



**National Statement by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary during
General Debate Item 7**

49 Human Rights Council Session

25 March 2022

Mr. President,

Pakistan aligns itself with NAM and OIC statements.

We reaffirm our strong support for agenda item 7.

We strongly believe that the Human Rights Council (HRC) has the responsibility towards the people of occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and other Arab occupied Territories as they are not only victims of decades long colonial occupation but are being denied from their fundamental rights and freedoms.

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

We express our serious concerns over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) 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 with impunity with severe human rights and humanitarian implications.

The international community has to pay its due role in ending the grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws in OPT and hold perpetrators accountable.

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

Mr. President,

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.