



Statement on behalf of OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, during HRC intersessional meeting to mark the 75th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
4 December 2023

Mr. Chair,

History teaches us a simple lesson that dehumanization knits the first knot of all genocides.

Evidently, genocides have been preceded by incessant campaigns of hate speech, racial superiority, and marginalization of the target communities.

These common threads have proven to be precursors of any genocidal enterprise undertaken by hostile, prejudiced actors.

The advent of new technologies, in particular, social media platforms have further augmented avenues for spreading hate speech.

Mr. Chair,

Resolution 49/9, also, stipulates the need to prevent genocide at all levels. We agree that it is the responsibility of each individual State to protect its population from genocide.

However, it is most unfortunate when states themselves embark on the process of dehumanization and become purveyors of hatred, racial discrimination, and such genocidal acts.

Mr. Chair,

If this all seems eerily relevant, it is because these ominous indicators have been visible in the latest aggression against the besieged Palestinian people in both Gaza and the West Bank.

This dehumanization campaign has been called out by CERD in its early warning; it has also called for investigation and accountability of these actions.

We also echo the concerns raised by several SPMHs regarding increasing genocidal incitement, overt intent to “destroy the Palestinian people under occupation”, and the loud calls for a ‘second Nakba’.

Concerns were raised by several SPMHs regarding increasing risk of genocide in OPT.

We agree with this observation. We believe that sufficient grounds exist to assess the nature of the crimes committed by Israel and to determine the intent to destroy Palestinian identity and existence, in whole or in part.

By targeted killing of over 15000 civilians, including 70% women and children, Israel has tried to extinguish the future of a nation.

Mr. Chair,

We remain deeply concerned that the prevalent blatant disregard for international law and the surrounding impunity might result in an unspeakable tragedy for entire humanity.

How long will we allow history to repeat itself?

I thank you!