National statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during ID on OHCHR OPT report under Item 2

58th session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 27 February 2025)

Mr. President,

Pakistan aligns with the statements delivered on behalf of the OIC.

We thank the High Commissioner presenting the report pursuant to HRC resolution 55/28.

Pakistan remains gravely concerned over the unconscionable human rights and humanitarian situation in illegally Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), particularly Gaza.

We reject any false equivalence between the occupation forces and those under illegal occupation as inconsistent with international law.

We condemn in the strongest terms the staggering loss of civilian life and wholesale destruction of civilian infrastructure throughout the OPT by the occupying power.

Notwithstanding the current ceasefire, a just and lasting peace requires the primacy of international law, starting with right to self-determination of the – to be re-established.

The occupation must be held to account for attempting to dismantle the international legal framework with its brazen disregard for obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

We unequivocally reject any proposal that seeks to displace or relocate the Palestinian people from their ancestral homeland is unacceptable and constitutes a flagrant violation of every cardinal principal of international law and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Pakistan underscores the urgent necessity of unhindered humanitarian support at scale to the Palestinian people.

Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine must end in line with the ICJ advisory opinion (of 19 July 2024) and relevant resolutions of the UN and OIC.

We join calls for implementing the two-state solution, with a viable, sovereign State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Thank you.