



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

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Agenda Item POL/3

Enhanced Programme of Development Cooperation for the Occupied Arab Territories (GB.343/POL/3)

**Statement by Ms. Farhat Ayesha,
Minister, Permanent Mission of Pakistan**

(04 November 2021 at 1330-1630 hours)

Honorable Chairperson,

We thank the ILO for presenting a Report that outlines progress in ILO interventions within the context of 'Enhanced Programme of Development Cooperation for the Occupied Arab Territories'.

We are deeply concerned over the deteriorating conditions faced by the people in Occupied Arab Territories compounded by the impacts of the pandemic and further exacerbated by the Israeli aggression.

We share 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, including: holding of Social Dialogue Conference in March 2021, launching of Palestinian National Employment Strategy, decisions to increase the national minimum wage and resumption of dialogue on social security and labour law.

We support efforts made towards skill development, employability and active labour market programme as well as continued assistance to social protection initiatives. Cumulatively, these will help to address labour market challenges. We support the Office in its call to mobilize resources to enable the Palestinian Authority and social partners to address the serious unemployment situation and achieve the human-centered recovery particularly for women and youth.

Finally, we express 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.