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40th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 - Agenda Item 7

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan

(18 March 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

We thank the Special Rapporteur Professor Lynk, for his report to the Council. The report highlights blatant human rights violations by the occupying forces in the Occupied State of Palestine. We deplore Israel's non-cooperation with the Special Rapporteur. Such non-cooperation should not be allowed to continue and we call for the necessary action to be taken by the UN to remedy this grievous situation and bring Israel into compliance.

Mr. President,

As stated by the Special Rapporteur in his report, "As the occupying power, Israel is restricted by law to acting only as the temporary administrator of the Palestinian territory until it returns the territory in full, in as short and as reasonable a time as possible, back to the inherent sovereign and protected population: the Palestinian people. As such, the occupying power acquires no sovereignty right over any of the territory, and it is prohibited from taking any steps towards annexation."

However, Israel the Occupying power, deliberately and openly use and exploit the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a sovereign country would use its own assets. They continue to exploit and destruct

Palestinian water, agricultural land, minerals, mud, stone, and oil. Furthermore, the appropriation, destruction, seizure, and pillaging of Palestinian natural resources have serious social, economic, and environmental impact on the affected Palestinian communities, and notably infringe on Palestinians' fundamental right to self-determination.

Finally, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of its illegal policies and practices by which it has expropriated and colonized the Palestinian land, forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians, and stolen unquantifiable amounts of natural resources from Palestine.

Mr. President,

Our question to the Special Rapporteur is the following: What measures can be taken by the international community, including in this chamber, to reverse the systematic impunity for Israel's violations?

I thank you.