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The situation in the Middle East

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 80/73, entitled "The Syrian Golan", adopted on 2 December 2025. On 6 April 2026, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all Member States and the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, requesting that any pertinent information concerning any action taken, or envisaged, in relation to the implementation of the resolution be conveyed to the Secretariat by 30 June 2026. One reply was received, from the Syrian Arab Republic, and is reproduced in the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 80/73, entitled “The Syrian Golan”, adopted on 2 December 2025. In that resolution, the Assembly demanded once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

2. On 6 April 2026, to fulfil his reporting responsibility under the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representatives of all Member States and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, in which he requested them to inform him of any steps that their Governments had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the resolution. As at 30 June 2026, one reply, from the Syrian Arab Republic, had been received and is provided in section II below.

II. Reply received from the Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

This contribution consists of two sections. The first concerns the violation by Israel of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and the second concerns the occupied Syrian Golan.

I. Violation by Israel of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement

1. Immediately following the triumph of the Syrian revolution and the fall of the former regime on 8 December 2024, the Israeli occupation army invaded and forcibly seized more of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. The territory seized is estimated to be hundreds of square kilometres. The occupation forces and their armoured vehicles illegally and without justification or provocation crossed the lines of separation and arms limitation and into Jabal al-Shaykh, the Governorate of Qunaytirah and nearby areas, proceeding as far as parts of Dar‘a and Rif Dimashq Governorates. Meanwhile, several civilian and military sites in Damascus and various parts the country’s governorates came under heavy shelling.

2. In the course of this illegal military incursion, the occupation forces attacked the residents of the areas that they entered, terrorizing them, killing, displacing and abducting a number of them, destroying their homes and vehicles, confiscating their land, killing their livestock and source of livelihood, destroying infrastructure, setting up earthen berms, military posts and large gates, severely restricting entry and exit to those areas and subjecting the civilian population to hardship and inhumane practices, in flagrant violation of 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

3. These Israeli crimes and practices have continued to this day and have expanded. In the course of these incursions, the Israeli occupation army has bulldozed vast swathes of agricultural land, built dirt roads, sprayed toxic substances and pesticides on the vegetation and uprooted trees in several forested areas that are home to many species of trees and animals that play a major role in the ecological balance.

4. The crimes and acts of sabotage committed by the Israeli occupation are causing severe damage, from which the environment will need hundreds of years to recover. During the incursion into Jubbata al-Khashab and Kudnah, the occupation completely cleared the forests in those areas, without regard for the negative effects thereof on

social stability and the lives of local communities, not to mention the enormous economic damage caused.

5. In a serious threat to water and food security in Syria, the occupation forces have taken control of most of the dams and water complexes in the south, including Wahdah Dam and Mantarah Dam, as well as other dams, which are the main source of water for consumption, irrigation and agriculture in the southern region of Syria.

6. Since 8 December 2024, the Israeli occupation authorities have established 11 positions in the area of separation. Those actions belie the claims that were initially made regarding the "temporary and limited" nature of this illegal presence and these hostile acts. These actions cannot be justified whatsoever, particularly given that the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement prohibit the Israeli side from making any movement across the Alpha line, let alone establishing any military presence.

7. The claims made by Israel that its military presence in the area of separation "temporary and limited" were merely a means of dampening the widespread international condemnation of that presence. The falsity of those claims was confirmed by recent Israeli statements indicating that the Israeli army would remain in Jabal al-Shaykh and the area of separation indefinitely. Those statements were accompanied by stepped-up military movements, the construction of military bases and observation posts and other facilities, including a helipad at Jabal al-Shaykh.

8. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects entirely and condemns in the strongest terms the repeated calls made by Israel calling for the Syrian State to demilitarize the southern Syrian governorates of Qunaytirah, Dar'a and Suwayda' and not to allow the Syrian army to maintain any presence south of Damascus. It also condemns the disingenuous professions of "concern for a particular segment of the Syrian population" and the claim that Israel want to "protect" that segment. These statements constitute blatant interference in the internal affairs of Syria, in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. They reflect the Israeli occupation entity's hostile intentions and goal of undermining the security and stability of Syria and establishing a new occupation in Syrian territory as a fait accompli. These unacceptable statements are meant to pave the way for the escalation and continuation of Israeli aggression. They serve the occupation authorities' agenda of diverting attention from its grave violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement and its failure to comply with that agreement or with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions demanding an end to the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan.

