently contribute to UNICEF, which also receives private donations from patrons.¹¹²

Membership

UNICEF's executive board has representatives from 36 member states appointed to three-year terms. Eight UNICEF members are from Africa, seven from Asia, four from Eastern Europe, five from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 12 from Western Europe and other countries. Israel is currently not on the executive board.¹¹³

Connection to Israel

UNICEF works extensively with Palestinians and especially focuses on providing clean and accessible drinking water to children in the Gaza Strip.¹¹⁴ A 2014-2015 UNICEF report blamed Israeli occupation for Palestine's under-development, human rights crisis, and lack of self-determination. The PA and Hamas were not blamed for any of these issues. The report describes Operation Protective Edge, chronicles the extensive damage caused by Israel, and promulgates

UNICEF gives the Palestinians over 100% of the money they claim they need, while most other countries only receive a small percentage of their aid requests. Moreover, it has been proven that a significant amount of this money is channeled to various NGOs, many of which are dedicated to vilifying Israel, instead of helping children.

the allegation that it was started by the Israelis and unprovoked. The report mentions Palestinian rocket attacks, but only very briefly and does not condemn them.¹¹⁵ The entire report discusses the dire situation in Palestine and places the blame almost exclusively on Israel.

UNICEF published a report in 2010 analyzing the effect of their work on children's schools.¹¹⁶ The report concludes that Palestinian children live in hazardous conditions and lack basic resources. UNICEF worked with and used data from the Defense for Children International Palestine organization. This vehemently anti-Israel group has received funding from UNICEF.¹¹⁷ Defense for Children International Palestine supports the BDS movement¹¹⁸ and has been linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States, European Union, Canada, and Israel.¹¹⁹ UNICEF is tainted by a political agenda that is inconsistent with its mandate to aid and protect children.

UNICEF gives the Palestinians over 100% of the money they claim they need, while most other countries only receive a small percentage of their aid requests.¹²⁰ Moreover, it has been proven that a significant amount of this money is channeled to various NGOs, many of which are dedicated to vilifying Israel, instead of helping children. For example, one of these NGOs, called Al-Mezan, refers to the IDF as the IOF (Israeli Occupation Force) and Israeli policy as "ethnic cleansing".¹²¹ UNICEF, whose mission is to help children in crisis around the world, is responsible for verifying that the money it allocates is used properly.



Economic and Social Council: Regional Commissions

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Function

One of UNGA's largest agencies, UN-Women was created to promote and advance women's rights. It focuses on four main areas: increasing women's leadership in government, combating violence against women, bolstering women's involvement in the peace process, and empowering women economically.¹²²

Budget

Nearly 140 countries as well as individual philanthropists contributed to UN-Women's 2017 annual revenue of \$378,250,000, which was spent on providing women with humanitarian and economic assistance.¹²³

Membership

UN-Women's executive board has representatives from 41 member states appointed to three-year terms which serve in three year terms. 10 of the countries are in Africa, 10 in Asia and the Pacific, four in Eastern Europe, six in Latin America and the Caribbean, and five in Western Europe and other states, plus six other countries. Israel is not currently a member of the executive board.¹²⁴

Honor killings in the Palestinian territories have become a rising concern with an increase in the number of deaths. These statistics show that UN-Women is willing to ignore or overlook all of these violent occurrences, which have no connection whatsoever to Israel, while excessively criticizing Israel.

Connection to Israel

UN-Women has supported Palestinian women since 1997, while ignoring human rights and gender inequality perpetrated by Hamas and the PA.¹²⁵ Israel joined UN-Women in 2016 and has since been cited for mistreatment of Palestinian women.¹²⁶ In March 2018, UN-Women stated, “The Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society.”¹²⁷ Israel was the only country in the world subjected to a condemnatory resolution on women’s rights at this meeting.¹²⁸ This criticism is out of place for a country that has had a female prime minister, has completely equal rights for women since it was founded, women combatants in the army, and professions completely open to women.

Palestinian women face a multitude of challenges, including cultural, and lack legal protection. Sexual violence laws make it difficult for women to prove they have been sexually assaulted or raped. For example, if women are not able to effectively prove there was force or deception involved, then their claim is deemed false and they risk being accused of adultery. As of 2011, rates of domestic abuse of women were alarming: 29.9% in the West Bank and 51% in the Gaza Strip. When psychological abuse is added, the numbers rise to 48.8% in the West Bank and 76.4% in the Gaza Strip. Only 0.7% of women exposed to violence from their husbands sought help from a women’s institution, while 65.3% of women kept silent.¹²⁹

Honor killings in the Palestinian territories have become a rising concern with an increase in the number of deaths. There were eight reported honor killings in 2011 and 28 in 2013,¹³⁰ the same figure as in 2017-2018.¹³¹ These statistics show that UN-Women is willing to ignore or overlook all of these violent occurrences, which have no connection whatsoever to Israel, while excessively criticizing Israel.



Economic and Social Council: Functional Commissions

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Rather than including CSW under ECOSOC, UN-Women is described separately from this functional commission because the two missions overlap.

Function

CSW was established in 1946 to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its recommendations are sent to ECOSOC for follow-up.¹³² NGOs are critically important in the pursuit of CSW's goals; their representatives are allowed to attend annual sessions.¹³³

Budget

The working 2018-2019 budget for UN Women is \$200,800,000.¹³⁴ CSW is supported by UN Women.¹³⁵ In 2017, CSW received donations totaling \$146,400,000 in regular resources. Sweden, the UK, and Norway are the largest government contributors.¹³⁶

Membership

A total of 45 members states are elected by ECOSOC to four-year terms: Africa — 13 members, Asian-Pacific — 11, Latin American and the Caribbean — nine, Western Europe and other states — eight, and Eastern Europe — four. Ireland is the current chair-designate.¹³⁷ Israel is a member until 2021.¹³⁸

The only country condemned by CSW in 2017 for violating women's rights was Israel— for breaches of Palestinian women's rights. No oppression of Palestinian women by Hamas, the PA, or others was mentioned. In this same session, Saudi Arabia, one of the world's most gender-segregated and worst violators of women's rights, joined the CSW.

Connection to Israel

The only country condemned by CSW in 2017 for violating women's rights was Israel — for breaches of Palestinian women's rights.¹³⁹ No oppression of Palestinian women by Hamas, the PA, or others was mentioned.¹⁴⁰ For example, in Gaza, all schools, both private and those funded by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), are gender-segregated by law.¹⁴¹ In this same session, Saudi Arabia, one of the world's most gender-segregated and worst violators of women's rights, joined the CSW. According to UNDP's Gender Inequality Index, Arab states and sub-Saharan African states regularly had the worst ratings, while Israel ranked 19th in the HDI Human Development Index (HDI) in 2015.¹⁴²



Economic and Social Council: Programmes and Funds

World Food Programme (WFP)

Function

WFP is an organization that provides food assistance in around 80 countries. It partners with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the International Fund for Agricultural Development in combating hunger. WFP has over 14,000 staff members around the world, with 5,108 trucks, ships, and planes delivering food daily. WFP helps communities in crisis and provides cash transfers to help them recover. It purchases over 2,000,000 metric tons of food each year.¹⁴³

Budget

WFP's entire budget comes from voluntary donations from governments and private sectors. In 2017, donations amounted to \$6,073,823,845.¹⁴⁴

Membership

WFP is made up of 36 states, divided into developed and developing countries. They have A-E lists ranking countries by their development level.¹⁴⁵

Connection to Israel

WFP provides disproportionate funding to Palestinians.¹⁴⁶ El Salvador, with a population of 6.4M, of whom approximately 2.2M live in poverty, received \$11.2M Allocated Contributions out of \$88.5M Total Requirement (2017-2021),¹⁴⁷ while Palestine, with a population of 4.9M of whom approximately 1.6M lack a secure supply of food, received \$55.2M Allocated Contributions out of \$240.3M Total Requirement (2018-2022).¹⁴⁸

WFP provides

disproportionate funding to Palestinians. Liberia's population is almost exactly the same size as the Palestinians'. 16% of Liberians lack a secure supply of food and 83% live in poverty. Palestine received approximately \$240 per food-deprived person in a span of five-year span, compared with approximately \$19 per food-deprived person for Liberia.

