



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN **Geneva**

National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, During General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council

(30 September 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan emphasises the importance of HRC's Agenda Item-7. Lack of progress in resolution of Palestine conflict with persistent and systematic violation of the rights of Palestinian people necessitates substantive discussion under this item.

The Right to Self Determination is a basic human right which is enshrined in the UN Charter and Common Article-1 of the two Covenants. It is unfortunate and regrettable that in some parts of the world, including in Palestine, millions of people has been denied this fundamental human right for more than seven decades.

Pakistan expresses deep concern at persistent blockade in OPTS and continued illegal Israeli settlements. Demolitions of houses, forced evictions of families and communities, building new colonies and accompanying settlers' violence are grave violation of UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 2334.

Pakistan is also opposed to altering the legal status of Jerusalem. Numerous resolutions of Security Council and General Assembly affirm that all legislative and administrative measures taken by the occupying power to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are 'null and void'. Any action to legitimize illegal occupation of East Jerusalem is deeply disturbing.

Pakistan reaffirms support for its viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbours.

We also urge Israel to end the illegal occupation of all Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories.

I thank you.