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PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

המשלחת הקבועה
של ישראל לאומות המאוחדות



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The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to his note, dated 29 May 2013, concerning resolution 67/23 adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on 30 November 2012 under agenda item "Question of Palestine."

As shown in the meeting records, Israel voted against this resolution, as it has done on similar resolutions adopted in the past by the General Assembly. Resolution 67/23 joins the numerous one-sided resolutions passed annually by the General Assembly which only serve to undermine the credibility of the United Nations as an impartial agent for the advancement of peace.

The Permanent Mission of Israel wishes to reiterate the considerations that guided this voting practice.

Despite the Israeli Government's efforts and notwithstanding the improved economic environment both in the West Bank and in Gaza, Palestinian terrorism continued unabated. The year 2012 saw a dramatic rise in terror attacks from the Gaza Strip, including rockets, IEDs, sniper fire and infiltration attempts. In total, there were 163 incidents (excluding rocket attacks), in comparison with 89 incidents in 2011. Similarly, there was a sharp increase in rocket attacks – both in numbers (211 percent), range and accuracy, as the targeting of both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in November 2012 clearly demonstrated.

In response to the escalating attacks from Hamas and other terror groups in the Gaza Strip, Israel launched operation 'Pillar of Defense.' In the months leading up to the operation, incidents along the border fence increased both in frequency and severity. Explosive devices, sniper fire, anti-tank fire and a booby-trapped tunnel combined with the 787 rockets that had landed in Israel since the start of 2012, necessitated action to protect more than one million Israeli civilians.

Throughout the eight-day operation, Israel worked together with international organizations and governmental representatives to provide assistance for Gaza's civilian population. During that period, no fewer than 1,532 rockets, including long-range missiles, were fired at densely populated areas in

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Israel, effectively placing millions of civilians at risk. In total, six Israelis (two of whom were soldiers) were killed and over 250 injured.

Despite a relentless and acute threat to its security, Israel has gone to great lengths to extend humanitarian assistance, and foster conditions for Palestinians economic growth. Throughout 2012, cooperation intensified with the relevant international community organs on the ground, resulting in the successful implementation of dozens of projects, alongside various measures aimed at alleviating Palestinian economic hardships. No fewer than 219,469 entry permits were issued for medical patients and their companions, representing an increase of 11% on 2011 figures. Israel also shouldered the costs of medical treatment for 20 Palestinian children whose families could not afford to do so.

Extensive measures were introduced to improve the process of crossing from the West Bank to Israel, including the extensive refurbishment of installations and streamlining the relevant bureaucratic procedures. The number of Palestinian civilians crossing into Israel for recreational purposes nearly tripled since 2011. Similarly, the number of Israeli work permits increased and their terms broadened significantly.

In the Gaza strip, Israeli measures adopted back in 2010 resulted in sharply increased imports. In November 2012, the policy was once again expanded, with the immediate outcome of an 8% increase in the number of trucks entering Gaza during the year. Israel invested 80 million NIS to upgrade capacity at the Kerem Shalom crossing to 400-450 trucks per day. During 2012, no fewer than 57,540 trucks crossed via Kerem Shalom compared to 53,874 trucks in 2011. The number of pedestrians passing through the Erez Crossing also increased by 25% overall.

The Palestinian Authority (includes both Gaza and West Bank combined) economic growth continued steadily throughout 2012. In the first three quarters of the year, GDP rose by 6.1% compared to the same period in 2011, despite the worldwide economic slowdown.

Resolution 67/23 does not refer to or reflect any of the information outlined above, thus resulting in a misleading and erroneous picture of the situation on the ground.



At the same time, the Palestinian Authority has continued its efforts to delegitimize Israel by taking unilateral steps in various multilateral fora, culminating in its appeal for a non-member status at the United Nations in November 2012.

It is hoped, that the recent resumption of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, will contribute to the achievement of a comprehensive resolution of the conflict.

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations avails itself of the opportunity to present the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of its highest considerations.

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