



Statement delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad on behalf of the OIC Group introducing resolution A/HRC/55/L.30

“Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice”

5 April 2024

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC Member States¹, Pakistan presents the draft resolution titled “Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem, and the Obligation to ensure accountability and Justice,” as contained in document L.30.

Over the past six months, the occupying power has written a horrific new chapter in the 75-year-old tragedy of the Palestinian people.

The draft resolution has been updated with the aim of responding to the egregious human rights situation facing us in Occupied Palestine, especially the Gaza Strip.

The text is the result of thorough and transparent consultations. The OIC Group is grateful for widespread support and engagement during this process and is again presenting this resolution under Item 2 for the Council’s unanimous support for accountability of Israel’s continuing disregard for international law.

Mr. President,

The preambular part of the resolution expresses grave concern at the worsening situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), especially Gaza, and the unacceptably high proportion of innocent civilian casualties.

The preambular paragraphs reflect this Council’s grave concern at possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in the OPT and the ICJ’s determination that the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation face the plausible risk of genocide.

They also voice our shared concern at the clear risk posed by arms and ammunition transfers to Israel, which could contribute to further violations of international humanitarian law and the cherished principles of proportionality, distinction and precaution.

The preamble observes with concern the pattern of acts amounting to collective punishment of Gaza’s inhabitants. These include repeated military aggression, an illegal blockade now in its seventeenth (17th) year, the use of starvation as a method of warfare, obstruction of urgent humanitarian assistance, and widespread and wanton destruction of residential areas and critical civilian infrastructure.

¹ Except Albania and Cameroon

Mr. President,

The situation of human rights in occupied Palestine had always been precarious at best. Over the past months, it has fallen off the precipice.

The operative part of the resolution, therefore, calls for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the occupation without delay, and urgent and unhindered humanitarian relief.

The resolution condemns all attacks on civilians and calls for the immediate release of all hostages and detainees, while warning against military operations in the city of Raf'ah, where most of Gaza's displaced population is sheltering.

To ensure meaningful accountability for what may prove to be the gravest crimes of our time, the resolution requests the Secretary General and the OHCHR ensure adequate resources, expertise, and logistics support.

The consensual adoption of this resolution would affirm the international community's commitment to the primacy of international law and send a clear signal that impunity for human rights abuses is finally at an end.

I thank you.