|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C25/71-E** |
| **19 May 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| STATUS REPORT ON ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PALESTINE | |
| **Purpose**  This document reports on the implementation of Resolution 1424 of the Council.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **consider** this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Provision of Technical Assistance.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 1424 (C24)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0127/en) *of the Council* | |

Background

This document reports on the implementation of Resolution 1424 (C24) of the ITU Council, which called for the Secretary-General to coordinate the activities of the three Sectors of the Union and to provide a report on the matter to the Council session in 2025.

**The Context**

As per the updates of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, the ICT sector in Palestine, continues to face significant developmental and infrastructural challenges, with mobile broadband being particularly affected. At present, mobile data services in Gaza are unavailable, and voice connectivity is limited to satellite and partially operational networks. Internet access is also limited, impacting humanitarian operations and public communication.

According to the World Bank, damage to ICT infrastructure has reached USD 164 million.[[1]](#footnote-2) Of the affected assets, 74% are reported destroyed, 16% partially damaged, and 10% minimally impacted.[[2]](#footnote-3) Further, the World Bank projects reconstruction, and recovery needs to be USD 460 million comprising USD 116 million for immediate restoration of mobile towers, fiber optics, and essential services, and USD 344 million for long-term resilience and rebuilding efforts.[[3]](#footnote-4) Ongoing challenges faced by the telecommunication sector are access to spare parts and ongoing fuel shortages, which are critical for running towers and backup systems.

Actions taken by ITU

Despite the challenges outlined above, the ITU has continued its efforts over the past year toward the implementation of the resolution. Progress has been made in addressing the following areas:

1) Coordination

An Inter-Sectoral Task Force was established to ensure a coordinated and effective implementation of Resolution 1424 across the ITU. The Task Force focused on three key objectives:

i. evaluating the impact of the conflict in Palestine on ITU programmes and activities in the region;

ii. mobilizing the necessary financial, technical, and human resources to support recovery efforts; and

iii. tracking and coordinating progress in the implementation of the resolution, ensuring transparency and alignment with ITU’s overall objectives.

Chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Task Force included the Director of the ITU Regional Office for the Arab States and representatives from each Sector of the Union.

2) Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) activities

In close coordination with the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) of the United Nations, coordinated by the World Food Programme, ITU has been working to facilitate the delivery of satellite phones to Gaza, Palestine. This critical initiative supports the continuity of essential communication services in the region, helping to ensure that UN agencies and humanitarian organizations have reliable communication networks to carry out their relief operations effectively.

3) Interim damage assessment

ITU has established mechanisms for regular coordination and collaborated with various international organizations, including the World Bank and the United Nations, to support comprehensive damage assessments of telecommunication infrastructure in Palestine. These assessments rely on remote data collection to evaluate damage across sectors, providing preliminary estimates of both physical and financial losses. The findings will inform the development of a broader reconstruction plan, including for the ICT sector.

Following the adoption of Resolution 1424, the ITU Deputy Secretary-General, in coordination with the ITU Regional Office for the Arab States, held a series of consultation and coordination meetings with the Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, as well as other key stakeholders such as mobile network operators and representatives from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). These meetings aimed to assess the current situation on the ground and to identify how and when ITU can best support the implementation of the resolution.

4) Initiatives related to implementing Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19)

In October 2023, under Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19), the ITU’s Radiocommunication Bureau, in close coordination with the ITU’s Regional Office for the Arab States, reviewed and recommended revisions to the Table of National Frequency Allocations and Applications (TNFAA) of Palestine. Since this revision of their TNFAA, there have been no requests made to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau for assistance to Palestine.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023) approved the modification of Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19), resolving that Palestine should be empowered to obtain the necessary frequencies for microwave links, essential to the operation of 4G and 5G services, exploit the additional bands needed for new, modern mobile telecommunication networks, such as IMT-2020, to urgently extend, install, own, manage and operate optical fibre broadband telecommunication networks, obtain VHF and UHF frequencies for fixed and mobile telecommunication services, as well as FM frequencies for the broadcasting service.

To facilitate the achievement of its objectives, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau continue to engage the authorities of Israel and Palestine towards the implementation of Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19), in particular in advancing the roadmap for Palestine to have access to more frequencies for IMT and broadcasting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. [Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (February 2025)](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/133c3304e29086819c1119fe8e85366b-0280012025/original/Gaza-RDNA-final-med.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (February 2025)](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/133c3304e29086819c1119fe8e85366b-0280012025/original/Gaza-RDNA-final-med.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (February 2025)](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/133c3304e29086819c1119fe8e85366b-0280012025/original/Gaza-RDNA-final-med.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)