



LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

PALAIS DES NATIONS  
CH - 1211 GENÈVE 10

7 May 2014

Dear Ms. Kohn,

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 2014 concerning the United Nations Roundtable on Legal Aspects of the Question of Palestine, held from 24 to 25 April 2014.

Facilitating participation of civil society in United Nations meetings at the Palais des Nations is a priority for me. As the meeting in question was convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, my office has consulted with the Division for Palestinian Rights at United Nations Headquarters, and has been provided with the following clarification on the points raised in your letter.

As the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has specific procedures of accreditation vis-à-vis civil society organizations, consultative status with ECOSOC status does not grant automatic access to meetings organized by the Committee. Furthermore, the Roundtable was held in a format different to other International Meetings convened by the Committee, as reflected in the programme of work published on 14 January 2014. Consequently, the Bureau took the decision to limit the Roundtable attendance to Members and Observers to the Committee. Civil society organizations, including NGOs in status with the Committee, were not invited. The Committee publicly announced the Roundtable through a background release issued on 17 April 2014 which specified that all sessions, besides the opening session, were private.

The availability of additional documents concerning the Roundtable will be decided by the Bureau and posted on the Committee website accordingly.

I hope that the information provided has helped towards clarifying the concerns related to the participation of civil society in the Roundtable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Møller', written in a cursive style.

Michael Møller  
Acting Director-General

Ms. Irit Kohn  
President  
International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
10, Daniel Frisch Street  
Tel Aviv  
Israel

Cc: H.E. Mr. Abdou Salam Diallo, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise  
of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People  
Mr. Wolfgang Grieger, Director, Division for Palestinian Rights