Liberia's population is almost exactly the same size as the Palestinians'. 16% of Liberians lack a secure supply of food and 83% live in poverty.¹⁴⁹ Palestine received approximately \$240 per food-deprived person in a span of five-year span, compared with approximately \$19 per food-deprived person for Liberia. The question therefore arises of where exactly the funds are going and why Palestine receives so much more than a country with equal or greater poverty. Since 2011, WFP has invested nearly \$258 million into Palestine's economy: \$167,000,000 in cash-based transfers (CBTs) and \$91,000,000 in local purchases.¹⁵⁰ This support is given despite the PA's monetary support for convicted terrorists.¹⁵¹



Economic and Social Council: Specialized Agencies

International Labor Organization (ILO)

Function

Founded in 1919, ILO consists of three main bodies representing governments, employers, and workers striving to create labor standards, policies, and programs for working people, improve labor rights, and provide social protection and equal opportunities for all workers.¹⁵²

Budget

The ILO had an estimated budget of \$797,390,000¹⁵³ in 2016-2017. The ILO is financed through member's dues and voluntary contributions, as well as voluntary non-core contributions from various resource partners. The United States contributes 22% of the ILO budget.¹⁵⁴

Membership

Any member state in the UN is eligible for ILO membership if it assumes the obligations of the ILO constitution and is approved by UNGA. A state can also become a member during a session if it is approved by a two-thirds majority.¹⁵⁵ A member can withdraw from ILO if it presents a notice of withdrawal to the ILO Director-General two years in advance.¹⁵⁶ There are currently 187 members, including Israel.¹⁵⁷

Overlooking the forced labor camps in North Korea and slave labor in UAE and Qatar, ILO focuses on Israel, charging it with violating the rights of Palestinian workers. ILO blames Israeli occupation for the stunted Palestinian economy and, along with 15 other UN organizations, donates at least \$18,000,000 to anti-Israel lawfare — the practice of utilizing international courts and other organizations to achieve military objectives through non-military methods, such as attacking the international legality of Israeli counter-terrorism operations.

Connection to Israel

Israel is always criticized at ILO's annual conference. Only one country-specific report is produced: a detailed castigation of Israel.¹⁵⁸ Overlooking the forced labor camps in North Korea and slave labor in UAE and Qatar, ILO focuses on Israel, charging it with violating the rights of Palestinian workers. ILO blames Israeli occupation for the stunted Palestinian economy and, along with 15 other UN organizations, donates at least \$18,000,000 to anti-Israel lawfare¹⁵⁹ — the practice of utilizing international courts and other organizations to achieve military objectives through non-military methods, such as attacking the international legality of Israeli counter-terrorism operations.¹⁶⁰ The ILO website states, "The Palestinian people continue to suffer under an occupation that has jeopardized the attainment of their basic human rights and human security, as well as any meaningful progress in human development."¹⁶¹ ILO takes a clear stance only on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its goal is to improve labor conditions and protect workers; in these instances, however, ILO is selective and political.



Economic and Social Council: Specialized Agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Function

UNESCO was founded in 1945 with the goal of promoting access to education, freedom of expression, science programs, and the preservation of cultural heritage. A general conference, which meets every two years, determines the organization's policies. All UNESCO member states attend the general conference.¹⁶²

Budget

The total budget for all projects in 2016-2017 was \$667,000,000.¹⁶³ A majority of UNESCO's budget comes from member states' contributions to the regular program; the remainder comes mainly from governments and the private sector.¹⁶⁴ UNESCO funds projects throughout the globe.

Membership

UNESCO has 195 members. Both Israel and Palestine are members.¹⁶⁵ All UN recognized states are eligible for representation in UNESCO.

Connection to Israel

In 2011, UNESCO became the first UN body to accept Palestine as a full member.¹⁶⁶ UNESCO currently has 10 projects in Palestine; its 2017 budget for these projects was \$2,358,370.¹⁶⁷ In 2009-2014, UNESCO passed 46 resolutions against Israel, one resolution against Syria, and none against any other country in the world.¹⁶⁸

**UNESCO passed the
“Occupied Palestine”
resolution denying Israel’s
claim to Jerusalem.**

In the past few years, UNESCO passed a number of resolutions denying Israel’s claim to many central Jewish sites.¹⁶⁹

- 2014: following complaints by Arab states, UNESCO cancelled its exhibition on the Jewish presence in the land of Israel.¹⁷⁰
- 2015: UNESCO condemned Israel for how it was handling holy sites.
- 2016: UNESCO accepted a resolution ignoring the Jewish link to the Temple Mount.
- 2017: UNESCO recognized the old city of Hebron and the Cave of Patriarchs as endangered Palestinian heritage sites.
- 2017: UNESCO passed the “Occupied Palestine” resolution denying Israel’s claim to Jerusalem.¹⁷¹

The United States withdrew funding from UNESCO in 2017,¹⁷² citing anti-Israel bias as a leading reason.¹⁷³ Israel announced in October 2017 that it would leave UNESCO, effective on December 31, 2018.¹⁷⁴



Economic and Social Council: Specialized Agencies

World Health Organization (WHO)

Function

WHO's goal is to build a healthier future across the globe. With offices in over 150 countries, WHO works with governments and partners to ensure the highest level of health for all people.¹⁷⁵ The World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of WHO, is attended by delegations from all WHO member states.¹⁷⁶ Decisions are made by an executive board composed of 34 members elected to three-year terms.¹⁷⁷

Budget

The 2018-2019 proposed budget is \$4,421,500,000. WHO uses its budget to fund research, respond to epidemics, improvement of health systems, and take action to eradicate communicable and noncommunicable diseases. It also has various programs responding to the current global health situation.¹⁷⁸

Connection to Israel

There are currently two active WHO research sites in Israel. WHO published humanitarian response plans in both 2017 and 2018 that cited a lack of supplies in Gaza and the West Bank and lack of infrastructure, clean water, and electricity.¹⁷⁹ The 2017 response plan allocates \$547,000,000 for Gaza and the West Bank.¹⁸⁰ Instead of working to help improve the health situation in Gaza and the West Bank, WHO is obsessed with blaming Israel for health problems in the area. For example, WHO claims that an Israeli blockade on Gaza prevents Gazans from receiving critical medical supplies and healthcare access,¹⁸¹ while ignoring the fact that Israel provides medical attention to many people from Gaza and the West Bank and is actively working to improve the health situation in these areas. At the 68th World Health Assembly, WHO distributed

WHO distributed a report by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, bearing WHO's stamp and logo. The report blames the lack of accessible medical care in the West Bank and Gaza on the Israeli "apartheid wall." WHO's endorsement of the Palestinian Ministry of Health's report without doing any of its own research demonstrates a lack of objectivity and professionalism.

a report by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, validated by the WHO's logo and distribution, that condemns Israel for any lack of infrastructure and medical supplies and placing responsibility for health problems solely on Israel. The report blames the lack of accessible medical care in the West Bank and Gaza on the Israeli "apartheid wall."¹⁸² WHO's endorsement of the Palestinian Ministry of Health's report without doing any of its own research demonstrates a lack of objectivity and professionalism.



