



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad introducing draft resolution A/HRC/55/L.28

“Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”

5 April 2024

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC Member States¹, Pakistan presents the draft resolution titled “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”, as contained in document L.28.

The text highlights the devastating human rights and humanitarian consequences of Israel’s illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories.

The continuity of illegal settlements – and their expansion – demonstrates Israel’s impunity and complete disregard for international law.

The draft resolution affirms that any action by Israel to forcibly transfer the protected Palestinian population and replace them with its own civilian population to the occupied territories constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary international law.

While expressing grave concern at the continuing construction of wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the resolution recalls International Court of Justice’s verdict that the Israeli settlements are unlawful under international law.

Moreover, it is clear from the magnitude and persistence of the settlements, as well explicit statements by Israeli officials, that there is every intention to make the occupation permanent, in violation of the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force, and at serious risk to the viability of two-State solution. It is of special concern that settler extremists continue to enjoy impunity and state protection for all their illegal acts, including fatal violence.

Mr. President,

The Operative part of L.28 the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and calls upon Israel to comply with all its obligations under international law and to cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied territories.

It also calls on States and international organizations to avoid taking any action, aimed at recognizing, aiding or assisting the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the OPT, including East Jerusalem. Specifically, it calls for to enterprises to assess and address the heightened risks of

¹ Except Albania and Cameroon

human rights abuses arising from business relationships with illegal Israeli settlements, accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Right.

Israel's settlement enterprise has created a dark world where settlers' property rights are based on the dispossession of the Palestinian people, and where human rights exist for members of the colonial occupation but only after disenfranchising the protected civilian population.

We urge Council to speak with one voice to reject this gross and look forward to the adoption of L.28 by consensus.

I thank you.