

## **Co-Chairs' Statement: The Hague Group Meeting on Accountability and the Enforcement of International Law in Palestine — The Hague, 4 March 2026**

Forty states convened today in The Hague for the Meeting on Accountability and the Enforcement of International Law in Palestine, co-chaired by the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Colombia.

This represents the largest gathering yet of states participating in a meeting convened by The Hague Group, since its founding in January 2025.

Participants met against the backdrop of the unprecedented acceleration of Israel's settlement policy, including the approval of the E1 project and the publication of its tender, the unlawful escalation of military operations in the West Bank, which amounts to de facto annexation of the occupied West Bank and constitutes a direct assault on the territorial contiguity required for the realization of the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Participants reaffirmed the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations and the international legal order as the foundation of peaceful and just relations among states and peoples. They reiterated their commitment to the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, the right of peoples to self-determination, and the obligation of all states to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law.

In the face of continued absence of accountability for Israel's unlawful actions, participants reaffirmed their commitment to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law through appropriate, fair and independent investigations and prosecutions.

In light of these urgent concerns, the leaders presented concrete measures, drawn from third-party state legal obligations as determined by the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of July 2024 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/24 of September 2024, to be further developed and formally tabled at an upcoming ministerial meeting, due to be announced shortly, including:

### **I. Ensure Accountability: No Safe Haven for Perpetrators of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and the Crime of Aggression**

Implement a disclosure requirement regarding service in the Israeli military subjecting travelers with Israeli travel documents or arriving from an origin of Tel Aviv airport to potential secondary screening at ports of entry under domestic war-crimes inadmissibility rules, and/or adjusted visa policies, as applicable; in compliance with the obligation to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law through robust, impartial and independent investigations and prosecutions at national or international levels, and ensure justice for all victims and the prevention of future crimes.

## **II. Enforce Non-Recognition of Illegal Settlements**

Refuse to recognize settlements as legally valid, and prohibit the import of settlement goods and prevent domestic companies from operating in settlements, ensuring that no national, company, or entity under participating states' jurisdiction lends recognition or material support to Israel's unlawful presence.

## **III. Cut Complicity: No Arms or Material Support**

Prevent the transfer, transit, or carriage of arms, munitions, military fuel, and dual-use items to Israel — including through export restrictions, port controls, and flag-state responsibilities — in full compliance with international law. Conduct urgent reviews of public procurement and contracts to ensure that no public institution or public funds sustain Israel's unlawful occupation.

The choice before every government is clear: complicity or compliance. History will judge us not by the speeches we delivered, but by the actions we took.

### **H.E. Alvin Botes**

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

### **H.E. Mauricio Jaramillo**

Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Colombia

<https://thehaguegroup.org/meetings-hague-2026-en/>

## **Erklärung der Ko-Vorsitzenden: Treffen der Haager Gruppe zu Rechenschaftspflicht und Durchsetzung des Völkerrechts in Palästina – Den Haag, 4. März 2026**

Vierzig Staaten kamen heute in Den Haag zum Treffen zu Rechenschaftspflicht und Durchsetzung des Völkerrechts in Palästina zusammen, das unter dem gemeinsamen Vorsitz der Republik Südafrika und der Republik Kolumbien stand.

Dies ist die bislang größte Versammlung von Staaten, die an einem Treffen der Haager Gruppe seit ihrer Gründung im Januar 2025 teilgenommen haben.

Die Teilnehmer trafen sich vor dem Hintergrund einer beispiellosen Beschleunigung der israelischen Siedlungspolitik, einschließlich der Genehmigung des E1-Projekts und der Veröffentlichung seiner Ausschreibung, sowie der völkerrechtswidrigen Eskalation der Militäroperationen im Westjordanland, die einer faktischen Annexion des besetzten Westjordanlands gleichkommt und einen direkten Angriff auf die territoriale Kontinuität darstellt, die für die Verwirklichung des Selbstbestimmungsrechts der Palästinenser erforderlich ist.

Die Teilnehmer bekräftigten die überragende Bedeutung der Charta der Vereinten Nationen und der internationalen Rechtsordnung als Grundlage für friedliche und gerechte Beziehungen zwischen Staaten und Völkern. Sie bekräftigten ihr Bekenntnis zum Verbot der gewaltsamen Aneignung von Gebieten, zum Selbstbestimmungsrecht der Völker und zur Verpflichtung aller Staaten, die Rechenschaftspflicht für die schwersten Verbrechen nach dem Völkerrecht sicherzustellen.