9. Syria reaffirms its inalienable right to extend its sovereignty over all its territory. It rejects any attempts to interfere in its internal affairs, undermine civil peace and national unity or cast doubt on its commitment to the security and safety of Syrian people of all confessions and demographics. Syria emphasizes that these hostile statements are part of a blatant Israeli plan to undermine security and stability and derail the efforts of the Government of Syria during this transitional phase, in which the Syrian people are building a better future for their country.

10. The Government of Syria has engaged in good faith in security talks with Israel. Those talks have been mediated by the United States, to which we express our appreciation, and conducted under the supervision of President Trump. Syria has repeatedly expressed its willingness to discuss the security concerns of all parties and to work towards addressing them. In addition, it consistently reaffirms that its focus is on reconstruction and on internal, regional, and international stability. It rejects any attempt by the Israeli side to exploit the commitment of Syria to peace and its good

faith in order to engage in additional practices and commit further crimes against Syria and its people and sovereignty.

11. Over the past year, international voices drawing attention to Israeli attacks and incursions into southern Syria have grown louder. Many Member States are now pointing out the danger, gravity and consequences of these Israeli attacks and incursions and are warning against them in open debates of the Security Council and in the General Assembly and other forums. In addition, the United Nations has begun documenting these incidents and including them in its reports and briefings, including those issued by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria.

II. The occupied Syrian Golan

12. At the eightieth session of the General Assembly, the number of Member States that voted in favour of the resolution entitled "The Syrian Golan" (resolution 80/73 of dated 2 December 2025) increased from 97 to 123. That increase is a clear indication of growing international awareness of the threat that Israeli practices in southern Syria, including the occupied Syrian Golan, pose for the security and stability of the entire Middle East region. It is also a reflection of those countries' commitment to laying the foundations for stability in Syria following the triumph of the people's revolution at the end of 2024.

13. The Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan has persisted for 59 years. During that time, the international community has repeatedly demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and cease its blatant violations of international law, conventions and norms. Nevertheless, to this day, Israel refuses to implement United Nations resolutions and continues to occupy the Syrian Golan.

14. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the occupied Syrian Arab Golan has been and will continue to be Arab and Syrian, that it is an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and that the Syrian Arab Republic has the right to recover it by all the means provided for under international law. That right is eternal, cannot be bargained over or waived, and cannot lapse.

15. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms these blatant and repeated Israeli attacks on its territory, including those that are committed from the airspace of the occupied Syrian Golan, which have resulted in loss of life and damage to public and private buildings. These attacks clearly and unequivocally reflect the hostile intentions of the Israeli occupation entity and its goal of undermining the security and stability of Syria, prolonging the suffering of its people and creating a new occupation in Syrian territory as a fait accompli. Syria reiterates its demand for the United Nations and the Security Council to carry out their responsibilities and take firm and immediate measures to compel Israel to immediately cease its ongoing attacks on Syrian territory, ensure that they do not recur, end the occupation, withdraw immediately from the areas into which it has made incursions and comply fully with the mandate of UNDOF.

16. From the time that Israel occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967, the international community has reiterated that it rejects that occupation and has demanded that Israel withdraw from the entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. The General Assembly, in its resolution 80/73 of 2 December 2025, entitled "The Syrian Golan", demands once more that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the

entire occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution 80/82, entitled "The Occupied Syrian Golan", also once again demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with United Nations resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981). In that resolution, the Security Council declares that the decision taken by Israel on 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and completely without legal effect. In addition, the General Assembly demands that Israel should rescind forthwith its decision.

18. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic denounces the settlement policies that are being implemented by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Syrian Golan in violation of the relevant Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. In their resolutions, those bodies reaffirm the illegality of Israeli settlement-building and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan.

19. Syria warns of the danger posed by the five-year plan (2026–2030) that the Israeli Government approved in April 2026 with the aim of transforming the occupied Syrian town of Qasrin into the first city in the Golan, at a cost of 1 billion Israeli shekels, in order to attract thousands of new settler families and consolidate the occupied Syrian Golan as a centre for settlement, demographic and economic growth.

20. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes, in particular, the need to refrain from providing any assistance to the occupying Israeli authorities, especially economic assistance and assistance for business and tourism activities, or any support for the continuation of Israeli settlements and/or the establishment of new settlements that would reinforce the occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and the continued violation of the human rights of its Syrian Arab population.

