

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Statement by the Delegation of Israel

July 31, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to place on record Israel's strong objection to the manner in which the Palestinian observer delegation will be participating at the Tenth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Such arrangement is misleading and is not indicative of their status.

We note that the interpretation of participation in the current conference appears to be derived from an interpretation of particular past practices with respect to this specific conference. We disagree with this interpretation, in particular with regard to the Palestinian observer delegation.

The manner of participation of the Palestinian observer delegation in this conference is neither indicative nor determinative of any status or privilege. Accordingly, the current arrangement has no bearing on their observer status at the United Nations, nor does it constitute any precedent for any future UN fora.

Israel maintains its position that the Palestinians are clearly not a state. Attempts to ignore or circumvent this simple fact are unhelpful and continue to place a burden on this body's precious time and attention. They introduce politicization to this otherwise professional forum, and stand in violation of the binding bilateral agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, as witnessed by the international community.

It is our strong belief that the only way to promote a sustainable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through direct negotiations without preconditions or shortcuts.

I thank you.