



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad  
introducing draft resolution A/HRC/55/L.13**

**“Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”**

5 April 2024

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC member states Pakistan has the honor to present the draft resolution titled “Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”, as contained in document L.13.

The realization of the right to self-determination is a peremptory norm of international law and the cornerstone of cherished principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenants on Civil and Political & Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and many, many more.

Gainsaying, denying or undermining this right is tantamount to dismissing at-least a substantive portion of international law.

Draft resolution L.13 reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine.

The text has remained unchanged from last year. This reflects our conviction that while the problem has grown more urgent and its cost – in terms of untold human suffering – is continuing to mount, the solution continues to rest in the self-determination of the Palestinian people.

The resolution reaffirms the need for achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting solution and calls upon occupying power Israel to immediately end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Mr. President,

The past six months have seen accelerating moves to alter the demographic structure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In the West Bank, Israeli state and settler violence are at the highest level since UN recordkeeping began (in 2005) while settlements are witnessing record expansion on Palestinian civilians' expropriated land and destruction of their lives and livelihoods.

In Gaza, genocide looms over the territory's starving, displaced, and besieged population.

As a thematic text, the current resolution does not reflect these realities.

It instead continues to urge all States to adopt measures and render assistance to the United Nations in ensuring the realization of Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination.

There cannot be a more compelling text for the world to come together in consensus, and we trust this Council's membership to renew the world's confidence by adopting resolution L.13 by consensus.

I thank you.