



Statement on behalf of the OIC, by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan during the Introduction of Resolution “Implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 31/36”
A/HRC/53/L24-Rev 1
53rd HRC Session
14 July 2023

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC member states¹ and co-sponsor, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled “implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 31/36” as contained in document L24- Rev1. After the postponement of the presentation of text, we approached the High Commissioner and received necessary clarification.

The objective behind tabling L.24-Rev1 is to ensure meaningful operationalization of Council’s resolution 31/16 of 2016, that had requested the High Commissioner to produce a database of all business enterprises involved in the illegal settlement activities, annually.

Except for 2020 and 2023, the full implementation of the mandate has been derailed over the years, primarily due to lack of political will and bureaucratic and budgetary obstacles. The chronic under-implementation of resolution 31/36 is a matter of serious concern for the OIC Group. It is undermining the integrity and credibility of this Council, and setting a dangerous precedent of ignoring its mandates.

The critical importance of monitoring the illegal settlement activity can be gauged from the ICJ’s advisory opinion, which stated that “settlements established by Israel in breach of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory creates a “fait accompli” on the ground that could well become permanent risk of a situation that is tantamount to a de facto annexation”. UN Security Council resolution 2334 has reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Illegal settlement also continues to impede the realization of right to self-determination of the Palestinian people in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Periodic updating of the database is one of the practical ways to end the decades long protracted occupation, prevent the vicious and systemic cycle of violence and combat the culture of impunity. The Council mandate is also a reminder to third parties including business enterprises that they are also obligated to adhere to the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions.

The operative part of L.24 Rev 1 requests the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary financial and human resources and expertise to enhance the capacity of the OHCHR to ensure that the mandate requested in Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 is fully implemented, with updates on an annual basis, starting from the Council’s fifty-seventh session.

As L24. Rev 1 is the reaffirmation of Council’s previous mandate; we trust the Council members can join consensus on this important draft resolution.

I thank you!

¹ Except Albania & Cameroon