



**Statement on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative during the Introduction of Draft Resolution “Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”**

**A/HRC/49/L18**  
**49<sup>th</sup> HRC Session**

**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the OIC member states and co-sponsors, Pakistan presents the draft resolution entitled " Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan", as contained in document L18.

The draft text highlights the devastating human rights and humanitarian consequences of Israel’s illegal settlement policy in OPT, including East Jerusalem and in the Occupied Syrian Golan, which continues with brazen impunity, in complete defiance of international law.

The resolution affirms that any action by Israel to transfer its own civilian population to the occupied territories constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary international law.

While expressing grave concern at the continuing construction of wall by Israel inside the OPT, including in and around East Jerusalem, the resolution recalls International Court of Justice’s verdict that the Israeli settlements are unlawful under international law.

The text also articulates concerns of the international community that Israel settlement policies and practices seriously endangers the viability of two-State solution and severely undermine Palestinian people’s right to self-determination as well as economic and social development.

**Mr. President,**

The Operative part of L18 urges the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and demands Israel to immediately cease and reverse all settlement activities, halt unlawful land appropriation, put an end to territorial fragmentation, stop exploitation of natural resources and fully comply with its obligations under international law.

It also calls on States and international organizations to avoid taking any action, aimed at recognizing, aiding or assisting the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the OPT, including East Jerusalem. The resolution requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a report, at its 52<sup>nd</sup> HRC session, on the implementation of the provisions of this resolution.

Human rights violations in the OPT are not a relic of the past, it is the worst human rights tragedy of our times. Calling for accountability on crimes against Palestinians is not a narrative of hate and incitement.

It is a matter of public record that Israel illegal settlement policy is fueling a human rights catastrophe in OPT, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan. The OIC therefore strongly believes that the Council should speak with one voice in rejecting the illegal settlement policy, upholding the international law. We look forward towards the consensual adoption of L.18.

I thank you.