



**Statement by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative, on behalf of OIC
Group during General Debate under Item 3**

61st session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 11 March 2026)

Mr. Vice-President,

The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, founded on the principles of universality, indivisibility, and objectivity.

The right to development remains key to the realization of all human rights. At a time of growing resource constraints, we urge the High Commissioner and his Office to continue prioritizing this inalienable right in word and deed.

Mr. Vice-President,

The prolonged denial of the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation has become a definitive test for the legitimacy of the international human rights agenda.

In illegally occupied Palestine, the denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination has enabled Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

Mr. Vice-President,

Disregard for international law, selectivity, confrontational approaches and politicization remain the most serious threat to this Council's mandate to promote and protect all human rights, including the right to development.

The OIC Group calls for the restoration of genuine dialogue and cooperation to shore up the three pillars of peace and security, development, and human rights. Otherwise, the full enjoyment of all human rights by all would remain a remote prospect.

Thank you.

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