



**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda
Item 7 at 48th session of Human Rights Council**

01 October 2021

Madam President,

The OIC thanks the High Commissioner for her presentation on the allocation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), and for her oral update pursuant to resolution S-30/1.

We also welcome the appointment of the Commissioners for the COI and call upon the OHCHR to ensure provision of necessary resources to enable it to perform its mandate efficiently and successfully.

The OIC strongly condemns the continuous grave humanitarian law violations and human rights abuses committed by Israel the colonial occupying power, in grave breach of international law including the Fourth Geneva Convention. The impunity that Israeli occupation forces continue to enjoy is accentuating the commission of extrajudicial killings; abuse and brutalization of children; torture; demolishing of homes; illegal displacements. As a result, the sufferings pain, and trauma of Palestinian civilians are now inter-generational with more severe consequences for each succeeding generation.

The Israeli settlements are at the core of colonial occupation. They are being enabled and perpetuated through the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The expansion of settlements continues to deprive Palestinians of vital water resources needed for a decent standard of living, as indicated in the High Commissioner's report presented today. Regrettably, the occupying power continues to initiate and expand settlements in complete defiance of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The OIC once again urges the High Commissioner to continue updating the database of companies operating in these settlements as mandated by resolution 31/36 of 2016.

Madam President,

The continued absence of independent and meaningful accountability of Israel for its grave human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity have emboldened it to continue with military operations, aggression towards defenseless civilians, perpetuation of colonization and apartheid.

We urge this Council once again to uphold its legal and moral obligations; hold Israel accountable for its illegal occupation and pave the way for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The Council must ensure that the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in order to secure their own independent, viable and contiguous state, with Al-Quds Al-Shareef as its capital.



We also reiterate the long-standing global demand for ending the illegal occupation of all occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese territories, and the continuing violations of the human rights of their people.

I thank you.