



Statement on behalf of the OIC, delivered by Amb. Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, during the Introduction of Draft Resolution “Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC member states and co-sponsors, we present the draft resolution "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan", as contained in document L42.

L.42 highlights the devastating human rights and humanitarian consequences of Israel's illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories.

Unfortunately, this illegal practice continues for over the decades with brazen impunity and in complete defiance of international law.

The draft resolution affirms that any action by Israel to transfer its own civilian population to the occupied territories constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary international law.

While expressing grave concern at the continuing construction of wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the resolution recalls International Court of Justice's verdict that the Israeli settlements are unlawful under international law.

The text articulates concerns that Israel settlement policies and practices seriously endanger the viability of two-State solution. These settlements also constitute an attempted acquisition of sovereignty over territory through the denial of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

The Operative part of L.42 urges for the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and calls upon Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention and to comply with all its obligations under international law and to cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied territories.

It also calls on States and international organizations to avoid taking any action, aimed at recognizing, aiding or assisting the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the OPT, including East Jerusalem.

There is a universal acknowledgement that Israel's illegal settlement policy is fueling a human rights catastrophe in OPT, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan.

Considering the dire human rights and humanitarian consequences of the illegal settlements in the occupied territories, we urge Council to speak with one voice in rejecting this illegal practice and upholding the international law. We look forward towards the consensual adoption of L.42. **I thank you.**