

Thank you Madam Co-Chair,

Mining in Palestine is an important contributor to the GDP and is an important source of investment and job creation. The main mining activity in Palestine is in Quarries that represent one of the most important natural resource in the country. However, like all other development sectors, the policies and practices of the occupation have impeded Palestinians from developing the mining industry in Palestine, as they watch while the occupying Power exploits and benefits from these quarries illegally. In many cases, individual developers are barred from reaching their mines by the occupation forces, thus imposing added financial burdens on them. Another way of chocking the life out of this important industry, which represents a source of income for hundreds of families, is the occupation authorities' destruction of established mines to make way for waste dumping ground for the illegal settlements. And while occupation authorities confiscate Palestinian mines, deny Palestinians the right to properly exploit their resources, and change others into garbage dumps for illegal settlements, the occupation illegally exploits and benefits from this valuable yet limited resource. For decades, Israeli occupation has illegally established several quarries across the Occupied West Bank. This illegal exploitation of Palestinian resources also impacts the environment and health of Palestinians as most of these illegal quarries are adjacent to residential areas and agrarian lands. Finally, let me note that, with the unique reality of occupation having such a severe impact on this vital sector, we believe it is imperative that the CSD attach due attention to it.

Thank you Madam Co-Chair

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