



Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations



10th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly June 17, 2025

Thank you, Mr. President.

1. Colombia expresses its gratitude to the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for their request to convene this meeting, which is indeed of an urgent nature. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. Over the past 614 days, more than 54,000 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip, the majority of them women, children, and the elderly. Over 14,000 individuals are missing or presumed dead, and more than 125,000 have been injured. More than 210 journalists have lost their lives due to their profession. Medical, humanitarian, and UN personnel remain under constant threat from Israeli defense forces, who have not hesitated to open fire on medical and humanitarian convoys.

3. In the past three months alone, more than 640,000 people have been forcibly displaced multiple times. Today, 82% of the Gaza Strip is either militarized by Israel or under evacuation orders. Yesterday, the UN spokesperson reported that internet services in Gaza have completely collapsed, leading to predictable and severe consequences.

4. In this context, amid the largest campaign of starvation and extermination in recent history, Israel has decided to block all humanitarian aid from entering Gaza.

5. It is impossible to remain silent in the face of such cruelty and brutality. It is unacceptable that the United Nations, an institution created precisely to protect future generations from the scourge of war has failed to find consensus to act. Even more unacceptable is the fact that the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, continues to endorse the commission of genocide through its silence.

6. The resolution presented by the ten elected members of the Security Council on June 4 sought nothing more than to reaffirm the call for a ceasefire, the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups, and the unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, all fully aligned with previous Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law.

7. Nevertheless, despite being a draft of only eight paragraphs, reflecting the bare minimum acceptable to all members, the Council's action was once again blocked by the veto of a permanent member.



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8. It is truly difficult to comprehend any justification for opposing a call for humanitarian assistance, particularly when the entire population of the Gaza Strip over 2.1 million people are facing imminent food insecurity at a critical level, according to figures released by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

9. Beyond exacerbating the suffering of millions, the Security Council's inaction sends a troubling message, as it endorses impunity, reinforces double standards, and erodes the foundations of the multilateral system.

10. Some members of this organization have repeatedly raised questions about the relevance of the United Nations.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

11. What truly calls our work into question is the inability to act in concert in the face of the most severe humanitarian crisis in recent history. What undermines the credibility of this organization is the vetoes that obstruct the Council's efforts, disregard international law, violate the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, deny the most basic tenets of humanity, and attempt to turn us all into accomplices to genocide.

12. President Gustavo Petro has emphasized: Colombia will not be accomplice in genocide, the commission of war crimes, or the entrenchment of an apartheid regime. It is encouraging to see that most nations that uphold the founding principles of this organization also refuse to do so. The world is well aware of the moral failure of the Council.

13. We are deeply concerned by the inability to reach consensus on a purely humanitarian issue. We are alarmed by the lack of access to essential assistance and basic services for the population in Gaza. As the occupying power, Israel has an obligation to administer the territory for the benefit of its population and to refrain from depriving its inhabitants of their fundamental rights. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) remains the cornerstone of humanitarian operations in Gaza its work is irreplaceable and indispensable. For two million people, UNRWA's efforts literally determine the line between life and death, and its mandate stems directly from the UN General Assembly.

14. It is unacceptable to attempt to replace the work of multilateral organizations, which operate under mandates and the supervision of Member States, in full accordance with the principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence. No unilateral framework can substitute for this work, and Colombia emphatically condemns the weaponization of humanitarian assistance through mechanisms that fail to meet the urgent needs of the population in Gaza and are being used as deadly traps for hundreds of starving individuals desperately seeking aid.



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More than 224 people have been killed at aid distribution sites in recent weeks. This is yet another red line crossed by the occupying power, and it must be stopped immediately.

Excellencies,

15. Once again, the General Assembly must assume its subsidiary responsibility and provide a response to the critical situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. It is our historical, moral, and legal duty as signatories of the United Nations Charter. For this reason, Colombia co-sponsored and voted in favor of the resolution adopted on June 13.

16. This resolution outlines the most urgent actions needed to end the violence in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. We view with deep concern the escalating violence in the Middle East and hope for the swift resumption of the High-Level Conference for the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two-state solution.

The situation that millions in Palestine are facing cannot wait. The first step toward ending the violence is the recognition that there can be no peace or security until the illegal occupation ceases. Any viable solution must begin with the implementation of the two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine coexisting side by side within the internationally recognized pre-1967 borders, fully exercising their right to self-determination.

17. We commend the efforts led by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States to achieve a ceasefire and hope for a swift and positive outcome.

18. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of hunger as a method of warfare, which constitutes a war crime. We reiterate the call made by the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the International Court of Justice for all parties to uphold their obligations under international law.

19. Colombia reaffirms its principled position of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We urgently call for an immediate, permanent, and unconditional ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and the return of human remains, the unrestricted, immediate, and unconditional entry of humanitarian aid, and the lifting of all measures obstructing UNRWA's operations.

20. Our peoples, history, and future generations will judge us by our stance on this genocide. True to its historical position, Colombia will continue to defend multilateralism and remain steadfast in the search for just and definitive solutions to the question of Palestine—solutions that will enable both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples to live in peace and security.



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With this in mind, as co-chairs of the Hague Group, we, together with South Africa, have convened an emergency ministerial meeting in Bogotá on July 15–16, 2025, with the aim of coordinating diplomatic measures in response to Israel's continued violations of international law, including the crime of genocide.

21. We urge all States to join this effort and take the necessary measures to put an end to this barbarity.

Thank You