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Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC
General Debate
Agenda Item 7

28th Session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

We are deeply disappointed that certain Member States have stopped participation in Agenda Item 7 which is a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of the Human Rights Council. This silence is indeed disturbing particularly when just last summer, the international community witnessed Israel's brutal military aggression in the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip resulting in the killing of 2,256 Palestinians. Alarming, some states continue to justify these killings and aggression by the Occupying Power as "self-defence", which is both factually incorrect, legally criminal and morally abhorrent.

While Israel is the only country which boycotted the Human Rights Council, blatantly ignored all UN resolutions, and persistently refused to cooperate with UN mechanisms without any accountability, it is trying to belie reality by repeated claims that it is victimized and « singled out » by the UN and the international community.

The OIC is disturbed by double standards which embolden Israel to continue its violations, thus undermining the peaceful efforts for the realization of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

Every passing day reaffirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security.

Tragically, 67 years after the *Nakba*, Israel continues with its policies of occupation, colonization and apartheid, and with its systematic subjugation of millions of Palestinians by all illegal and destructive means. These include the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, illegal settlement construction amounting to war crimes, and blockade of the Gaza Strip. Moreover, ten years after the adoption of the ICJ's Advisory Opinion, Israel continues to build the illegal wall in the Occupied State of Palestine in complete defiance of international law.

We deplore the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in illegal settlements, resulting in the risk of corporate complicity in war crimes. Moreover, trade with Israeli settlements contributes to the existence and maintenance of settlements, and is thus illegal and should be ceased.

The OIC condemns the continuous provocations and incitement by Israeli government officials and extremists against the Palestinian people and their holy places particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

We are also concerned over continued occupation of the Syrian Golan that has resulted in the violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Syrian population. The OIC condemns the Israeli measures in the Occupied Syrian Golan and demands an end to the illegal occupation of Syrian land.

In conclusion, we urge the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to cease and reverse its violations of International law.