Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me, in my capacity as Rapporteur of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to present to the General Assembly the Annual Report of the Committee, contained in document A/69/35. Allow me to summarize each section of the report.

After the introduction of the report, Chapters II and III outline the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly and the organization of the Committee’s work during the year.

Under Chapter IV, the report reviews the situation relating to the question of Palestine as monitored by the Committee and contains a detailed factual account of developments that have taken place in the reviewed period, which ended on 6 October 2014. The most recent events will be reflected in the next report.

Chapter V contains the action taken by the Committee, including the Chairman’s participation in General Assembly and Security Council debates, statements issued by the Committee and its Bureau, and the continued dialogue between the Committee and members of intergovernmental organizations. This Chapter also informs about the various international meetings and conferences organized by the Committee, as well as other mandated activities carried out by the Division for Palestinian Rights.
Chapter VI provides an overview of the work done over the year by the Department of Public Information in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 68/14 of 26 November 2013.

The last chapter of the report contains the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee, in which, following the war during this summer in Gaza, the Committee welcomes the establishment of a commission of inquiry by the Human Rights Council as an important step towards bringing accountability for violations of humanitarian and human rights law. The Committee also welcomes the request by the Palestinian leadership addressed to the Secretary-General that the territory of the State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations. The Committee also calls on the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly to take practical steps to follow up on the findings of previous fact-finding missions.

Also in this Chapter, the Committee calls on all United Nations Member States to support the administration of Gaza by the Palestinian national consensus Government under the leadership of President Abbas, which should provide a window of opportunity to stabilize Gaza. The Committee calls for the full opening of Gaza crossings for the legitimate and sustained flow of persons and goods in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860 and the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, as the normalization in Gaza would significantly reduce tensions and facilitate the resumption of the political process.

Noting the limitations of the traditional format of bilateral Israeli-Palestinian final status talks facilitated by a single Member State, the Committee calls for proposals for innovative approaches and formats that could help break the deadlock and accelerate the end of the 47-year Israeli military occupation and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to an independent and sovereign Palestinian State based on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Committee urges the Security Council and the General Assembly to give positive consideration to all such proposals.

The Committee welcomes the accession by the State of Palestine to a number of international conventions and treaties and encourages the signature of further international instruments, which would allow it to pursue justice and accountability for Palestinian victims through the available international legal mechanisms.

Convinced that sustainable development of the Palestinian economy cannot take root under the existing regime of Israeli occupation, which exacts annual costs of an estimated $7 billion borne by the Palestinian economy, the Committee calls on the General Assembly to establish provisions for a mechanism which would allow the United Nations to document these costs of occupation.

The Committee will focus its programme of international meetings and conferences in 2015 on the following topics:
- promoting accountability for Israeli violations and the needed protection for the Palestinian people;
- mobilizing increased international scrutiny of the developments on the ground, in particular settlement activities;
promoting action by the international community to put an end to all illegal Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- examining the legal ramifications of the new international status of the State of Palestine; and
- calling attention to the plight of the Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails.

The Committee will also continue to encourage civil society partners to work with their national Governments, parliamentarians and other institutions with a view to gaining their full support for the work of the Committee and the United Nations as a whole. The Committee encourages its Members and Observers to mobilize their respective civil societies at the national level, in particular the youth, and to establish solidarity committees with the State of Palestine.

Finally, the Committee reiterates its view that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information has made an important contribution to informing the media and the public of the relevant issues, and requests the continuation of the programme, with the necessary flexibility warranted by developments relevant to the question of Palestine.

In closing, I would like to express the hope that the Report that I have just presented will be of assistance to this General Assembly in its deliberations on the Question of Palestine.

Thank you, Mr. President.