



**Statement by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,  
Tor Wennesland, on Reported Advancement of Israeli Settlement Plans**

**Jerusalem, 7 March 2024**

“I condemn yesterday’s reported advancement by the Israeli authorities of plans for over 3,400 housing units in settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Israel’s settlement expansion continues to be a driver of conflict in the occupied West Bank, further entrenching the occupation and undermining the right of Palestinians to self-determination and independent statehood.

I reiterate that all settlements are illegal under international law, and I urge Israeli authorities to cease all settlement activity and refrain from provocative actions.”

[ENDS]