Economic and Social Council: Specialized Agencies

World Bank (WB)

Function

WB is an independent specialized agency of the UN and holds UN observer status. WB participates in UNGA, the Security Council, and ECOSOC, but has no vote. WB provides low-interest loans and credits and grants to developing countries; while investing in these countries' education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, and agriculture, environmental and natural resource management initiatives. Since 2012, WB has ending extreme poverty a priority. Its goal is ending extreme poverty within a generation and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner across the globe. WB also plans to encourage income growth for the poorest 40% of every country's population.¹⁸³

Budget

WB's budget is directly linked to voting power in the organization. Voting power is based on the percentage of dues that a country pays to WB. The top eight countries are the US, Japan, China, Germany, France, UK, and India.¹⁸⁴ Israel's dues account for 0.26% of the total dues, entitling it to 6,727 votes, 0.28% of the total number of votes.¹⁸⁵ Funding for the WB comes from profits on its investments in the financial markets, interest from borrowing countries, due from member countries, and contributions.¹⁸⁶ The WB budget for 2018 is 2,550 million USD,¹⁸⁷ 1% more than the 2017 budget of 2,524 million USD.¹⁸⁸

Membership

WB has 189 member countries, including Israel. To become a member, a country must first join the International Monetary Fund (IMF)¹⁸⁹ which requires it to accept the IMF code of conduct, pay dues, allow the foreign currency conversion, and practice transparency in economic policies affecting other countries.¹⁹⁰

Gaza and the West Bank

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***Gaza and the West Bank
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other countries in the region.***

Connection to Israel

Gaza and the West Bank received \$89,000,000 from WB in 2018,¹⁹¹ while Israel received nothing. WB's last project in Israel was in 1975.¹⁹² Israel only had 10 projects with the WB,¹⁹³ compared with 123 in Gaza and the West Bank, including 31 active projects.¹⁹⁴ Many of these 123 projects overlap; Gaza has had 16 water supply projects and 18 projects described as "other water supply, sanitation and waste management."¹⁹⁵ WB claims that the reason for this disproportionate amount of projects is to prevent a severe humanitarian crisis, yet the WB only has 63 projects in Myanmar (18 of which are active),¹⁹⁶ 65 in the Republic of Congo (16 active),¹⁹⁷ and 75 in the Central African Republic (15 active).¹⁹⁸ WB has not had an open project in Syria since 2010.¹⁹⁹ Gaza and the West Bank are not WB member countries and therefore pay no dues; yet they receive disproportionately large funding, compared with other countries in the region.

WB's aim is to create projects in areas with crises, but some of the neediest received only a fraction of the number of projects in Gaza.



Economic and Social Council: Specialized Agencies

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Function

UNIDO focuses on advancing industrial development to reduce poverty, and to achieve inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.²⁰⁰

Budget

UNIDO receives its funding from member states and multi-donor trust funds. The largest donor is the European Commission, followed by Japan.²⁰¹ UNIDO's 2018 budget is \$427,313,213, with 735 ongoing projects.²⁰² Israel currently contributes \$47,633 to a project for promoting sustainable global water management.²⁰³

Membership

UNIDO has 168 member states, including Israel.²⁰⁴ Its industrial development board, the body that reviews and implements the programs and budgets, has 53 members elected by the member states to four-year terms.²⁰⁵

Connection to Israel

UNIDO completed a project in Gaza to strengthen the marble stone industry there in 2014, a project that took longer than expected to complete. Israel was criticized for the delay because it took time to make sure that Hamas could not divert materials from this project to terror activities, as it has done in the past.²⁰⁶ There are currently two ongoing projects in Palestine. The first, funded by Italy,²⁰⁷ is designed to upgrade the footwear value chain in the Hebron district in order to help generate general prosperity. The second, funded by regular program of technical cooperation, is promoting sustainable

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energy in industry to support a transition to a green economy in the PA. The second project, which has already spent 100% of its budget, and is not scheduled for completion until 2021.²⁰⁸

UNIDO's charter states that its goal is to aid development around the world, but the organization released a report blaming Israel for the development problems in the West Bank, while ignoring the effects of Hamas' actions on the area. This also seems to be the only case of UNIDO blaming a country.²⁰⁹



Economic and Social Council: Other Entities

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Function

UNISDR works to mitigate the effects of natural disasters by strengthening governments and communities. UNISDR's mission is an improvement on traditional disaster relief that focuses on preventing damage, rather than responding to it. UNISDR recognizes that the increased instability and poverty caused by a natural disaster can have long-term economic and political ramifications.²¹⁰

Budget

UNISDR's budget comes almost entirely from donations and contributions: 99.2% of its budget is from donations, with only one post currently funded from the regular UN budget. UNISDR raised \$57,600,000 in 2016-2017. The European Commission was the largest contributor in 2016-2017 with \$13,400,000, followed by Sweden with \$11,100,000.²¹¹

Membership

UNISDR has five regional offices: Asia (Bangkok), Africa (Nairobi), Europe (Brussels), Arab states (Cairo), and the Americas and the Caribbean (Panama).²¹² Israel is included in the Europe section and Palestine is included in the Arab states group.

Connection to Israel

UNISDR's regional categories for its member states do not correspond to the five traditional UN regions. Instead, there is a region of Arab States, while Israel is included in the European group.²¹³ This exclusion of Israel from its natural region creates

UNISDR European branch's goal is to promote the establishment of national disaster prevention platforms and enhance networking and partnership-building, with the aim of fostering an effective culture of safety and protection in all communities in Europe. UNISDR, however, devotes its attention to the Palestinian territories. Funds were used to provide uniforms for Hamas special forces including \$80,000 for a swimming pool used to train naval commandos.

problems, because natural disaster prevention and relief has many regional characteristics. Israel is not in Europe, and will therefore have more in common with its Arab neighbors on environmental policy.

UNISDR European branch's goal is to promote the establishment of national disaster prevention platforms and enhance networking and partnership-building, with the aim of fostering an effective culture of safety and protection in all communities in Europe.²¹⁴ UNISDR, however, devotes its attention to the Palestinian territories.

The national adaptation plan for Palestine discusses the climate issues in the Palestinian territories, including areas such as agriculture, climate change, energy, health, and infrastructure development. Its report, however, lists only "Israeli occupation" as the main cause of the problems in these areas. The report also alleges that "Israeli occupation" prevents the Palestinians from responding to any results of climate change.

According to a 2016 report, "illegal Israeli settlements" and the "expansion wall" have a "damming effect" on Palestinian agricultural production. Page 24, in Section 3.3.2 of the report, which discusses the agricultural situation in the Gaza Strip, categorizes it as a highly vulnerable area²¹⁵ and concludes that Israeli airstrikes during the previous decades are the main reason why the Gaza Strip lags behind in agricultural production.²¹⁶ Meanwhile, Hamas has routinely misappropriated funds for infrastructure and civil resources using the money to fund terrorism instead. One example is Muhammad Murtaja's use of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's funds to channel money to Hamas militants camouflaged as "grooms" in a "wedding for the needy". Other funds were used to provide uniforms for Hamas special forces including \$80,000 for a swimming pool used to train naval commandos.²¹⁷ Citing Israeli military intervention as an ongoing issue affecting Gazan agriculture is understandable, but completely ignoring Hamas's role in the problem shows a lack of objectivity.

