Statement Attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Reported Israeli State Land Authorization in the Occupied West Bank

January 20, 2016

Statement of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9402

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.