



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group by Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Bilal Ahmad introducing resolution A/HRC/61/L.8**

“Human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan”

(Geneva, 31 March 2026)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to introduce the annual draft resolution contained in document L.8 entitled “Human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan”, tabled on behalf of the OIC Group¹.

The draft is a technical update reaffirming the obligations incumbent upon the occupying power under international law, particularly as reflected in relevant UN resolutions.

The principle that territory cannot be acquired by force is a cornerstone of international law. The severe human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Golan stem directly from Israel’s ongoing illegal occupation.

These violations take many forms, including altering the demographic composition, separating families, arbitrary detention, torture, exploitation of natural resources, the unlawful imposition of Israeli citizenship on Syrian nationals, and the application of Israeli legislation to the territory.

Such measures are designed to consolidate control over the occupied territory and to pressure the local population into compliance. The draft resolution unequivocally rejects these actions and calls on Israel to immediately cease and reverse them.

The resolution further underscores the systematic human rights violations committed against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan. These include the continued expansion of settlements as part of a deliberate policy in violation of international law, the unlawful exploitation of natural resources against the principle of permanent sovereignty, the imposition of discriminatory laws affecting housing, employment, education and cultural rights, as well as the confiscation of land and property.

Mr. President,

These Israeli practices reflect a persistent disregard for international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and contribute to the entrenchment of occupation. They are further compounded by actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and threaten regional peace and security.

¹ Except Albania

The resolution before us calls for accountability and respect for international law. We therefore urge the Council to adopt the resolution in document L.8 by consensus.

Thank you.

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