21. Syria once again calls upon the United Nations to compel Israel to cease efforts, in particular the establishment of settlements, that are aimed at changing the cultural identity, demographic composition, physical characteristics, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Israeli occupation Government has announced the goal of doubling the number of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan before 2027, which would exceed the Syrian population. These practices may amount to war crimes.

22. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns all Israeli practices and actions aimed at controlling the natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and the systematic looting of those resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in flagrant violation of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 80/158, entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources". Not only does Israel continue to deplete the natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and deprive the territory's Syrian population of the ability to benefit from their natural resources, but it also confiscates their land.

23. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms the Israeli occupation's resumption of a settlement project that involves the construction of dozens of wind turbines across vast areas in the northern occupied Syrian Golan. This project is aimed at displacing Syrian civilians of all backgrounds, who are suffering under the occupation, from their lands and the lands of their ancestors. Syria warns of the catastrophic health, environmental and economic

consequences of this project for Syrian citizens and their livelihoods. It calls upon the international community to shed light on the repercussions of this project and its effects, which will extend for decades. It also call upon the international community to fulfil its responsibility to halt the project and counter Israeli plans that undermine the security and stability of the region.

24. Syria reaffirms that it will not cease to defend the rights of its people and that it will continue to stand with the residents of the occupied Syrian Golan and southern Syria in the face of Israeli ambitions, with a view to securing all the rights that the occupation seeks to strip from them.

25. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns the ongoing attempts by the Israeli occupation authorities to rewrite the history of the occupied Syrian Golan, steal its antiquities and Judaize it. Not the most recent of those attempts was the excavation of the depopulated village of Bab al-Hawa and the theft of contents of a cemetery that included prehistoric tombs, the remains of basalt stone walls and Byzantine-era pottery. The goal is to reinforce the occupation of the Golan by altering its demographic, geographical, historical and cultural character.

26. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for pressuring Syrian students abroad who come back to spend their holidays in the occupied Golan to accept Israeli citizenship and, if they refuse to comply, for threatening that they will prevent them from travelling in order to complete their studies.

27. In addition to those actions, the occupying Israeli authorities have pressured the people of occupied Syrian villages to accept title deeds issued by the Israel Land Survey Department in place of title deeds registered in their Syrian motherland, on pain of confiscation of their land. Such pressure is all part of the occupying Power's scheme to seize the land and change its identity by imposing the use of replacement "Israeli documents". The occupying Israeli authorities have demanded that Syrian landowners, in particular those in the village of Ayn Quniyah and the industrial area belonging to the village of Majdal Shams, should turn over title deeds handed down to them by their parents and grandparents. That measure will eventually be extended to the rest of the villages in the occupied Syrian Golan. The occupying authorities have threatened to seize land from its true owners and award it to Israeli settlers if the owners do not accept Israeli title deeds.

28. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its discriminatory and racist practices towards the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, practices that have affected their health conditions and led to lack of medical services. In addition, Israel must be pressured to end its destructive practices with respect to the environment and natural resources, in particular water. Over the years, the occupying Israeli authorities have buried some 1,500 barrels of nuclear waste at 20 locations in the occupied Syrian Golan, including Nashbat al-Muqbilah, Qasr Sabib and Birkat Marj al-Mann, in flagrant violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Those violations pose an ongoing threat to the occupied Syrian Golan, exposing the lives of Syrian citizens to numerous risks, including cancer, which now accounts for 30 per cent of all deaths.

29. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the international authorities referred to above must pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from its practice of taking peremptory decisions that prevent Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan from visiting their homeland, Syria, via the Qunaytirah crossing. These arbitrary Israeli actions, which violate the Geneva Conventions and all international

norms and instruments, will only bring about further material, psychological and physical suffering for Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan that is beyond all legal and moral limits. Syria calls for the occupying Israeli authorities to be compelled to open the Qunaytirah crossing, in order to enable Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their country and their relatives.

30. The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community to fulfil its responsibility to deter Israel and put an end to its aggression, which significantly undermines security and stability in the region. It reaffirms that, in order to ensure stability in the Middle East and preserve the credibility of the United Nations, measures must be taken to implement all international resolutions aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, and to compel Israel to withdraw to the line of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981).

31. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic renews its call on the international community and international organizations to monitor the flagrant violations by Israel of international law and norms, human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention; to express its categorical rejection of such violations; and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its illegal settlement policies and repressive measures against the Syrian residents of the occupied Syrian Golan, and to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan.

I should be grateful if this contribution could be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 80/73, entitled “The Syrian Golan”.