

National Statement, delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ID with the High Commissioner on Occupied Palestinian Territory <u>55th HRC Session</u> 29 February 2024

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his report.

The efforts of OHCHR for protecting the rights of the people of Palestine are commendable.

The report confirms that clear violations of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes, such as collective punishment, Unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and torture are being committed.

The besieged people of Gaza and the West Bank have endured decades of occupation, apartheid and crimes against humanity. Yet, the scale and magnitude of the targeted attacks since October last year have pushed the Palestinians to a precipice.

From forced displacement, using starvation to attacks on hospitals as a method of warfare, several new war crimes have been perpetrated.

The impunity surrounding this horror has laid bare the commitment of many to the socalled "rules based international order".

Mr. President,

Pakistan has welcomed the provisional measures ordered by the ICJ for Occupied Gaza and calls for their full implementation.

We reaffirm that enduring peace in the Middle East is predicated on a just, comprehensive lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

Pakistan supports creation of an independent and viable State of Palestine based on June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in line with applicable UNSC and OIC resolutions.

We echo the call of the High Commissioner for an immediate cease fire, investigation into the crimes committed and accountability.

I thank you.