

Statement by Lebanon
Item 6 — Report on UNCTAD Assistance to the Palestinian People
Trade and Development Board, 73rd session
Geneva, 15 September 2026
Room XVI (16), Palais des Nations

Madam Vice-President,

Lebanon aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China and with the statement delivered by the Arab Group, and wishes to add, in its national capacity, a few additional remarks.

But I do not want to start my statement before commending and congratulating the Bureau on the elections and expressing deep appreciation to Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno and his team for their dedication and commitment in ensuring the full implementation of the mandate of UNCTAD in general, and for the preparation of the current report under consideration.

The findings in the current report on developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory remain deeply alarming. Accelerated settlement expansion in the West Bank, a sharp deterioration in the fiscal position of the Government of the State of Palestine, and Israeli destruction on an unprecedented scale, with consequences that will endure for generations.

The findings on Gaza are equally stark. Ninety-two per cent of Gaza's economic establishments have been damaged or destroyed.

The health system has collapsed, with over half of hospitals and primary clinics non-functional, while thousands of patients in need of outside treatment face extreme difficulty obtaining exit permits. They are literally under siege.

Ninety-three per cent of education facilities require full reconstruction, leaving an entire generation of children with lost years of schooling and diminished long-term prospects.

These are not statistics only, Madam Vice-President. They represent a generation whose future is being shaped by the continuation of occupation.

Continued occupation is also crippling and undermining efforts towards a just and durable solution in the Middle East.

Coming from Lebanon, which is currently facing the profound impact of war on communities, infrastructure and economic activity, we know firsthand the importance of allowing affected societies to rebuild and restore their economies.

We therefore reaffirm that genuine and sustainable development for the Palestinian people cannot be achieved while restrictions on movement, trade and investment continue to constrain economic activity. Development cannot be achieved without peace.

And peace cannot be achieved under occupation. Therefore, we call for an end to the occupation and for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their independent and sovereign State, based on international law, relevant Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Madam Vice-President,

Lebanon commends UNCTAD for maintaining its cooperation with the Palestinian people despite severe resource constraints.

Therefore, we call on the international community to provide necessary and predictable resources for UNCTAD to continue this important work, including in support of economic resilience and institutional capacity.

Madam Vice-President,

UNCTAD has an important role to play in documenting these developments and supporting the Palestinian people in addressing the economic and developmental challenges they face.

I thank you, Madam Vice-President.