During the dozen years following the ICJ’s Wall opinion, no progress has been achieved on the resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Israel has increased settlement activity in the West Bank despite universal diplomatic condemnation. On December 23, 2016, the Security Council passed Resolution 2334 by a vote of 14-0-1 (United States). It was the Council’s first resolution on the issue in seven years. In the resolution’s key provisions, the Council:

1. **Reaffirms** that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;

2. **Reiterates** its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard;

3. **Underlines** that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties . . . ;

4. **Stresses** that the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution, and calls for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the two-State solution;

5. **Calls** upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

6. **Calls** for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction, calls for accountability in this regard, and calls for compliance with obligations under international law for the strengthening of ongoing efforts to combat terrorism . . . ;

7. **Calls upon** both parties to act on the basis of international law, including international humanitarian law, and their previous agreements and obligations, to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia, of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution. . . .

The United States had previously vetoed a resolution condemning the settlements but changed its position because, it stated, of increased settlement activity and lack of progress on a peace agreement. Yet it abstained from the vote because, in the words of Ambassador Samantha Power, the resolution “is too narrowly focused on settlements.”