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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Remarks by Pakistan

(23 September 2019)

Mr. President,

Pakistan reaffirms the importance of this important Agenda Item. Lack of progress on the Palestinian issue has not only betrayed the hopes and aspirations of generations of Palestinians but has also sowed the seeds of endless hostility and discord in the region.

The Right to SelfDetermination is a basic human right which is enshrined in the UN Charter and Common Article 1 of the two Covenants. It is unfortunate and regrettable that in some parts of the world, including in Palestine, millions of people have been denied this fundamental human right for more than seven decades.

Pakistan strongly condemns the continuing Israeli atrocities against Palestinian civilians. We also call for immediate measures to guarantee the safety and security of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The long-suffering of Palestinian people and systematic violations of their fundamental human rights at the hands of the Israeli occupation must end.

Mr. President,

The systematic aggressions and attacks against Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupying power calls for public mobilization at all levels to protect it and to thwart the Israeli plans aimed at controlling and dividing it.

The legal status of Jerusalem is unambiguous, numerous resolutions of Security Council and General Assembly affirm that all legislative and administrative measures taken by the occupying power to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are 'null and void'. These resolutions also call on states that have established their diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw them from the Holy City. Any contrary action therefore is a blatant attempt to legitimize Israel's illegal occupation of East Jerusalem.

Mr. President,

Pakistan reaffirms full solidarity with the Palestinian cause and reiterates its principled position that the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders, and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, is the only way to bring peace and stability in Middle East.

We also urge Israel to end 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.