**Human Rights Council 48th Session**

**Agenda Item 7: Oral Update on implementation of resolution S-30/1**

**Statement by Christian Salazar Volkmann,**

**Director of Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD),**

**UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**1 October 2021**

**Distinguished President of the Human Rights Council,**

**Excellencies,**

 **On behalf of the High Commissioner, I am presenting an oral update on the implementation of resolution S-30/1 under item 7.**

**Resolution S-30/1 decided to “urgently establish an ongoing independent, international commission of inquiry, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to investigate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021, and all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict, including systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity.”**

**In the resolution, OHCHR was requested to provide an oral update on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session.**

**On 22 July 2021, the President of the Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Navi Pillay of South Africa as Chair of the Commission, accompanied by Mr. Miloon Kothari of India and Mr. Chris Sidoti of Australia as fellow Commissioners.**

**In accordance with its usual process of support to operationalization of new investigative mandates, OHCHR dedicated an internal initial surge capacity to commence this process.**

**It consisted of two staff members who have been supporting the establishment of the commission and carried out administrative, logistic and human resources activities.**

**In addition, they are providing general support to the Commissioners, including preparation of initial briefing packages, organization of meetings, analysis of information and information management.**

**With the aim of ensuring the rapid operationalization of the work of the Commission of Inquiry, the recruitment of a temporary start-up team to form the Commission’s own independent secretariat is underway to commence the substantive implementation of the mandate.**

**In parallel, the surge team is also working on the establishment of the full secretariat of the Commission of Inquiry.**

**In view of the broad mandate given by the Council, the secretariat will consist of a multi skilled team with a variety of functions, including legal, analytical and investigative.**

**The secretariat is expected to be fully recruited in early 2022, and will be located in UN premises in Geneva.**

**The Commissioners have held initial consultations with the President of the Human Rights Council, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

**The Commissioners are due to undertake their first mission to Geneva by the end of the year, which will be their first in person meeting, to undertake further consultations and consider next steps in their programme of work.**

**A call for submissions inviting individuals, groups and organizations to submit information and documentation relevant to its mandate, was issued on 22 September 2021 and has been published on the Commission’s website.**

**Thank you for your attention.**