

State of Palestine
Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations
Geneva



دولة فلسطين
البعثة المراقبة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
جنيف

Thank you Madam Chair.

I did not intend to take the floor now, but I am compelled to do so to reply to the allegations of politicisation that have been made by Israel regarding our statement this morning.

At the outset, let me remind Israel that our name is not “a delegation” but the “State of Palestine”. We request for Israel to refer to our country as per the official UN denomination.

Let me remind delegates of what we said. Palestine stated that Israel tests its weapons on occupied Palestinians, then markets them as “battle-tested” in order to then sell them to countries across the globe for profit.

We wonder which part of this statement could justify an accusation of “politicization”; which part of this statement is not factual.

Is Israel not an occupying Power? Is it not responsible for sustained violations of the Palestinian people’s human rights?

In this regard, are the determinations that have been made by United Nations organs including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, by numerous United Nations mechanisms and bodies, by the ICRC, by civil society organizations and legal experts worldwide, all wrong or politicized?

Has Israel not tested weapons on Palestinians before exporting them? In 2013, Israeli filmmaker Yotam Feldman released an investigative documentary entitled “The Lab” which shows how large Israeli companies test their weapons on Palestinians. In 2023, bestselling journalist Antony Loewenstein published the book “The Palestine Laboratory: how Israel exports the technology of occupation around the world” which exposes the way Israel uses its illegal occupation of Palestine to enhance its military industry and export weapons around the world. Is the evidence provided in these investigative works all wrong?

Madam Chair,

If the answer to these questions is no, and our delegation has only made a statement of fact, then we must ask ourselves who is in fact politicizing our discussions in this forum.

Where rights or reply are used with the intention to stifle debate, to silence truths that are inconvenient or embarrassing to a delegation, then these rights and this very forum are simply being abused. And this must be rejected.

I thank you.