



**National Statement, delivered by Amb. Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, during
General Debate under Agenda Item 7
29 March 2023**

Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan aligns itself with NAM and OIC statements.

We reaffirm our strong support for agenda item 7 as part and parcel of the Institution Building package and as an enabler for the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

We are gravely concerned over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and other Arab occupied territories as a result of Israeli occupation.

The international community including this Council cannot absolve itself from its responsibility to end colonization and ensure respect for fundamental rights of the Palestinian people who are victims of violence, extrajudicial killings, torture, forced evictions, illegal settlements and above all denial of their right to self-determination. Blockade of the Gaza continues for the last 16 years where two million inhabitants remain locked up without access to humanitarian assistance.

We strongly condemn the narrative of hate, bigotry and violence against the Palestinian people including Israel's recent decision to legalize nine settlements in the West Bank, in flagrant violation of international law and United Nations resolutions. The international community must oblige Israel to halt its illegal actions which hinder the achievement of the two-state solution.

We share deep concerns over the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements. In this regard, we urge the High Commissioner to fulfill the mandate in line with HRC resolution 31/36 and publish the database of all such business entities.

Mr. Vice President,

The realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and achieving lasting peace and justice remains the litmus test for the international community and this Council.

Dehumanization of the Palestinian people must end. The flag bearers of human rights and rule of law must call out and bring an end to **Israeli** impunity.

We reiterate our call for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and reaffirm support for the two State solution on the pre-1967 borders, based on a free and secure State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbours.

I thank you.