



2024/ 10/22

**About Gheit's address delivered by Ambassador
Hossam Zaki at the joint launch of the Third
Assessment of the Expected Social and Economic
Impact of the Gaza War**

22 October 2024



**Your Excellency Dr. Abdullah Al-Dardari,
Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of the
United Nations Development Programme,
Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States,**

**Your Excellency Tariq Alami,
Director of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Cluster at
ESCWA,**

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I begin my address by honouring the memory of the martyrs who have fallen in the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. Their remarkable resilience in the face of the genocidal war waged by the occupying power stands as a testament to their unwavering steadfastness.

As I welcome the presentation of the report "The Third Assessment of the Expected Social and Economic Impact of the Gaza War on the State of Palestine" from this platform of the League of Arab States, it reaffirms our continuous and vital partnership with the United Nations and its specialised agencies. I take this moment to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is courageously standing against a systematic campaign of defamation due to his principled stance on the Israeli war in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report emerges more than a year after the genocidal war on Gaza, a war that inflicted catastrophic damage on vital sectors across the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in



health, education, and essential utilities. Beyond the tragic loss of thousands of innocent lives, the war deliberately shattered the foundations of society and economy, leaving a profound and long-lasting impact on the civilian population, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, women, and girls. Moreover, the severe damage to natural ecosystems presents a daunting challenge, one that may take generations to repair.

This report is notable not only for its documentation of the war's catastrophic consequences on Palestine, but also for its forward-looking analysis of three recovery scenarios. These scenarios provide insight into the possible trajectories for recovery, assessing both the immediate impact projected for 2025 and the long-term effects anticipated by 2034, a full decade after the conflict. The aim is to offer a comprehensive understanding of the potential pathways and obstacles that may shape the social and economic recovery of the State of Palestine in the years ahead.

While we all earnestly hope for the realisation of the best-case scenario—an early and unhindered recovery—we must also brace ourselves for the devastating consequences that alternative scenarios could bring to Palestinian society and its economy.

The issue extends beyond the urgent need for the international community to assume its responsibilities in immediately halting Israel's genocidal war, characterised by killings, starvation, forced displacement, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid. It also necessitates a phased approach to ensure that Israel, as the occupying power, fulfils its obligations. This includes enabling United Nations agencies and relief organisations to perform their duties, transferring clearance revenues to the Palestinian Authority on a regular basis, and allowing the sustained flow of sufficient aid. All of these measures, however,



should not overshadow the paramount importance of addressing the root causes of the Palestinian people's suffering for the past 76 years. This requires putting an end to Israel's illegal occupation and settler colonialism, including in the Gaza Strip, and dismantling the apartheid system imposed on all Palestinians.

In closing, I would like to express my profound appreciation to ESCWA, the United Nations Development Programme, and all the institutions that collaborated in the preparation of this significant report. I hope it will mark a genuine starting point for the reconstruction and development of the Gaza Strip, paving the way for the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state. I also encourage the circulation of this report to various regional and international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, as it documents the devastating impacts of the genocidal war on Gaza and serves as a critical source of support for the Palestinian people enduring the occupation.

Thank you once again. May the peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.