



**United Nations  
Secretary-General**

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New York

20 January 2016

**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on reported Israeli state land authorization in the occupied West Bank**

The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about reports of the Israeli Government authorising the declaration of 370 acres in the West Bank, south of Jericho, as so-called "state land". If implemented, this declaration would constitute the largest land appropriation by Israel in the West Bank since August 2014.

The Secretary-General reiterates his call for substantial policy changes on the ground by Israel that will improve the lives of Palestinians. Settlement activities are a violation of international law and run counter to the public pronouncements of the Government of Israel supporting a two-state solution to the conflict.