



**National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, during General Debate under Item 7**

**18 March 2021**

**Madam President,**

Pakistan aligns itself with NAM and OIC statements.

We reaffirm our strong support for agenda item 7 as part of the Institution Building package linked to the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

We express our serious concerns over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and other Arab occupied territories that ranges from extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force, attacks against civilians and destruction of properties. Forced evictions and illegal settlements are reminiscent of apartheid policies. Blockade of the Gaza continues where two million inhabitants remain locked up without access to humanitarian assistance.

More than 5000 Palestinians, including 500 administrative detainees and over 700 in need of medical treatment, are held in Israeli prisons. We call for their urgent release.

We are deeply concerned over the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements. In this regard, we urge the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate in line with HRC resolution 31/36 and publish the database of all such business entities.

**Madam President,**

The realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and other people living under foreign occupation remains the litmus test for achieving lasting peace and justice.

We, therefore, reiterate our call for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and reaffirm support for the two State solution on the pre-1967 borders, based on a free and secure State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbours.

I thank you.