



**National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent
Representative, during General Debate Item 7
54th HRC Session
4th October 2023**

Mr. President,

We align with the OIC statement.

Pakistan emphasises the importance of HRC's Agenda Item 7. Lack of progress in ending the foreign occupation and continuation of persistent and systematic violation of the rights of Palestinian people necessitates substantive discussion under this item.

The right to self determination is a basic human right which is enshrined in the UN Charter and Common Article-1 of the two Covenants. It is unfortunate and regrettable that in some parts of the world, including in Palestine, millions of people has been denied this fundamental human right for more than seven decades.

We reject the attempts to erase the Palestinian people's history by presenting dubious maps. The impunity surrounding such provocative and reprehensible actions is extremely distressing.

We also reject changing of the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and affirm that it constitutes a serious violation of International Law.

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 almost two decades now, where two million inhabitants remain locked up without access to humanitarian assistance and basic necessities.

The Council and the international community must uphold its moral and legal responsibility by demanding Israel to end this inhumane blockade and the resultant humanitarian crisis.

The policy of appeasement and continued impunity have emboldened Israel to continue with its grave human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity against defenseless civilians.



We also remain deeply concerned over the involvement of business corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements and urge the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate in line with HRC resolutions and publish the database of all such business entities.

We share the concerns of UN SPMHs on the forced eviction and displacement of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family and many other Palestinian families in east Jerusalem. We stress that the forcible transfer and must be immediately reversed.

Mr. President,

Dehumanization of the Palestinian people must end. The flag bearers of human rights and rule of law must callout and bring an end to Israel's 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!