

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON
FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Legalization of illegal outposts in the West Bank

The Secretary-General is deeply troubled by the decision of the Government of Israel to formally approve three outposts in the West Bank: Sansana, Rechelim and Bruchin.

The Secretary-General reiterates that all settlement activity is illegal under international law. It runs contrary to Israel's obligations under the Road Map and repeated Quartet calls for the parties to refrain from provocations. The Secretary-General is disappointed that such a decision comes at a time of renewed efforts to restart dialogue.

New York,
24 April 2012