



**Statement delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, on behalf of the OIC Group, during the
Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on OPT
HRC 55th Session
29 February 2024**

Mr. President,

The OIC group thanks the High Commissioner for presenting the report and appreciates the OHCHR for their efforts.

We have just listened to the Palestinian Ambassador and the room has spoken.

The report is an indictment of human rights violations by the occupying power, Israel; its military forces; public officials; and settlers.

It also confirms violations of international humanitarian law including collective punishment and forcible transfer of the Palestinian people like the Nakba of 1948.

We emphasize that in making human rights assessments, there can be no false equivalence between the occupying power and those under occupation.

The report paves the way for accountability.

In this context, Israel's refusal to grant access for human rights investigative mechanisms is telling.

The OIC group condemns in the strongest terms Israel's crime of military aggression, crimes against humanity, acts amounting to the crime of genocide and systematic oppression throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

We call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional entry of all aid into Gaza.

The occupying power and all other states must respect the ICJ's provisional orders to prevent genocidal acts.

We reaffirm our abiding support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, most notably their right to self-determination, and the realization of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967 with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

I thank you!