

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group

UNCTAD Briefing on the Report on Palestine: Cumulative Economic Cost of Occupation for the Palestinian People (2000–2024) and the Long Road to Recovery

(27 February 2026)

Mr. Director,

Madam Secretary General, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group.

The Group thanks UNCTAD for the presentation of this deeply concerning report and commends the *Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit* for its continued analytical work under very difficult circumstances. The evidence presented is essential for an objective understanding of the scale and depth of the economic crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The findings point to a dramatic and rapid economic contraction. The erosion of more than two decades of development gains within a short period underscores the fragility of economic progress under conditions of prolonged instability. In Gaza in particular, the near-total collapse of productive activity, combined with widespread destruction of infrastructure and extremely high unemployment, reflects an economy that has been structurally dismantled.

Beyond the immediate devastation, the longer-term assessment presented in the report is equally striking. The significant loss of Palestinian potential output over the past two decades, alongside the expansion of settlement-related economic activity in the same territory, highlights profound asymmetries that cannot be explained by normal market dynamics. These patterns have entrenched structural imbalances and constrained prospects for sustainable development.

The Asia-Pacific Group share the report's conclusions that recovery must go beyond short-term stabilization. Rebuilding productive capacity, restoring predictable fiscal revenues, and enabling normal economic movement and access are indispensable elements of any credible pathway toward resilience. Humanitarian support remains vital, but durable recovery requires addressing the underlying economic constraints that have accumulated over time.

The Group also attaches importance to sustained international engagement in reconstruction and development efforts, aligned with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

In closing, the Asia-Pacific Group emphasizes the importance of collective, multilateral efforts to support conditions conducive to a just and lasting peace, enabling the Palestinian economy to function and develop in a viable and sustainable manner.