UNISDR's ostensible aim is to create solutions after disaster takes place in a region. Writing a report blaming Israel for Gaza's problems, while ignoring the ways Hamas and the PA are damaging their land and people, is not a substitute for actual plans and solutions.



UN Secretariat: New York

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

Function

OIOS was created in 1994 to help the Secretary-General fulfill his responsibility to oversee the UN. OIOS aims to ensure that resources are used properly, bolster accountability, and promote better program performance. It does this by internally monitoring the UN and publishing reports based on internal audits, investigations, evaluations, and inspections.²¹⁸ Following reviews by the OIOS, UNGA resolutions were passed to increase UN transparency.²¹⁹ The Secretary-General appoints the Under-Secretary-General of OIOS to a single five-year term, with ratification from UNGA. Reappointments are not allowed.²²⁰

Budget

The proposed OIOS budget for 2015-2016 was \$32,382,200.²²¹ OIOS is funded by the UN regular budget and 12 other revenue streams.²²²

Connection to Israel

In 2015, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor met with OIOS head Carmen Lapointe and asked that Rima Khalaf, the head of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, be summoned to a disciplinary hearing. Prosor said that Khalaf was misusing her position by promoting an anti-Israel agenda, following an unsuccessful petition to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in 2014 to expel Khalaf. Asked if an investigation had been opened, Lapointe said she was not allowed to disclose whether a case had been opened or the status of a case. No action was taken following

It is extremely alarming when the body responsible for UN transparency as a whole is itself implicated in unbalanced and unchecked policies and actions.

Prosor's meeting with Lapointe.²²³ In 2017, Khalaf resigned in protest after a report she wrote calling Israel an "apartheid state" was removed from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's website. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that this report reflected only Khalaf's personal views.²²⁴ It is extremely alarming when the body responsible for UN transparency as a whole is itself implicated in unbalanced and unchecked policies and actions.



UN Secretariat: New York

Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

Function

The mission of DPA is to prevent conflict, political violence, and human suffering worldwide. It monitors and analyzes political developments and provides reports to the Secretary-General and the Security Council. DPA plays a crucial behind-the-scenes role in international peacemaking. DPA is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary A. DiCarlo, who was appointed by the Secretary-General.²²⁵

This division is the only part of the DPA dedicated exclusively to one group of people.

Budget

DPA is funded by the regular UN budget, and by voluntary contributions that fund about 40% of its work.²²⁶ In 2017, it appealed for \$27,000,000 and received over \$31,000,000.²²⁷

Connection to Israel

DPA maintains an entire division for Palestinian rights, in addition to five other divisions handling much broader issues. The other divisions are Prevention and Mediation; Elections; Decolonization; Security Council; and Women, Peace and Security.²²⁸ The Palestinian Rights Division has the following duties: organizing meetings, monitoring situations, drawing up a program of international meetings, publishing programs, running the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, working with civil society organizations, organizing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and running UN training programs for the staff of the State of Palestine.²²⁹ This division is the only part of the DPA dedicated exclusively to one group of people.

On February 16, 2017, the US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley stated, “Incredibly, the UN DPA has an entire division devoted to Palestinian affairs. Imagine that. There is no division devoted to illegal missile launches from North Korea. There is no division devoted to the world’s number one state sponsor of terror, Iran. The prejudiced approach to Israeli-Palestinian issues does the peace process no favors. And it bears no relationship to the reality of the world around us.”²³⁰ Haley’s pertinent questions sheds light on this specially mandated division. It is indeed incredible that the UN is violating its own charter by preferring one group to all other nations.



UN Secretariat: New York: Department of Political Affairs Division for Palestinian Rights

Function

The DPA Palestinian Rights Division supports the UNGA Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.²³¹ This committee was created to recommend a program to “enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination without external interference, national independence and sovereignty; and to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced.”²³² The Palestinian Rights Division focuses on the “inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,” supporting the political process, and working towards a peaceful solution. It runs seminars on socio-economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people and the need for humanitarian aid and reconstruction.²³³

Budget

The 2016-2017 budget for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for was \$73,000, with \$75,800 projected for 2018-2019.²³⁴

Connection to Israel

The Palestinian Rights Division is the only DPA division dedicated to just one group. Under the UN charter, every nation is supposed to be given equal treatment. Having a division of the DPA dedicated to one group blatantly violated the UN ideal of equality and shows that UN discrimination is expressed in monetary support, prioritization, and attention.

DPA's only clear stance on conflicts is on the issue of Palestine and Israel. The fact that an entire department in the UN propagates this biased rhetoric is alarming.

Moreover, DPA's only clear stance on conflicts is on the issue of Palestine and Israel. In all other cases, it uses soft and non partisan terminology, for example: "The United Nations has long been engaged in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict over (NAME OF REGION)." When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however, the assumption is that Israel is at fault. The fact that an entire department in the UN propagates this biased rhetoric is alarming.



UN Secretariat: New York

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Function

OCHA is a part of the UN Secretariat that coordinates humanitarian response and financing, develops the agenda for humanitarian issues, and advocates on behalf of those who are in crisis victims and gathers data about them.²³⁵ OCHA works with internally displaced persons (IDPs).²³⁶ It is the main advisor to the Secretary-General on all humanitarian issues.²³⁷ Under Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, an agenda for humanity was promoted to convince political leaders to prevent and end conflicts, uphold humanitarian norms, make sure no one is neglected, and change people's lives by delivering aid, ending need, and investing in humanity.²³⁸

Budget

The \$240,800,000 budget for 2018 is funded by a donor group, including about 10% from the United States.²³⁹

Connection to Israel

OCHA condemns Israel and supports the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), which has its own page on the OCHA website²⁴⁰ and its own Facebook page.²⁴¹ The website includes articles, maps and a humanitarian response plan. The maps highlight access restrictions from the West Bank and Israeli military bases and Israeli settlements.²⁴² In its proposed humanitarian response plan, OCHA asks for \$539,700,000.²⁴³

OCHA has published many statements against Israel. Moreover, many Palestinians fatalities for which Hamas is responsible are unfairly attributed to Israel.

