

**Introduction on behalf of the OIC**  
**of L.12 "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including**  
**East Jerusalem** & § 54

Mr. President,

*I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem"*

The people of Palestine and other Arab Territories remain victims of great injustice and human rights abuses. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian territory, especially in Gaza and East Jerusalem has worsened since the outbreak of hostilities in the region. Legitimate Palestinian space is shrinking fast with expanded settlements, continued construction of the separation wall and forced demographic changes, aimed at "De-Palestinization" of Jerusalem.

Despite the illegal occupation, Israel has decided to set up and operate a tram between Eastern Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Pisgat Zeeve on Palestinian Occupied territory in clear violation of International Law and relevant UN resolutions. The international community must take note that this is in disregard of all human right norms. Israel should refrain from undertaking this project.

The first special session of the Human Rights Council adopted resolution [S-1/Res.1] on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The resolution demanded an end to military operations and called for scrupulously abiding by the provisions of international humanitarian law and human rights law. It stressed on refraining from imposing collective punishments on Palestinian civilians. It also urged Israel to immediately release arrested Palestinian Minister, members of the Parliament and other officials.

Mr. President,

The Council had decided to dispatch an urgent fact finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967. Resolution S.1/Res1 remains unimplemented. The Special Rapporteur is now scheduled to visit Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on December. We hope that he would be able to present a detailed report on the basis of his field visit. We also welcome the recent visit of the High Commissioner to Middle East and look forward to her report on that in particular with regard to human rights violations in the OPT.

In view of these developments, the OIC tabled two resolutions on Palestine the first dealing with the illegal Israeli settlements and the second a small procedural text on the follow up in the Human Rights Council Resolution S.1/R. 1. In deference to the request of the President of the Human Rights Council, we have postponed consideration of the one the follow up to the Third Session of the Council.

We have held a number of consultations with our partners on this draft and have accommodated some of their proposals. We hope with these amendments, the draft can be adopted by consensus.

I thank you Mr. President