



**Joint Statement delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative, during the
General Debate under Item 4
HRC 57th Session
24th September 2024**

Mr. President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of a group of 60 states.

For nearly a year now, the world has watched in horror the relentless and brutal aggression in Palestine, especially Gaza, waged by the illegal occupying power, Israel; inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people.

We have seen brazen violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, the rules that govern armed conflict, and the basic norms of humanity.

Tragically, these violations of international law keep finding a new low.

We are shocked at the reports emanating from Lebanon.

The images of children, women, and the elderly fatally injured during the recent attacks are heart-wrenching.

The Council must turn its attention to another series of unconscionable attacks, which are as shocking in execution as they are in their wanton disregard for international law.

These attacks in Lebanon, carried out without regard to the location, identity, age, or status of the individuals holding the devices, are not only acts of indiscriminate and mass violence but are also a clear violation of established norms of international human rights law.

At the heart of this atrocity in Lebanon lies the egregious misuse of apparently harmless devices designed and constructed to kill or injure. Such actions are strictly prohibited under international law and the foundational principle of protecting the civilian population against the effects of hostilities at all times.

The detonation of devices in densely populated civilian areas, causing indiscriminate harm, violates the cardinal tenets of customary International Humanitarian Law: the **principle of distinction** and the **principle of proportionality**.

Such heinous attacks also constitute violations of the **Geneva Conventions**, which protect civilians and non-combatants during times of war. They undermine the very foundation of IHL, which exists to limit the effects of armed conflict and to ensure the protection of those who are most vulnerable.

We echo the calls made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Procedures Mandate Holders for an independent, thorough, and transparent investigation into this attack. Those who planned, ordered, and executed these crimes must be held accountable.



We call on the international community, this Council, and all mechanisms of international law to ensure that justice is done, and accountability is pursued.

List of Cosponsors:

- Group of OIC Member States¹
- Eritrea
- South Africa
- Venezuela
- China
- Syria

¹ (except Albania)