OCHA has published many statements against Israel. In 2004, responding to the security fence which was being built, it focused on the loss and hardship it created for the Palestinians.²⁴⁴ In December 2012, a report published focused on the need for approximately \$60,000,000-\$70,000,000 in humanitarian aid. Only the numbers of Palestinians injured or killed and the property damage to Palestinians are included in this report. It discusses the restrictions placed on the Palestinian people and how Israelis responded with violence in cases in which the restrictions were unclear.²⁴⁵ Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) funding reported for the projects for 2013 was \$60,000,000-\$70,000,000, with an additional \$17,700,000 going to UNRWA. In 2012, CAP aid for Gaza and joint West Bank and Gaza projects together totaled \$186,400,000.²⁴⁶

In 2013, OCHA criticized Israel for stopping shipping of construction supplies into Gaza, a decision taken after a 1.8-km tunnel leading from Gaza to Israel was discovered.²⁴⁷ In 2014, OCHA criticized Israel for restrictions on entering and leaving Gaza following the Egyptian closing of a crossing between Egypt and Gaza.²⁴⁸ In 2014, a report was written during Operation Protective Edge discussing 23 Palestinian fatalities. It reports that this happened because the Israeli army led a military operation to stop Palestinian rocket fire that “included heavy aerial and naval bombardment” in response to the firing of hundreds of rockets. The language used belittles the damages and threat to the Israelis. The report also listed the humanitarian needs and responses, including protection, shelter and non-food items, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and food assistance.²⁴⁹

In 2017, OCHA published a “50 Years of Occupation” report detailing the injustices and casualties suffered by Palestinians.²⁵⁰ In 2017, the Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities again spoke out against the Israeli relocation of Palestinian communities in the West Bank and asked Israel to respect international law.²⁵¹ Under Robert Piper, OCHA published its Humanitarian Response Strategy for 2018-2020 in December 2017. This document said that \$539,700,000 was needed for a complex strategy targeting different aspects of Gaza and the West Bank. It lists the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, including needy Palestinian refugees, people lacking food security, and internally displaced people. It also lists casualties in the violence, including Israeli casualties and Palestinian violence against Israelis.²⁵²

It is important to note that OCHA statistics include all Palestinian fatalities, but only Israeli civilian fatalities, not Israeli military personnel killed. Since the Palestinians have no official army, however, all their deaths are reported as civilian fatalities. Moreover, many Palestinian fatalities for which Hamas is responsible are unfairly attributed to Israel. The body count for the conflict is consequently skewed, and does not always reflect the real situation.





UN Secretariat: New York

United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)

Function

DPI's primary functions to promote global awareness and understanding of the UN. DPI has three divisions: a strategic communications division, a news and media division, and an outreach division. The strategic communications division develops communication strategies for important issues and initiates global campaigns, and also manages 63 UN information centers and offices worldwide. The news and media division creates and releases news and information on the UN's goals and achievements, while making connections with media organizations and other target audiences. It also provides assistance and support to journalists and news organizations reporting on UN operations. The outreach division aims to bolster support for UN aims and enhance the engagement and education of communities and individuals throughout the world.²⁵³

Budget

The total budget proposed for 2016-2017 was \$199,750,200.²⁵⁴ The UNGA 5th committee allocates the DPI budget.

Connection to Israel

The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine praised DPI for covering the "killing by Israeli soldiers of reporters wearing clearly marked press jackets during a recent protest in the Gaza Strip." She remarked that the DPI represented bravery and courage. Israel's representative, however, claimed that DPI exhibited a clear and present bias against Israel, adding that DPI was disseminating a misleading narrative that exacerbated hatred and hostility.²⁵⁵

When touring the UN, it is impossible to avoid noticing that the exhibition regarding the Palestinians is right next to the Holocaust memorial.

By means of this tour arrangement, the UN is equating the Holocaust and the Palestinian question. By omitting any historical facts and the two-sided nature of the conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the UN is portraying the conflict as equivalent to the one-sided mass genocide of the Jewish people.

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UN Secretariat: New York: Department of Public Information Strategic Communications Division (SCD)

Function

SCD has a communications campaign service covering four issues: peace and security; development; Palestine, decolonization, and human rights; and Africa. The peace and security section promotes UN peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts.²⁵⁶ Its goal is to devise “communications strategies” and share information about these issues.²⁵⁷ The division uses information products (websites, posters, and publications), outreach activities carried out through information centers, international media, and social media (Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube) to reach a large global audience.²⁵⁸

Budget

SCD's 2016-2017 budget, which was part of the DPI budget, totaled \$19,158,600.²⁵⁹

Connection to Israel

The Palestine, decolonization, and human rights section oversees DPI's special information program in Palestine. It also designs and manages global information campaigns that broadcast UN work on Palestinian rights. The section conducts a training program for Palestinian journalists and an annual international media seminar, “Peace in the Middle East.” It also collaborates with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights issues and publicizes reports and documents.²⁶⁰

SCD has only two location-based divisions: Palestine, decolonization, and human rights, and Africa. Assigning an entire division to Palestine, a tiny portion of land in the West Bank and Gaza, the same degree of attention as an entire continent, is entirely out of proportion.

SCD has only two location-based divisions: Palestine, decolonization and human rights, and Africa.²⁶¹ Assigning an entire division to Palestine, a tiny portion of land in the West Bank and Gaza, the same degree of attention as an entire continent, is entirely out of proportion, especially given that Africa's development and aid needs are much greater, as shown by charts C, D, E and F (see the Appendix).



International Courts and Tribunals

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Function

ICJ was established in 1945 under the UN Charter²⁶² as the principal UN judicial organ.²⁶³ It is assisted by an administrative Registry that functions as a secretariat for the court. ICJ has three departments: legal matters, linguistic matters, and information. It also has a technical division responsible for publications, library, and text processing and reproduction. Members of the Court are also provided with secretaries paid by the UN.²⁶⁴ ICJ has heard or is hearing a total of 172 cases, which fall into one of the following categories: judgements, orders, and advisory opinions.²⁶⁵

Budget

As the ICJ's 2016 budget of \$45,814,700, which is part of the regular UN budget, is funded entirely by state contributions.²⁶⁶

Membership

ICJ has 15 judges, who serve nine-year terms. A judicial panel can include only one judge from each nation. Judges are not subordinated to their national governments.²⁶⁷

Connection to Israel

In 2003, UNGA asked ICJ for an advisory opinion on “the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as described in the Report of the Secretary-General, considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and relevant Security Council and GA resolutions.” The language used in this request indicates an ingrained bias. Israel was labeled as an occupying power before the case reached ICJ. Thus, the ICJ non-judicial issued at the request of UNGA, sets a framework for the discussion. This ruling affects various UN organizations, and

This ruling affects various UN organizations, and eventually the overall discourse. Moreover, UNGA does not usually ask ICJ for a ruling in such conflicts. The Court stated that even though Israel did not accept its jurisdiction, it still could render an opinion.

It also called for dismantling settlements, an issue that was not part of the original case presented by the UNGA. ICJ thereby both deviated from its mandate and applied a different standard to Israel.

eventually the overall discourse. Moreover, UNGA does not usually ask ICJ for a ruling in such conflicts. In a 2004 advisory opinion, the Court ruled that it had jurisdiction over the case, while in a document sent to the Court, Israel argued that the issue involved was political, not legal.²⁶⁸ The Court stated that even though Israel did not accept its jurisdiction, it still could render an opinion because “the subject matter of the request was located in a much broader frame of reference than that of the bilateral dispute between Israel and Palestine, and was of direct concern to the United Nations.”²⁶⁹

The court ruled in a 14 to 1 decision that Israel had breached international law and was obligated to demolish the wall built in “occupied territories” and to pay reparations for any damage caused by its construction.²⁷⁰ Additionally, the Court concluded that “Israel could not rely on a right of self-defense or on a state of necessity in order to preclude the wrongfulness of the construction of the wall, and that such construction and its associated régime were accordingly contrary to international law.”²⁷¹

Article 96(1) of the UN Charter states, “UNGA or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.”²⁷²

UNGA has invoked Article 96 twenty-seven times, generally on matters of UN policy.²⁷³ These ICJ advisory opinions have been issued on international conflicts, such as Israel-Palestine (mentioned above), West Sahara, Southwest Africa/Namibia, and Hungarian/Bulgarian/Romanian peace treaties.

