



National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during
General Debate Item 7
51st Human Rights Council Session

30 September 2022

Mr. President,

Pakistan aligns itself with NAM and OIC statements.

We reiterate our strong support for agenda item 7 as an inalienable part of the IB package.

We express our serious concerns over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that ranges from extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force, attacks against civilians, demolition of properties and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Forced evictions and illegal settlements are reminiscent of apartheid policies.

The recent wave of violence by the occupation forces, depriving people from exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of religion, expression and peaceful assembly has once again demonstrated Israel's complete disregard for international law and various United Nations resolutions.

These unlawful acts have further aggravated the sufferings and pain of the Palestinian people.

Blockade of Gaza and deteriorating humanitarian situation due to absence of basic necessities for two million inhabitants is deplorable. More than 15 years of Gaza's illegal siege is indeed a wakeup call for all those who uphold universal values of equality of humanity, dignity and freedom.

The realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and other people living under foreign occupation remains the litmus test for our commitment to international rule of law and achieving lasting peace and justice.

We call on this Council to uphold its responsibility towards the Palestinian people.

We reaffirm our support for the Commission of Inquiry and trust that the Commission would be provided all requisite resources in fulfilling its mandated role.

We are deeply concerned over the involvement of business corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements and urge the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate in line with HRC resolution 31/36 and publish the database of all such business entities.

Mr. President,



We reiterate our call for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and reaffirm support for the two State solution on the pre-1967 borders, based on a free and secure State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbours.

I thank you.