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**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN  
Geneva**

**Statement**

**346<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body of ILO  
Agenda Item POL/4**

**Enhanced Programme of Development Cooperation for the Occupied Arab Territories (GB.346/POL/4)**

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Abdullah,  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan  
(03 November 2022)**

Honorable Chairperson,

We thank the ILO for presenting the Report that outlines progress on ILO interventions within the context of ‘Enhanced Programme of Development Cooperation for the Occupied Arab Territories’.

We are deeply concerned over the weak Palestinian economy which is faced with persistent fiscal deficits, high unemployment, and labour underutilization, growing poverty levels and continuously declining levels of donor aid. **The primary root cause** and the driver of these conditions remain the continuing Israeli occupation.

We are also concerned over the challenging situation for Palestinian workers, particularly women and youth in Gaza, and support the ILO in reinforcing the Decent Work Agenda and social justice for all Palestinians through its Decent Work Programme.

We echo the concerns of the Office about the worsening, socio-economic and related conditions of the workers and their families leading to more than one quarter of Palestinians – 1.4 million individuals – living in poverty and 80% of Gazans dependent on humanitarian assistance.

We welcome the achievements made during the reporting period, notably: convening of tripartite dialogue, joint programme with UNICEF and WFP, review of Decent Work Programme (2018-2022) and tripartite dialogue on social security reforms.

We join the Office in its call for Member States, development partners and donors to provide financial support for the implementation of the three overarching pillars of the National Employment Strategy: supporting skills development and employability, improving labour market governance and active labour market programmes, and boosting private sector resilience and productivity

Finally, we renew our full solidarity with people and workers of occupied Arab Territories and reiterate our support for international calls to ending the illegal Israeli occupation.

**I thank you.**