In each of those cases, however, a representative of both parties testified at the hearings. This was not the case in 2004 when the ICJ ruled on the legality of Israel's construction of a fence. ICJ heard oral statements from representatives of five Arab states and five more Muslim countries in the hearings, but none on behalf of Israel.²⁷⁴

All of the other cases were territorial disputes concerning the issue of self-determination that involved resolution of a broader dispute. In Israel's case, the ruling referred to a policy, not a broader conflict—a type of advisory opinion never before issued by ICJ. Throughout its opinion, ICJ emphasized that its condemnation of Israel's fence was a stepping stone to achieving a long-lasting solution to the conflict. However, ICJ's opinion not only called for immediate destruction of the fence and financial compensation for those affected by its construction; it also called for dismantling settlements, an issue that was not part of the original case presented by the UNGA. ICJ thereby both deviated from its mandate and applied a different standard to Israel.



United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)

An analysis of UNRWA required a separate paper, which has been written.²⁷⁵ This brief overview merely highlights the major problems with UNRWA and shows what makes it the most hostile UN organization towards Israel. UNRWA epitomizes the negative aspects of the other UN bodies. Its terminology is the most biased, its budget allocations are the most outrageous, its treatment of a group is the most unbalanced, it has the strongest ties with terrorism, and it is the most subversive of peace.

Function

UNRWA was established in 1950 to aid Palestinian refugees after the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.²⁷⁶ UNRWA aims to provide “human development and humanitarian services” to Palestinian refugees through education, health services, protection, relief and social services, microfinance, infrastructure and camp improvement, and emergency response.²⁷⁷

Budget

UNRWA's total budget for 2016-2017 was \$2,417,140,000.²⁷⁸

Membership

UNRWA has an advisory commission made up of 27 member states and three observers. Israel is not a member of the commission.²⁷⁹

While every other group of refugees becomes smaller with time, the number of Palestinian refugees is expanding. While UNHCR is responsible for refugees worldwide, UNRWA was created and is responsible for providing services to only one group of refugees: the Palestinians. The UN violated the commitment in its charter to equal treatment for all groups by creating UNRWA to deal only with one group of people.

Connection to Israel

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines a refugee as a person who has been forced outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence due to persecution; has a well-founded fear of persecution because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and is unable or afraid to return to his or her home country.²⁸⁰ The UN has customarily used this definition to determine who is a refugee.

UNRWA, on the other hand, uses its own peculiar definition of a refugee for Palestinians: any person whose normal place of residence was in Palestine from June 1, 1946 to May 15, 1948 and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.²⁸¹ Most Palestine refugees eligible for UNRWA assistance are persons who meet the above definition and descendants of fathers meeting it.

While every other group of refugees becomes smaller with time, the number of Palestinian refugees is expanding. There were approximately 750,000 original “refugees” in 1948; in 2017 there were 5,340,443 registered refugees claiming aid from UNRWA.²⁸² According to UNRWA’s definition of a refugee, a citizen or resident of another country can still claim refugee status. UNRWA even grants refugee status to a child adopted from a different country by a Palestinian refugee.²⁸³ Some Palestinians live only a few miles from where they were when the war broke, yet still claim refugee status. Many Palestinians living in PA-controlled areas or under Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip still hold refugees status.

While UNHCR is responsible for refugees worldwide, UNRWA was created and is responsible for providing services to only one group of refugees: the Palestinians. UNRWA is the only UN agency that reports directly to UNGA, and whose beneficiary population belongs to just one national group. While UNHCR’s mandate is to provide international protection to [all] refugees who fall within the scope of its statute, and to seek the assistance of governments in finding permanent solutions for the problem of refugees, the UN violated the commitment in its charter to equal treatment for all groups by creating UNRWA to deal only with one group of people.

There is also clear partiality in the UN’s treatment of UNRWA in comparison with its treatment of UNHCR. UNRWA, which deals with only one group of five million people, has over 30,000 employees,²⁸⁴ while UNHCR, which deals with the 25.4 million persons from many different groups all over the world, has only 11,500 employees.²⁸⁵ Furthermore, in addition to refugees, UNHCR also helps 71.44

million other needy people worldwide.²⁸⁶ In addition, most of UNRWA's employees are themselves Palestinian refugees.²⁸⁷ These "refugees" are the ones allocating UNRWA's funds — usually according to their own interests and agendas. The budget is also highly skewed: UNRWA's per capita budget is much higher than that of UNHCR.

UNRWA has also been linked repeatedly to terrorist groups. Many UNRWA-funded schools and medical centers were used by Hamas as headquarters and terrorist facilities in which rockets are fired, weapons are stored, and tunnels are dug.²⁸⁸ Hamas personnel are on UNRWA's payroll and UNRWA resources have been used to fund and aid terrorists.²⁸⁹ UNRWA is also responsible for the education of the refugees. UNRWA schools teach children many anti-Semitic and anti-Israel libels, such as²⁹⁰:

- Jews are the descendants of apes and pigs.
- Jews should be killed.
- The Holocaust did not happen.

This vilification of Israel and Jews incites violence and passes bigotry on to the next generation of "refugees."

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Conclusion

The disproportionate funding for Palestinian groups that actively oppose Israel proves that the UN's fundamental goal is not humanitarian relief, and that funding is driven by a political agenda. Palestinians receive more funding per capita than any other people, despite objectively horrific humanitarian crises in Sudan, Syria, or Myanmar, among many others.²⁹¹ The UN almost invariably refers to Israel settlement activity and occupation as "illegal," while such terms are used against no other country. Israel is held to a double standard. No other dispute arouses as much controversy and attention in the UN system. By funding groups that oppose Israel, using delegitimizing rhetoric, and clearly applying a double standard to Israel, the entire UN system displays a systematic bias against Israel.

This paper analyzes the UN organs whose treatment of Israel is the most culpable. Many of these bodies use unfair terminology against Israel that cultivates a dishonest image of Israel. Many of these organizations unfairly discriminate in favor of Palestinians in many of their practices. We have shown how many UN organizations give Palestine a large and disproportionate portion of their budgets, thereby providing one group with special treatment unthinkable for other groups. This unequal treatment violates the UN's ideal of equality and fair treatment for everyone. In addition, the extra money and resources given to the Palestinians are used to vilify Israel and fund terrorist activity. As a result, UN aid is used to attack Israel's standing and legitimacy, while the ostensible recipients are deprived of the assistance they need.

This double standard is quite possibly related to the numerous organizations that deal only with Palestinians and also aim to vilify Israel.

The UN's double standard has many negative consequences. For one instance, many UN organizations have violated their charters by using time and resources to attack Israel and debating and passing resolutions about Israel when this has nothing to do

Overall, the UN's anti-Israel political agenda has a trickle-down effect and sets a precedent for the way Israel is being perceived under international law, based on prejudice rather than facts.

with their alleged function. Moreover, Israel is placed in different geographical regions depending on the organization, prohibiting Israel from participating properly in the different functions of the UN. This inconsistency creates an injustice for Israel and is one of the ways that Israel is not treated as an equal member of the UN. Additionally, Israel is continuously placed at a diplomatic disadvantage due to other members' efforts. In July of 2018, "the Group of 77," a group of some 135 nations with the ostensible goal of helping to promote the interests of developing countries in the UN, elected Palestine as its chair for 2019, a move that had no other purpose than to symbolically attack Israel and the United States.²⁹² Overall, the UN's anti-Israel political agenda has a trickle-down effect and sets a precedent for the way Israel is being perceived under international law, based on prejudice rather than facts. This ultimately impedes the international peace process and violates both individual agency and general body mandates.