Angesichts diesen dringenden Anliegen stellten die Staats- und Regierungschefs konkrete Maßnahmen vor, die sich aus den rechtlichen Verpflichtungen von Drittstaaten gemäß dem Gutachten des Internationalen Gerichtshofs vom Juli 2024 und der Resolution ES-10/24 der Generalversammlung der Vereinten Nationen vom September 2024 ergeben und die auf einer in Kürze anzukündigenden Ministertagung weiter ausgearbeitet und offiziell vorgelegt werden sollen, darunter:

### **I. Gewährleistung der Rechenschaftspflicht: Kein sicherer Hafen für Täter von Völkermord, Kriegsverbrechen, Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit und Verbrechen der Aggression**

Einführung einer Offenlegungspflicht hinsichtlich des Dienstes in der israelischen Armee, wodurch Reisende mit israelischen Reisedokumenten oder Reisende, die vom Flughafen Tel Aviv ankommen, einer möglichen zweiten Kontrolle an den Einreisehäfen gemäß den nationalen Vorschriften zur Unzulässigkeit von Kriegsverbrechen und/oder angepassten Visabestimmungen unterzogen werden können; in Übereinstimmung mit der Verpflichtung, die Rechenschaftspflicht für die schwersten Verbrechen nach internationalem Recht durch robuste, unparteiische und unabhängige Ermittlungen und Strafverfolgungen auf nationaler oder internationaler Ebene sicherzustellen und Gerechtigkeit für alle Opfer sowie die Verhinderung künftiger Verbrechen zu gewährleisten.

## **II. Nichtanerkennung illegaler Siedlungen durchsetzen**

Weigerung, Siedlungen als rechtmäßig anzuerkennen, Verbot der Einfuhr von Waren aus Siedlungen und Verhinderung der Tätigkeit inländischer Unternehmen in Siedlungen, um sicherzustellen, dass keine Staatsangehörigen, Unternehmen oder Einrichtungen unter der Gerichtsbarkeit der teilnehmenden Staaten die rechtswidrige Präsenz Israels anerkennen oder materiell unterstützen.

## **III. Beendigung der Komplizenschaft: Keine Waffen oder materielle Unterstützung**

Vollständige Einhaltung des Völkerrechts durch Verhinderung des Transfers, Transits oder Transports von Waffen, Munition, Militärtreibstoff und Gütern mit doppeltem Verwendungszweck nach Israel – unter anderem durch Exportbeschränkungen, Hafenkontrollen und die Wahrnehmung der Flaggenstaatverantwortung. Dringende Überprüfung öffentlicher Beschaffungen und Verträge, um sicherzustellen, dass keine öffentliche Einrichtung oder öffentliche Gelder die rechtswidrige Besetzung Israels unterstützen.

Die Entscheidung, vor der jede Regierung steht, ist klar: Mittäterschaft oder Einhaltung der Vorschriften. Die Geschichte wird uns nicht nach unseren Reden beurteilen, sondern nach unseren Taten.

### **S.E. Alvin Botes**

Stellvertretender Minister für internationale Beziehungen und Zusammenarbeit der Republik Südafrika

### **S.E. Mauricio Jaramillo**

Vizeminister für multilaterale Angelegenheiten der Republik Kolumbien

Quelle: <https://thehaguegroup.org/meetings-hague-2026-en/>  
Übersetzung: deepl /mdv

**ebenfalls hier auf der webseite der Regierung Südafrikas:**

[https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/STATEMENT\\_THG\\_04MARCH\\_%E2%80%94%94ENG.pdf](https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/STATEMENT_THG_04MARCH_%E2%80%94%94ENG.pdf)

**Middle East Eye,4.3.2026**

## **Forty nations meet in The Hague to discuss measures against Israel's West Bank annexation**

The Hague Group conference pledges to ensure accountability for international crimes and prevent arms and material support from reaching Israel



Ammar Hijazi, the Palestinian ambassador to the Netherlands, speaks at a conference in The Hague on 4 March 2026 (Supplied)

By [Sondos Asem](#)

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Forty countries gathered in The Hague on Wednesday to discuss coordinated measures aimed at enforcing international law in [Palestine](#), as governments warn that [Israel's](#) expanding settlement activity in the [occupied](#) West Bank amounts to de facto annexation.

The meeting, co-chaired by South Africa and Colombia and convened under the umbrella of [The Hague Group](#), brought together governments from across the Global South and beyond to seek ways to translate political statements into concrete state action.

Founded in January 2025, [The Hague Group](#) was established to coordinate international legal responses to Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territories and its [genocide in Gaza](#).

