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40th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Item-7–Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Occupied
Palestinian Territory**

Remarks by Pakistan

18 March 2019

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the members of the Commission on Inquiry to investigate in the events occurred in the context of mass protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 30 March and thanks them for a comprehensive presentation of their report.

It is deplorable that more than 256 people lost their lives and over 29 thousand others have been wounded, including children, health workers, journalists and persons with disabilities. As concluded by the Commission, such indiscriminate targeting of civilians is in direct violation of international law. However, this disproportionate use of force against Palestinian civilians is not something new. This is a tool in the hands of the Occupying Power, which it applies at its will, without any conscience and with absolute impunity.

Mr. President,

The world has witnessed these atrocities, being perpetrated against Palestinian civilians, while the Occupying Power has always been able to walk free. It is time for all of us to join our forces to put an immediate end to these atrocities and crimes against humanity. Holding the perpetrators of such heinous crimes to account is essential to ensure that the Occupying Power refrains from such practices.

We urge the international community to play its long due role in bringing lasting peace to the region, including by implementing the recommendations of

the Commission of Inquiry made in its report and by holding accountable all those who are responsible for the violations and crimes, in order to end the culture of impunity and to ensure that Israel complies with its obligations under international law.

I thank you.