

**Statement delivered in the Plenary of the General
Assembly on the presentation of the resolution on
"Assistance to the Palestinian people" under agenda item
72(b), 8 December 2023**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden to introduce this annual resolution on 'Assistance to the Palestinian people'.

We offer our sincere condolences to families of Israelis, Palestinians, UN staff and journalists who have been killed, injured, or held hostage since the abhorrent terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7th. Accounts of sexual violence during the attacks are appalling. We deplore the killing of humanitarian and medical personnel, including 133 UNRWA staff (as of 7 December). We reiterate our call on Hamas for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

We remain gravely concerned about the difficult living conditions and the humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. We also express our deep concern about the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The situation for civilians is alarming.

We express our appreciation for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognize its vital role in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza strip.

As humanitarian needs continued to rise globally throughout 2023 and in the current context of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we consider it important to present this draft resolution again this year, during the UNGA General Humanitarian Debate, as a sign of commitment to principled humanitarian action.

The draft resolution presented for adoption is put forward as a technical rollover, with the understanding that the technical rollover text under consideration does not reflect or address the developments on the ground since the attacks of 7 October, but in the spirit of cooperation and compromise under the present catastrophic circumstances.

As in previous years, we sincerely hope that the rest of the membership will rally behind the principles and objectives outlined in the draft resolution.

Thank you,

Context

Belgium presented draft resolution [A/78/L.22](#) on behalf of 18 Member States of the European Union during the Plenary meeting of the United Nation's General Assembly. The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.