



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Permanent Representative Bilal Ahmad, introducing draft resolution A/HRC/55/L.31**

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

(Geneva, 4 April 2025)

Mr. President,

The inalienable right to self-determination is the cornerstone of the UN Charter and the fountainhead of all human rights.

Without it, there can be no primacy of international law. The body of human rights law and norms would largely ring hollow.

For close to eight decades, the Palestinian people have sought to exercise of their right to self-determination in equal dignity with others.

For that same length of time, this legitimate aspiration has been denied.

On behalf of the OIC Member States<sup>1</sup>, therefore, Pakistan is presenting the annual resolution on the “Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”, contained in document L.31.

Mr. President,

Draft resolution L.31 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 landmark ICJ Advisory Opinion of last year has further reaffirmed the inviolability of this peremptory norm for the Palestinian people under occupation.

As a thematic resolution, the text before us has remained largely unchanged even as the human suffering in the occupied Palestinian territory continues to mount with every passing day and year.

Mr. President,

The Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and statehood, and the end of the occupation without delay are the sine qua non for peace and justice.

The resolution under consideration urges all States to fulfil their duty to assist the Palestinian people’s exercise of their right to self-determination.

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<sup>1</sup> Except Albania

There is no more compelling case for this Council to come together in consensus.

It has done so in the past.

Putting such a basic question to a vote, on the other hand, would further highlight the fault lines that are imperilling our times.

With the foundations of international law shaken by the unfolding tragedy in the OPT, the consensual adoption of resolution L.31 would help restore faith in international law and the multilateral system centred on the UN.

We therefore urge the Council to adopt the resolution titled the “Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination” by consensus.

Thank you.

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