Recommendations for the United Nations

The UN, established in 1945, is aimed at maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law. This is accomplished through countless organizations and divisions spanning the globe. The UN enjoys enormous budgets paid for by contributions from member states. The UN is supposed to apply all of its ideals equally, but does not always do so. The research reported in this paper demonstrates a lack of transparency and systemic partiality in the UN, as well as bias and frequently unfair treatment of the State of Israel.

- The UN should demand that all of its bodies adhere to their specific mandates and confine themselves to their fields of expertise. Many UN subsidiaries that were analyzed went far beyond their stated purpose to make statements and accusations against Israel.
- The UN needs more accountability in its allocations of aid and relief funding. The Palestinians receive a disproportionate amount of aid, causing millions of people in other areas of the world to suffer from a lack of funding or aid. The UN must mount a major effort to change the unbalanced way it distributes its funds and make sure that each group receives a fair share of aid according to its need and population. The UN already has criteria for ensuring proper distribution of funds; now it needs to apply those criteria.
- The UN must ensure that every agency, subsidiary, and committee has a fully transparent and easily accessible budget.
- The UN should eliminate the obvious double standard that it applies to the State of Israel when passing resolutions and dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Recommendations for the United States:

Historically, the United States has been one of the largest contributors to the UN's annual budget. The United States was the largest contributor to the 2016-2017 UN budget; its donations accounted for 22% of the overall budget.²⁹³ The trend is set to change in the 2018-2019 budget with the announcement of a \$285 million cut in US aid to the UN. Following this announcement, Nikki Haley was quoted saying: "The inefficiency and overspending of the UN are well known. We will no longer let the generosity of the American people be taken advantage of or remain unchecked...this historic reduction in spending — in addition to many other moves towards a more efficient and accountable UN — is a step in the right direction."²⁹⁴ According to Haley's description, this change in US foreign policy and its approach to the UN is in response to the inefficiency and lack of transparency that typify the UN. Aside from the inefficiency of the UN and its cost for American taxpayers, a legal issue arises from the current treatment of the Palestinians by the UN and UN-affiliated organizations. Under Section 414 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246), the US is barred from contributing to the UN or UN agencies if those agencies grant the PLO the status and privileges of fully-fledged member states. This provision has been invoked only once, when President Obama cut off funding for UNESCO in 2011 in response to its decision to grant the PA full membership. There are, however, several UN affiliates that have granted the PA full membership and still receive US funding. This continued funding of the UN therefore not only undermines Israel's standing, but also undermines the integrity of US law and the US Constitution.²⁹⁵

In addition to instances in which it is vital to cut off funds for the UN under United States law, the United States, as a major contributor to various UN organization and the source of a large portion of the UN budget, should make sure that funding for some of these organizations does not contradict the United States agenda of equality, peace, United States' interests, and protection of its allies. The United States should reevaluate and consider re-allocating its funding for the UN bodies when there is evidence of systemic bias and misuse of American tax dollars. Furthermore, in pursuance of the United States' courageous decision to leave the UN Human Rights Council, the United States should review its membership in all United Nations subsidiaries and committees that have shown consistently unfair treatment of Israel or that have misused UN funds paid for by US tax dollars. The United States should continue to defend and protect all member states against unfair treatment in the UN.

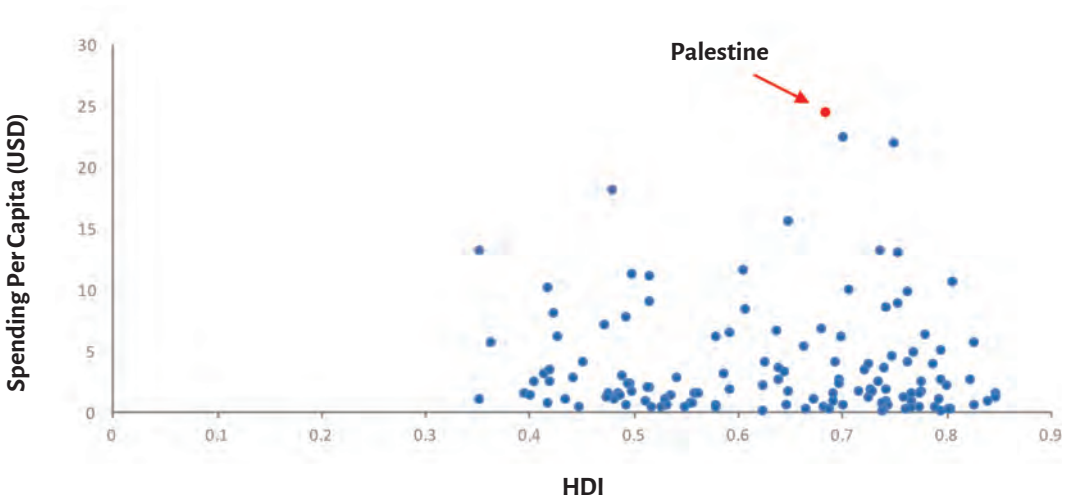
Appendix A

Condemnatory Resolutions: Israel vs. Others				
Year	Session	Condemning Resolutions Against Israel	Condemning Resolutions Against Others	Countries with Condemnatory Resolutions Filed Against Them
2012	67th	22	4	Syria, Burma, North Korea, and Iran ²⁹⁶
2013	68th	21	4	Syria, Myanmar, North Korea, and Iran ²⁹⁷
2014	69th	20	3	Syria, North Korea, and Iran ²⁹⁸
2015	70th	20	3	Syria, North Korea, and Iran ²⁹⁹
2016	71st	20	6	3 against Syria, Iran, North Korea, and the Crimea ³⁰⁰
2017	72nd	21	6	Syria, Myanmar, North Korea, United States for its embargoes of Cuba, Iran, and the Crimea ³⁰¹
Total		124	26	150

Appendix B

Spending for Each Peacekeeping Mission	
Peacekeeping Mission	Total Spending
UNDOF (Israel)	\$57,653,700
UNMIK (Kosovo) ³⁰²	\$37,898,200
MINUJUSTH (Haiti) ³⁰³	\$25,000,000
MINURSO (Western Sahara) ³⁰⁴	\$52,519,000
MINUSCA (Central African Republic) ³⁰⁵	\$882,800,000
MINUSMA (Mali) ³⁰⁶	\$1,048,000,000
MONUSCO (D.R of the Congo) ³⁰⁷	\$1,141,848,100
UNAMID (Darfur) ³⁰⁸	\$486,000,000
UNFICYP (Cyprus) ³⁰⁹	\$57,651,200
UNIFIL (Lebanon) ³¹⁰	\$483,000,000
UNISFA (Abyei) ³¹¹	\$266,700,000
UNMISS (South Sudan) ³¹²	\$1,071,000,000
UNMOGIP (India and Pakistan) ³¹³	\$21,134,800
UNTSO (Israel) ³¹⁴	\$68,949,400

Appendix C UNDP Spending



This example illustrates how UNDP lacks the transparency appropriate for an organization of its caliber. While specific figures for planned UNDP projects are unavailable, the chart above compares UNDP's spending in selected countries with those countries' rating in the Human Development Index (HDI).

This graph displays HDI on the X Axis and UNDP Spending Per Capita on the Y Axis.