Wednesday's gathering was the largest meeting organised by the group since its launch last year and comes amid mounting concern over Israel's settlement expansion and military operations in the West Bank.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, participating states reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter, the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force and the right of peoples to self-determination.

They agreed on three concrete measures that will be further developed and formally presented at a forthcoming ministerial meeting.

Among the measures were steps aimed at strengthening accountability for alleged international crimes, including possible disclosure requirements for travellers who have served in the Israeli military, which could subject them to additional screening under national war crimes legislation.

Another measure is to enforce non-recognition of Israeli settlements by banning imports of settlement goods and preventing domestic companies from operating in them. A third measure is to halt the transfer or transit of arms, military fuel and dual-use items to Israel and review public contracts to ensure state funds do not support the occupation.

The statement said the measures discussed were designed to ensure there is “no safe haven” for perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or the crime of aggression.

The gathering brought together governments from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

States represented are: [Algeria](#), Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, [Egypt](#), Ghana, [Iraq](#), Indonesia, [Libya](#), [Lebanon](#), Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Pakistan, [Qatar](#), San Marino, [Saudi Arabia](#), Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, [Tunisia](#), [Turkey](#), Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

## **De facto annexation**

Participants met against the backdrop of Israel’s approval of the controversial [E1 settlement](#) project and other policies that diplomats at the meeting said threaten the territorial contiguity required for a viable Palestinian state.

On 8 February, Israel’s cabinet introduced sweeping [measures](#) that overhaul governance in the West Bank, expanding Israel’s civilian authority in areas it has ruled under military law for nearly six decades.

In practice, the steps extend what officials describe as Israeli “sovereignty” over the territory, a long-standing goal of right-wing and ultra-nationalist settler movements.

They also further weaken the Palestinian Authority’s limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank and dismantle the Oslo Accords framework.

Officials meeting in The Hague said the discussions focused on enforcing legal obligations outlined in a July 2024 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice and a subsequent UN General Assembly resolution calling on states to avoid recognising Israel’s occupation as lawful and to prevent assistance that could sustain it.

Mauricio Jaramillo, Colombia’s vice-minister of multilateral affairs, said the meeting reflected growing frustration among governments over what they see as a lack of enforcement of international law.

“Israel is carrying out dispossession in plain sight,” Jaramillo said in remarks shared with Middle East Eye ahead of the meeting.

“After Gaza, entrenching its de facto annexation of parts of the West Bank is the next step in a project of permanent occupation.”

He added that governments now faced a choice between upholding international law or allowing impunity to prevail.

“History will judge our actions. With the law - or with impunity. With the rights of a people - or with their erasure. Colombia chooses to act.”

Ammar Hijazi, the Palestinian ambassador to the Netherlands, welcomed the meeting, describing it as a rare example of governments seeking to operationalise legal obligations under international law.

He said the legal framework surrounding Israel’s occupation was already well established.

“The legal framework is not in dispute,” Hijazi said.

“The prohibition of annexation, the right to self-determination and the obligations of third states are firmly established in international law.

“What is required is implementation.”

Hijazi said the initiative represented an effort by governments to defend the international legal order at a time when many Palestinians believe it is being undermined.

“By standing up for Palestine, The Hague Group is acting on behalf of the international community to defend the law-based order, which is under threat, for the benefit of humanity,” he said.

In response to Israel's genocide in Gaza continuing with impunity, The Hague Group sponsored a two-day emergency summit in Bogota in July 2025, culminating in a joint declaration by states demanding international sanctions against Israel and legal accountability for what participants described as "grave violations of international law" in Gaza.

Since then, many states have expressed support for the group's goals, without formally becoming members. These include Turkey, Spain and Ireland, which have imposed their own sanctions against Israel over the past year in line with The Hague Group's pledges.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/forty-nations-convene-hague-discuss-measures-against-israels-annexation-west-bank>

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**In a post from its official X account yesterday, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs directed a message towards The Hague Group, a growing coalition of sovereign states – including South Africa, Colombia, and Malaysia – that were meeting in an emergency session in The Hague to discuss the enforcement of international law and accountability for actions in Gaza. The Israeli ministry [posted](#) an image of 40 assembled nations alongside a photograph of thick black smoke rising from a targeted Iranian vessel, sunk earlier that same day. Part of the caption read: “We can expect the outcome of the Hague meeting to be as successful as Iran’s navy.” (...)**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/3/5/israel-puts-a-target-on-the-back-of-the-rules-based-order>

**Hague Group discusses travel restrictions, settlement bans, and arms limits against Israel**

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20260305-hague-group-discusses-travel-restrictions-settlement-bans-and-arms-limits-against-israel/>