

## Response of the State of Israel to the Court's Letter Dated 28 August 2025

Further to the Court's letters dated 13 and 28 August 2025, the State of Israel conveys the following in response to the submissions filed with the Court by others on 27 August 2025:

Israel categorically rejects the numerous allegations and misrepresentations made in these submissions, spanning over four hundred pages and replete with untruths and inaccuracies. These submissions in their nature and scope underline, once again, that advisory proceedings are inherently ill-suited for determining such highly disputed and contentious factual matters; and that any conclusive findings by the Court would not only be unwarranted in the circumstances, but would gravely compromise the integrity of both these advisory proceedings and the contentious case in which Israel is respondent. It is, indeed, unthinkable that the Court would fail to have due regard for the fact that these proceedings implicate claims and allegations that are clearly *sub judice* in that contentious case.

Israel notes that the submissions entirely overlook the circumstances that have given rise to and shape the current situation – circumstances which have been forced upon Israel and with regard to which it has rights under international law, not only obligations. Remarkably, the words “ Hamas ” and “ Palestinian Islamic Jihad ” do not appear even once in the Explanations submitted by the UN. There is no serious consideration of the fact that Hamas and other terrorist organizations, in blatant disregard for both law and morality, have been exploiting civilians and civilian objects and thereby tragically exposing them to responses that are fully consistent with the law of armed conflict. There is little reference to the significant and consistent efforts made by Israel, in cooperation and coordination with nearly 200 humanitarian organizations, including the UN and its agencies, to facilitate enormous amounts of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population, even when faced with the constant diversion of aid by Hamas. There is also little reference to the significant flaws in the figures provided by the UN, including their exclusion of aid and assistance delivered by those operating outside its coordination framework, such as third States, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), an organization that has delivered approximately 160 million meals but with which the UN has remarkably declined to cooperate. Nor is there any acknowledgement of the considerable improvements that have occurred in the period in

question, despite wide-ranging multi-party efforts on the ground, including by the UN, that clearly indicate otherwise.

Finally, Israel refers the Court to its submissions filed on 27 August 2025, which it maintains in their entirety. Israel further reiterates its unwavering commitment to compliance with international law in conducting the present hostilities in the Gaza Strip, the lawful and legitimate objectives of which are to secure the release of all the hostages, dismantle the military and governance capabilities of Hamas, and ensure that no threat is posed to Israel from Gaza in the long term.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher but appears to be the name of the signatory.

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Legal Advisor

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel

8 September 2025