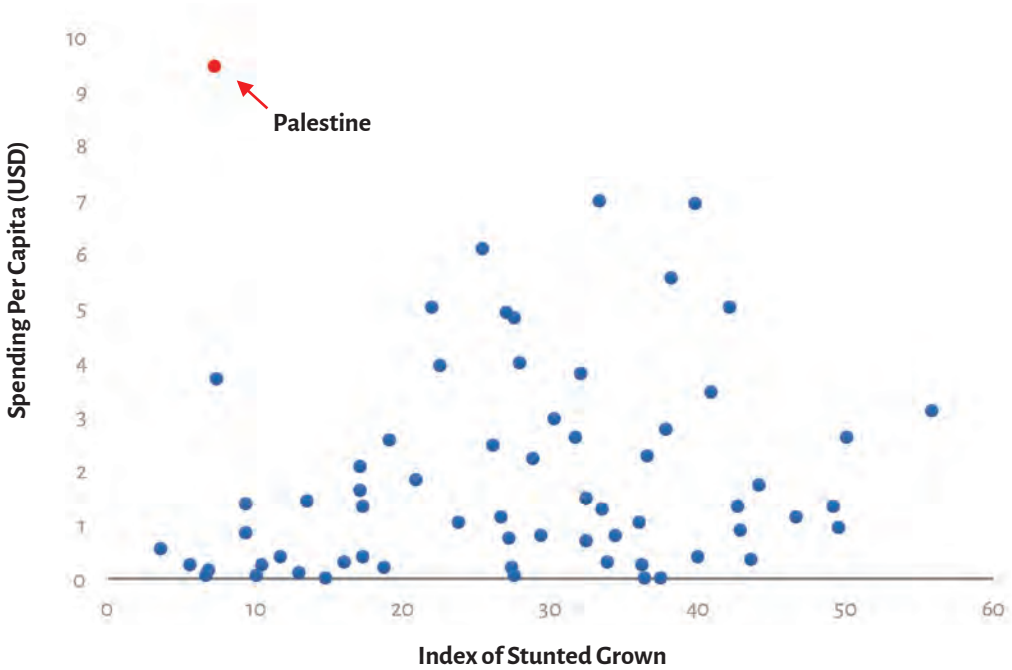
HDI Data is published by the UN and can be found at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>.

The data is for 2015, the latest available year.

UNDP spending per country can be found at <https://www.unsystem.org/content/FS-100-01?agency=UNDP>.

Dividing spending by population using figures from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL> yields UNDP spending per capita.

Appendix D WFP Spending



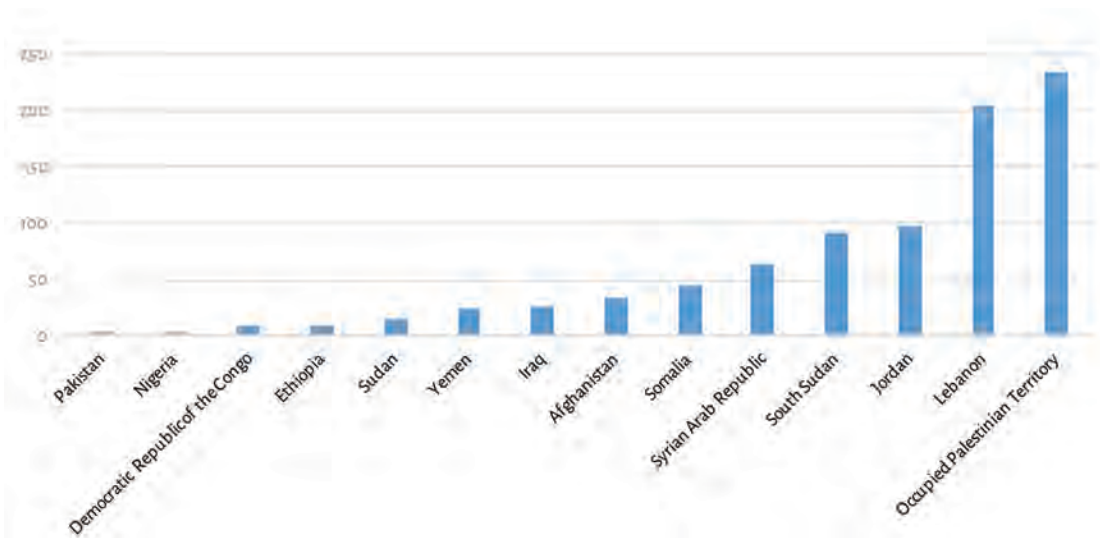
The chart below illustrates the disproportionate spending of WFP on Palestine compared to other countries.

Figures from World Food Program spending at <https://www.unsystem.org/content/FS-100-01?agency=WFP>.

These are divided by population from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>, yielding spending per capita.

The chart does not include South Sudan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Car, Malawi and Somalia, which receive more Per Capita from WFP.

Appendix E UN Spending Per Capita

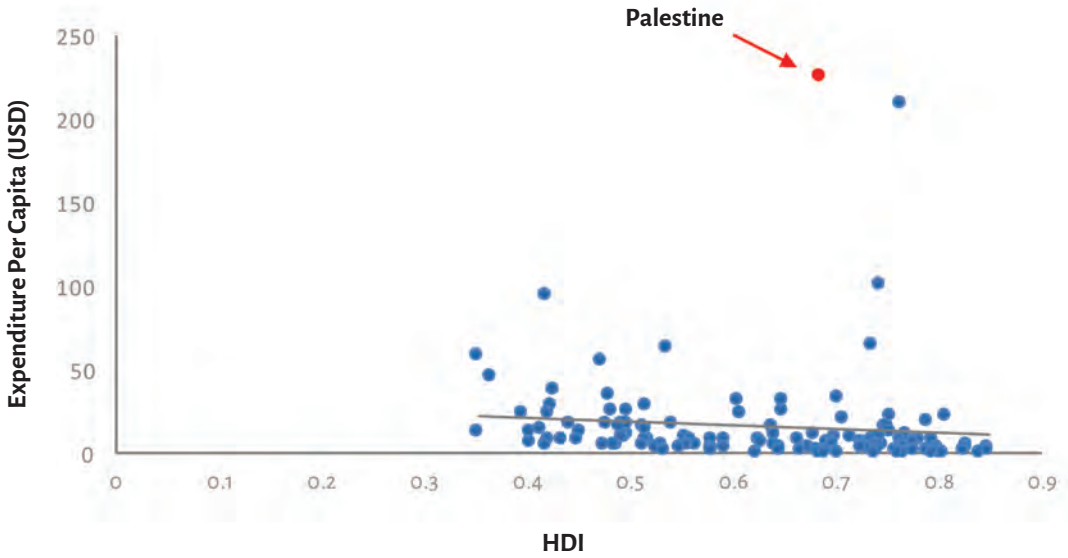


Expenditure by country can be found at
<https://www.unsystem.org/content/FS-100-07>

Divided spending by population from
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>
yields UN spending per capita.

Appendix F

UN Overall Spending



Expenditure by country can be found at <https://www.unsystem.org/content/FS-l00-07>

Dividing spending by population from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL> yields UN spending per capita.





Endnotes

- 1 Throughout this report when the terms “Occupied Territories”, “Occupied Palestine”, “State of Palestine” and “West Bank” are used, it is done to comply with the accepted international terminology and to exhibit the language used by the bodies being analyzed. This usage is not done to take a political stance or to show support for these labels. The usage of these terms whether in regard to a territory, people, or entity are for the express purpose of adhering to the international standard. This paper’s use of these terms is not to affirm or deny their accuracy or legality.
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